



NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES

## NS JOINT MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICES COMMITTEE INFORMATION BULLETIN: TRAINING

**TO: Mayors/Wardens, Councillors, All Units**

**CC: Chief Administrative Officers/Clerk-Treasurers, All Units**

We've been asked by the Chair of the NS Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee to distribute the e-mail below and attachment to our Membership:

The Nova Scotia Joint Municipal Fire Service Committee is pleased to introduce our first information bulletin for distribution. We will be producing these bulletins on a regular basis addressing municipal fire topics. Educating the stakeholders of municipal fire service operations is foremost for the stakeholders to understand their roles within the governance of the fire service. These bulletins will play an important part of that education process. We are looking forward to your feedback to improve fire operations in Nova Scotia.

Be safe out there,

**Rod Nielsen**

Chairperson

NS Joint Municipal Fire Services Committee

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# JOINT MUNICIPAL FIRE SERVICES COMMITTEE BULLETIN

## FIRE SERVICE TRAINING

Fire Service training is the fundamental anchor of a firefighter's service to the community. This training helps to ensure, first and foremost, the safety of the firefighter as well as provides skills necessary to protect lives, reduce threats and damage to both property and the environment.

After a basic level of training has been achieved, known as Firefighter I or Level 1 Training, it is critical that firefighters continue to expand their knowledge. This can be achieved through advanced level courses. Many of these courses are a required part of the municipal registration of services.

Firefighter training is a career long process to ensure new and updated skills are always being developed. New home construction, hybrid vehicles, and hotter and quicker fire behaviour are examples of the changing world of fire and emergency services. Firefighters must be trained and prepared.

*The Fire Services Stakeholder Committee is comprised of representatives from the following organizations:*

- Association of Municipal Administrators, NS;
- Department of Municipal Affairs;
- Fire Services Association of Nova Scotia;
- Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities; and
- Office of the Fire Marshal.

**For more information regarding fire service registration or the work of the Fire Services Stakeholder Committee please contact: [fireservices@amans.ca](mailto:fireservices@amans.ca)**

**More information can be found in the *Municipal Government Act - Guide Respecting Fire and Emergency Services***

## Why is Training Important?

### Training helps enable:

- A safe and effective delivery of fire services by preparing firefighters for tasks they will encounter on scene and to adapt to ever-changing emergency conditions.
- Better decisions, both on and off of the fire ground, by using training as the vital basis for apparatus, equipment and personnel needs to ensure the proficient protection of life, property, and environment.
- Succession planning as new recruits determine specific objectives to meet their career goals and the organizational and community needs.

### Training helps to manage risk by:

- Creating order in an otherwise chaotic situation.
- Helping to ensure that training is being completed in a systematic approach that strives to meet best practices and the various National Fire Protection Association Standards for firefighters.
- Having proper leadership for fire departments.
- Lack of trained firefighters can put other firefighters and residents at unnecessary risk.

### As a representative of your municipality or village, do you know:

- That Firefighter I (Level 1) requires 168 hours of training in 24 different categories and costs in excess of \$3,000 per firefighter, excluding equipment costs?
- If your fire departments are training to specific standards or are training at all?
- That there are over 40 additional courses that can be on advanced subjects such as pumper operations, vehicle extrication, managing tactical operations, Incident Command System, and Medical First Responder?
- If your fire departments are training members to meet the requirements for the emergency services they have registered to provide?
- If your fire departments are regularly upgrading their skills to understand new fire service techniques and hazards?

### As a representative of a fire department do you know:

- If your department is trained and equipped for what it is registered for?
- That there are nine no-fee courses available in Nova Scotia from the Insurance Levy Fund?
- If your department is training to the National Fire Protection Association Standards for firefighter skills?
- If you can produce certificates for all courses attended by firefighters and the dates of those courses?
- That FSANS has training guidelines available?