

Fire Inspector

The fire service job with no burning building. You inspect, investigate and enforce the fire code.

TYPICAL PAY

\$95,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$60k to \$128k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

2 to 8 years

after high school

DEMAND

Moderate

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

Yes

regulated job

WHERE YOU WORK

Municipal fire departments, provincial fire marshal offices, lar...

How you get there

- 1 High school diploma** Grade 12
 English, math and physics. You will read code, do calculations and write reports all day.
- 2 Pick your route** 1 to 5 years
 Route one: get hired as a firefighter, work the truck, then apply for a prevention posting. Route two: a 2 year college fire protection technician or technology diploma, then apply directly.
- 3 Get certified to the inspector standard** Months of courses
 In Ontario the Office of the Fire Marshal certifies Fire Inspector Levels I and II, based on the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1031 standard. Courses run through the Ontario Fire College.
- 4 Work as an inspector** Ongoing
 Inspections, plans review, complaints, fire safety plans, and enforcement under the fire code.
- 5 Add investigation and specialty tickets** Years 3 onward
 Fire investigator, plans examiner and public educator certifications open the senior jobs.

Pros and cons

- + Fire service pay and pension with daytime hours
- + You prevent fires instead of just fighting them
- + Steady demand, every building must be inspected
- Conflict is the job. People resent inspection orders
- Heavy paperwork and code reading
- Most departments want fire experience first, which is hard to get

Good to know

One office certifies every firefighter in Ontario

The Office of the Fire Marshal is the only authority in Ontario that can issue firefighting and fire inspection certification, and it holds accreditation from IFSAC (an international fire service accreditation...

The fire marshal investigates about 600 fires a year

Ontario's Office of the Fire Marshal investigates fires involving deaths, serious injuries, explosions and vulnerable facilities. The patterns it finds turn into code changes.

Optional boosts

Fire investigator. Plans examiner. Fire and life safety educator. Fire protection engineering technology.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Fire Inspector in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)

Ontario: firefighter training and certification, including Fire Inspector Levels I and II

Ontario: Office of the Fire Marshal

alis Alberta: Firefighter occupation profile

Numbers checked September 2026. Pay figures are typical full-time annual amounts in Canadian dollars, based on Government of Canada Job Bank wage data and published salary grids. They vary by province, employer and experience. Tuition is for domestic students. Sources, links and the click-through version: <https://career.help/ca/careers/fire-inspector>



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