



Great Canadian Fire Census 2025 2024 Returning Participant Questionnaire

Attached are the questions included in Census 2025 for those who wish to review or discuss them internally. Note that you will need to submit your data online:

<https://cafc.ca/page/2025Census2024returning>

Step 1: Tell us about your department and team

Section 1: Thank you for participating in Census 2025. In the first steps of the questionnaire, we ask that you update the data you provided in 2024. Please make any changes necessary and click on continue at the bottom of the page to move on to the next set of questions

Part B: Tell us about your department

1. What is the approximate size of your population served on April 30, 2025? Please do not give a range, full numbers only. Estimates are acceptable.

2. What is the approximate square kilometers served on April 30, 2025? Please do not give a range, full numbers only. Estimates are acceptable.

3. In the Fire Service, the terms career, volunteer, and composite departments are used differently across the country. As of April 30, 2025, which of these terms as defined below best describes your department?

Volunteer: departments whose firefighters are all volunteers (someone who is available or on-call to perform fire services, emergency services, and non-emergency duties for a jurisdiction as needed. They may receive nominal remuneration (e.i. not a liveable wage considering hours and/or pay) for their time, and generally have other occupations)

Composite: any combination of volunteer and career firefighters

Career: Only career firefighters. No volunteer firefighters.

- a. Volunteer (as your department defines it)
- b. Volunteer
- c. Composite
- d. Career
- e. I don't know

4. What services does your department provide (check all that apply)?

- a. Assist EMS (including lift assist or patient relocation)
- b. Assist EMS (no transport)
- c. Patient transport using cross-trained firefighter-paramedics
- d. Ambulance service using dedicated EMS staff under a joint department

- e. Emergency Response
- f. Emergency Medical Fire First Responder
- g. Emergency Management Operations
- h. HazMat Response - Hazardous Materials (operations/technician or all levels)
- i. HazMat Response - awareness level only
- j. Vehicle Extrication/Machinery - Rescue of motor vehicle collision occupants
- k. Wildlands Firefighting – Forestry; bush; scrub; and grassland fires
- l. Wildfire long duration campaign fires
- m. ARFF - Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting
- o. Airport Service (secondary public response, secondary tarmac and air response, or local aerodrome)
- p. Marine Firefighting - Shipboard fire and rescue on water
- q. Industrial Firefighting - Fires on commercial properties
- r. Water & Ice Rescue - Persons and animals trapped on water and ice
- s. Fast Water Rescue - Flood waters and river rescue operations
- t. High Angle Rescue - Rescue Operations above ground level
- u. Trench Rescue - Rescue operations below ground level
- v. Technical Rescue - Specialty rescue operations for unique situations
- w. USAR - Urban Search and Rescue
- x. HUSAR - Heavy Urban Search and Rescue

5. What is your Simple Fire Protection classification/Dwelling Protection Grade (1-2 dwellings) assigned to you by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS). If you do not know your classification, you can look it up [here](#).

- a. 1
- b. 2
- c. 3A
- d. 3B
- e. 4
- f. 5
- g. Unable to Answer

6. Do you believe your community is at risk of losing its fire protection classification provided by FUS because of loss of trained firefighters on your roster?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

7. Do you believe your community is at risk of losing its fire protection classification provided by FUS because of loss or aging of apparatus/equipment?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

Part C: Tell us about your team

8. As of April 30, 2025, what is the total number of members in your department (Include paid staff, firefighters, volunteers, support staff, auxiliary staff and management)?

9. As of April 30, 2025, how many firefighting positions do you have (include both vacant and filled for all types of firefighters: technical, tactical, specialized, and operational)?

10. As of April 30, 2025, how many of the firefighting positions reported in question #9 are vacant (include all types of firefighters: technical, tactical, specialized, and operational)?

<p>11. Please provide a breakdown of your firefighters according to your departments use and understanding of the following categories as of April 30, 2025 :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Full-time paid b. Part-time paid c. Paid on-call d. Paid honoraria e. Paid expenses only f. No remuneration or expenses
<p>12. How many of your volunteer firefighters retired or left the service in the past year?</p> <p>a. Not applicable (I don't have any volunteer firefighters)</p>
<p>13. How many total years of volunteer firefighter service did those individuals serve?</p> <p>a. Not applicable (I don't have any volunteer firefighters)</p>
<p>14. As of April 30, 2025, how many non-firefighter paid staff members do you have?</p>
<p>15. As of April 30, 2025, how many non-firefighter volunteer staff members do you have?</p>
<p>16. As of April 30, 2025, approximately how many of your firefighters are women?</p>
<p>17. As of April 30, 2025, approximately how many of your firefighters are over the age of 50?</p>
<p>18. How many of your firefighters are career unionized (official labour agreement certificate)?</p>
<p>19. Do you believe that your fire department currently has diverse individuals in the following groups (select all that apply)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Race and colour b. National Origin or ancestry c. Individual who has come to Canada in the past 5 years d. Sex (including gender, pregnancy, sexual orientation, and gender identity) e. Physical or mental disability f. Other g. Not sure
<p>Part D: Firefighter Fatalities</p>
<p>20. What is the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths due to fatal injury during or immediately following a fire or all hazard response call in the last 12 reporting months?</p>
<p>21. What is the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths due to presumptive illness in the last 12 reporting months?</p>
<p>22. What is the number of firefighter line-of-duty deaths due to succumbing to psychological injury in the last 12 reporting months?</p>
<p>Part E: Firefighter Health and Safety</p>
<p>23. What is the number of firefighter injuries resulting from active duty during a call or during training in the last 12 reporting months?</p> <p>a. Unable to Answer</p>
<p>24. In which of the following contexts have these injuries occurred? Check all that apply.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Fire Suppression b. On Scene not fire suppression b. Training c. Fire Station d. Mental Health e. En route to or returning from a call f. I don't know g. Not applicable
<p>25. In which of the following categories would these injuries fall under?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Physical b. Occupational Disease c. Psychological d. I don't know

e. Not applicable

Step 2: Update your 2024 Census Data - Continues

Part F: Tell us about your call volume

26. What is the total number of incidents or calls for service to which you've responded in the last calendar year (or last 12 months of available data)?

a. Unable to answer

27. Of the total incidence calls, what percentage do you estimate are due to extreme weather events not usual to your region (i.e grass fires, winter storms, heat-related medical calls, etc.)?

28. Of the total incidence calls, what percentage do you estimate are medical-related?

29. Of the total number of incidence calls, what percentage do you estimate are related to active suppression calls (do not include false alarms)?

30. During the last 12 reporting months, were there periods during when your call volume exceeded your capacity?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Not sure

Part G: Infrastructure and Housing Development

31. Have investments in housing development and infrastructure increased the caseload on your department?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know

32. Have you observed a rise in construction fires in the past year?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know

33. Have you been given additional resources considering an expected increase in infrastructure and housing development?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know

Part H: Public and Consumer Safety

34. In the past 12 reporting months, has your department had to respond to calls due to incidents involving consumer fireworks?

a. Yes

b. No

c. Not sure

35. In the last 12 reporting months, has your department had to respond to any of the following calls:

a. Holiday Season fire due to a holiday decoration

b. Fires caused by a BBQ

c. Fire, CO, or other related calls due to inappropriate heating measures

d. Fire in a homeless encampment

e. Lithium ion, mobility, thermal runaway, or electric vehicle fires

f. None of the above

g. I don't know

36. Does your municipality have bylaws prohibiting or regulating the use or the sale of consumer fireworks?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't Know

Part I: Let us know your resource needs

37. What were your total expenditures in the last full 12 months budget cycle, or last 12-month reporting cycle? Include wages, benefits, operating expenses, and other, except capital or one-time equipment expenditures.
38. Have you deferred the purchase of capital or equipment for more than 24 months due to fiscal pressure a. Yes b. No Not sure
39. Have you deferred training needs due to budget constraints? a. Yes b. No c. Not sure
40. Does your department have any of the following (select all that apply)? a. A dedicated washing machine for turn-out gear b. Industrial washing machine c. A personal protective equipment extractor a. None of the above b. Not sure
41. Does your department use any of the following (select all that apply): a. Drones when responding to calls b. Drones for search and rescue c. Pre-alert systems (i.e. Who's Responding) d. Routing/mapping through tablets e. None of the above f. I don't know
42. Which, if any, of the following obstacles have you encountered in the use of Remotely Piloted Aircraft System in your operations (select all that apply)? a. Cost of equipment b. Availability of equipment c. Cost of Training d. Accessibility of Training e. Certification time requirement f. All of the above g. None of the above h. Other i. I don't know
43. Has your department needed a new fire truck for longer than 2 years? a. Yes b. No c. Not sure
44. Is your department using primary turn-out gear that is older than 10 years old? a. Yes b. No c. Not sure
45. Is your department using any of the following equipment that is more than 15 years old (select all that apply)? a. Pumpers b. Hoses c. Self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) d. Radio Network/Communications equipment e. None of the above
46. Is your department using any of the following equipment that is more than 20 years old (select all that apply)? a. Aerial Devices b. Rescue Unit

- c. Support vehicle
- d. Hydraulic Rescue Tools
- e. Tankers
- f. None of the above

Step 3: Update your 2024 Census Data - Continued

Part J: Wildfires
47. Does your fire department have trained trainers for Firesmart™? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
48. Does your fire department need additional resources for Firesmart™ purposes? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
49. Over the past 12-month period, was your fire department involved in campaign fires/long duration wildfires (either for your catchment area or outside your catchment area)? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
50. Does your fire department have firefighters who are also employed, or have employment with wildland agencies, or who have disclosed that they are designated wildland agency assets? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
51. As it pertains to campaign or long duration wildfires in the last year, was your organisation able to fulfill its mutual aid agreement? a. Yes b. No c. I don't know d. Not applicable
52. Does your department have adequate access to specialized wildfire firefighting training? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
53. Does your department have a non-firefighter based auxiliary to support WUI firefighting operations? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
54. Does your department have an auxiliary/support wildland structure protection team? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
55. Is your department in an area that is excluded from the protection of the provincial wildland agency? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
56. Has your department been provided with resources for wildfire equipment from the provinces/territories? a. Yes b. No

c. I don't know
57. Does your department need wildfire specific equipment and material to deal with the wildfire threat? a. Yes b. No c. Not applicable d. I don't know
58. Does your department need training to operate recently acquired wildfire equipment? a. Yes b. No c. I don't know

Part K: Emergency Management/Humanitarian Response

59. Is the department fire chief or deputy chief the designated emergency management leader for the jurisdiction in the event of a state of emergency? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
60. Does the fire department run the emergency management operations center? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
61. Does your fire department need civilian response capacity that may not be trained firefighters? a. Yes b. No c. I don't Know
62. Does your department or region have Memorandums of understanding with any of these Non-governmental organizations? (select all that apply) a. Red Cross b. St. John Ambulance c. SARVAC (Ground Search and Rescue) d. The Salvation Army e. Humane Society f. Animal Welfare Groups g. Air Search and Rescue h. All of the above i. Other j. None of the above

Part L: Search and Rescue

63. Does your department perform formal Search and Rescue (i.e. marine, air, ground, urban, etc.) beyond regular smoke-filled Search and Rescue? a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
64. Does your jurisdiction have access to a separate Search and rescue organisations? a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
65. Are any of your firefighters search and rescue volunteers? a. Yes b. No c. I don't know

Part M: Emergency Medical

66. Does your fire department provide medical response?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
67. If yes, what type of medical response does your department offer (select all that apply)?
- a. Amalgamated fire and EMS service
 - b. Fire-based EMS service
 - c. Medical first response
 - d. Lift assist
 - e. Medical transfer
 - f. Light medical response unit
 - g. Dedicated medical response unit
68. Is your department compensated for emergency medical calls?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. Not sure

Step 4: New Rapid Fire Questions

Section 2: Thank you for updating your data from 2024. In this next section, we ask that you provide your data to the 2025 Rapid Fire Questions. If there are any questions that are beyond your departments' capacity to answer within a reasonable amount of time, you may select I don't know and proceed to the next question.

Part N: Tell us More About your Fire Department

69. In the past year, has your department transitioned from only having volunteer/paid on-call firefighters to hiring career firefighters?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
70. Have you had a state of local emergency declared in the last 3 years?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
71. In the past year, has your department had turnover in the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chiefs?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
72. Are you currently trying to recruit volunteer/paid on call firefighters?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. Not applicable
73. Do you run a youth program to engage youth in firefighting?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. Not applicable

74. Do you see a role for non-firefighter volunteers at your fire department (i.e. youth core, civilian workforce, etc.)?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know
 - d. Not applicable

Part O: EDI

75. Do you offer personal protective equipment (PPE) that is fitted for women firefighters?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

76. Does your department have any of the following policies related to women in the fire services that is beyond what legislation requires?
- a. Parental leave
 - b. Breastfeeding
 - c. Menopause
 - d. Other
 - e. No

77. Does your department have any of the following separate facilities for women firefighters (select all that apply)?
- a. Sleep quarters
 - b. Change rooms
 - c. Bathrooms
 - d. I don't know
 - e. No

78. Are the majority of your firefighters Indigenous, Métis, or Inuit?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

79. Do you provide service to an Indigenous, Metix or Inuit Community?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

80. Is your department or service on an Indigenous Community?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

Part P: Public & Firefighter Health and Safety

81. How many days were lost for mental health in your department in 2024 or the last 12 month reporting period?

- 82: Is your department's lost days for mental health higher or lower in the last 12 months than in the previous 12 month reporting period?
- a. Higher
 - b. Lower
 - c. I don't know
 - d. Not applicable

83. Do you currently have members on leave due to cancer treatment?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

84. Do you currently have members on leave due to mental health issues?
- a. Yes
 - b. No
 - c. I don't know

<p>85: In your view, which one mental health investment is MOST needed to help the front line?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Access to one-on-one therapy with a therapist (in-person or virtual) b. Access to self-directed therapy with supervision (online) c. Group programming (courses, information, or group therapy) d. Prevention e. Research (generation, dissemination, translation) f. Awareness training g. Other
<p>86: Does your fire department have a formalized firefighter cancer prevention plan?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
<p>87: Do you consider single egress construction a concern?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
<p>88: Are your firefighters trained and equipped to fight fires in tall wood buildings (6 story or higher)?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
<p>89: How many residential/structure fires did your department respond to in 2024 or the last 12-month reporting period ?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Unable to answer
<p>90: Do you believe that the front line firefighters at your department has benefited from the federal funding provided to the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and to the Canadian Institutes of Public Safety Research and Treatment (CIPSRT)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
<p>91: How would you rate the importance of a public safety broadband network for your department?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. High b. Medium c. Low d. I don't know
<p>92: Has your department identified 1 or more substantial infrastructure risks in your community that could result in a fire or local emergency?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Yes b. No c. I don't know
<p>93: Do you feel confident that your community can respond adequately to an incident involving the transportation of dangerous goods by air, water, rail and road?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Air <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yes ii. No iii. I don't know b. Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yes ii. No iii. I don't know c. Rail <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Yes ii. No iii. I don't know d. Road

- i. Yes
- ii. No
- iii. I don't know

94. Due to new construction modalities, do you believe that your department's firefighting practices, training and equipment need to evolve?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

Step 5: Rapid Fire Questions - Continued

Part Q: Wildfires

95. Does your fire department have experience with private wildfire protection companies in wildfire?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

96. Do you feel your department currently has the resources/access to resources to predict wildfires?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

Part R: Search and Rescue

97. What level of interaction has your local department had with your local Ground Search and Rescue team?

- a. None
- b. Initial conversation
- c. Formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- d. I don't know

98. What level of interaction has your local department had with your local Air Search and Rescue team?

- a. None
- b. Initial conversation
- c. Formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
- d. I don't know

99. Can you sustain the incident command station for more than 2 operational periods?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

100. Have you had an incident where having search and rescue available would have been helpful but was not available?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

101. When was the last time your department has undertaken a multi-stakeholder exercise and or resource mapping?

- a. In the last year
- b. In the last 2 years
- c. In the last 5 years
- d. More than 5 years ago
- e. Never
- f. I don't know

102. Do you believe that the training is interoperable with these search and rescue organizations?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

103. Are there any gaps in operations that search and rescue can fill?

- a. Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS)
- b. Logistics
- c. Traffic management
- d. None
- e. Other:

Part S: Training & Equipment

104. Is your department aware that the Government of Canada and a firefighting union offer free hazardous materials (HAZMAT) training?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

105. Does the provision of federally funded training (ex. hazardous materials (HAZMAT), Wildland Urban Interface (WUI)) introduce operational costs for your department?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

106. Is your department aware that the Government of Canada and one of the unions offer free Responding to the Interface Training?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

107. Does your department require Responding to the Interface Training?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

108. Does your department require training provided by the Wildfire agencies/Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre (CIFFC)?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

109. Does the provision of Responding to the Interface Training incur any costs to your department?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

110. Would the department have any concerns about having a union offer training in a non-unionized environment?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

111. Would your department benefit from the sharing of Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) best practices across fire departments?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

112. Does your fire department have a direct relationship with one of more firefighting schools?

- a. Yes
- b. No
- c. I don't know

113. Has your department had access to training on Canadian Transport Emergency Centre (CANUTEC) services?

- a. Yes
- b. No

c. I don't know

114. Did your fire department receive any provincial or territorial funding for equipment (any type or any use) in the last 12 months?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know

115. Does your department have an individual dedicated to data collection?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know

116. Does your department use more than 1 kilogram of foam with PFAS in it at a time at concentration of .1% or more?

a. Yes

b. No

c. I don't know.

Please complete online