

Wildland Firefighter

Seasonal crew work cutting fireline in the bush. No tuition, hard days, and you can start the spring after high school.

TYPICAL PAY

\$55,000

a year, full time

PAY RANGE

\$35k to \$95k

starting to experienced

TIME TO QUALIFY

up to 1 year

after high school

DEMAND

Good

job outlook

LICENCE NEEDED

No

anyone can do it

WHERE YOU WORK

Forests, remote fire camps, helicopters, provincial fire centres

How you get there

- 1 Finish high school and get fit** Grade 12
 You need to be legal to work in Canada and old enough for full-time work. Fitness is the real gate.
- 2 Pass the fitness test** Train for months
 A timed pack carry and hose drag (called WFX-FIT in Alberta, WFPAT1 in BC). Alberta suggests training for it for 4 to 6 weeks first. You also pass a medical screen.
- 3 Apply in the fall** October to January
 BC opened applications for the 2026 season on October 3 and closed them January 31. Alberta posts crew jobs from about November. Miss the window and you wait a year.
- 4 Interview over the winter** Winter
 BC runs virtual interviews from November through March. There are roughly 200 crew member openings across the province each year.
- 5 Boot camp, then the season** 1 week, then 6 months
 BC's New Recruit Boot Camp runs 6 to 8 days between mid-April and mid-May after online coursework. Alberta trains at the Hinton Training Centre. Then you work to the end of October.

Pros and cons

- + No tuition and no debt to start
- + Paid training and paid travel
- + The crew bond is real and lasts
- Seasonal. Most roles end in October with no winter pay
- Smoke exposure and injury risk are serious
- You miss the whole summer, weddings included

Optional boosts

Helitack. Hoist and parattack crews. Unit crew. Faller and heavy equipment tickets.

Where these numbers come from

Job Bank: Firefighter in Canada, wages (updated Nov 2025)
 BC Wildfire Service: wildfire fighters, hiring and boot camp
 Alberta Wildfire recruitment
 alis Alberta: Wildland 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/wildland-firefighter>

Good to know

Provinces lend each other crews

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre in Winnipeg moves firefighters and aircraft between provinces and countries. When one province is burning and another is quiet, the crews get on a plane.

2023 was the worst fire season Canada has recorded

More land burned than in any season on record, and firefighters came from South Africa, Australia, Mexico, France and the US to help. Fire seasons are starting earlier and ending later.



Scan for the full clicker