

What is the BCAFC

We are a not for profit society that exists to support chaplaincy in the BC Fire Service through training, networking, resource sharing and mutual encouragement.

The BCAFC holds training opportunities annually at various locations in BC. We partner with the Federation of Fire Chaplains (FFC) in the USA to connect our members to further training. We offer membership to those Fire Chaplains serving BC fire fighters for a nominal fee.

Membership connects them to our community of Chaplains informs them of training opportunities and updated training information. We also offer a reduced rate membership to the FFC to our members if they wish to access FFC resources.

For more info visit:

bcafc.myfreesites.net



BCAFC Contact

<http://bcafc.myfreesites.net>

www.facebook.com/BCAFireChaplains

bcafirechaplains@gmail.com

President- Andy Kwak
Vice President- Bruce Rushton
Secretary- Sherry Peterson
Treasurer- Art Sanderson
Training Director- Ray Parker
Member at Large- David Roch, Scott Young,
Ben Yablonski, David MacBain

The Firefighters Prayer

When I am called to duty God,
Wherever flames may rage,
Give me strength to save some life,
Whatever be its age.
Help me embrace a little child,
Before it is too late,
Or save an older person from
The horror of that fate.
Enable me to be alert and to hear the
weakest shout,
And quickly and efficiently,
To put the fire out.
I want to fill my calling and
To give the best in me,
To guard my every neighbour and
Protect his property.
And if according to my fate,
I must answer death's call,
Bless with your protecting hand,
My family one and all.



British Columbia Association of FIRE CHAPLAINS



Role of a Fire Chaplain



The Role of a Fire Chaplain

A Fire Chaplain is someone who helps firefighters and their families in times of need or crisis. A Chaplain also supports and encourages spiritual health and wellness in the fire service.

While Chaplains are usually associated with a religious organization, their role in the fire service is not to promote a particular religion or creed, but rather to support fire service personnel as spiritual needs arise in their lives. As firefighters face trauma, troubling situations, or face their own mortality, healthy spiritual practices help many find peace amidst the storms and develop resilience to move forward. Coupled with healthy eating, exercise, and attention to mental health, spirituality is a key piece to thriving in an unpredictable and demanding vocation.

Duties a Fire Chaplain May Perform

- Memorial Services
- Care for injured or sick personnel and families
- Involvement with CISM teams/training
- Serve as liaison to local clergy
- Invocations/prayers at ceremonies or events
- Teaching fire service personnel in areas of spiritual and emotional wellness
- Being a confidential listening ear to personnel and families
- Being a resource to help personnel to connect to EAPs, counselling, or other wellness initiatives
- Officiate Weddings
- Be available as a resource at the request of the Fire Chief, Member Association, or Union



Starting a Chaplaincy Program

Finding the right person is the most challenging piece to developing a good chaplaincy program. Usually Chaplains are Clergy persons with a connection to the Fire Service or Fire Fighters who have some experience in religious leadership. The best place to start is to ask around your firefighting community first. The local ministerial group is also a good place to seek help or connect with the BCAFC.

What Does a Chaplaincy Program Cost?

Chaplains in BC are largely volunteers, though sometimes supported with a stipend or small part time salary. Volunteer Chaplains usually have their mileage and expenses reimbursed and often a training budget is provided for them to attend training or conferences. They usually cost very little to their department.