

Minister's Message

As I wrap up this summer's emergency management tour, I find myself inspired by the dedication, professionalism and innovation I witnessed in communities across the province. This summer I saw firsthand the rollout of our new Mobile Burn Units, bringing modern, hands-on training closer to firefighters; the launch of the new Nova Scotia Fire Service Leadership Certificate in partnership with Dalhousie University, which will help shape the future of leadership in this field; the opening the Regional Emergency Operations Center in Liverpool, which will strengthen regional emergency coordination; and learned about Cape Breton Regional Municipality Fire Service's transition to a new organizational model. These initiatives reflect the progress we're making together to support firefighters, strengthen emergency preparedness and build safer communities for all Nova Scotians.

Thank you for the warm welcomes to your communities, the honest conversations, and the work you do for Nova Scotians. It continues to inspire the work we do every day.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Kim Masland".

The Honourable Kim Masland, Minister of Emergency Management



Suiting up in Cape Breton



Great Village and District Volunteer Fire Department

Community Spotlight: Camp Courage

- The mission of Camp Courage is to introduce young women and gender-diverse youth aged 15-19 to the emergency services while nurturing their confidence, leadership skills, and problem-solving abilities.
- This year, Camp Courage is celebrating its 20th anniversary. The Office of the Fire Marshal has been a partner from the beginning, providing ongoing financial support that has helped keep the program free for participants.
- For more information please visit: <https://campcourage.ca/>

"I was inspired to become a firefighter. It made me learn who I am and what I am capable of" – Violet, Camp

Emergency Services Provider Fund (Regional Stream) Courage attendee

- We know that working together makes communities safer. The Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) **regional stream** supports projects that helps groups of emergency response organizations work together to address shared needs and strengthen preparedness across a wider area.
- It is available to volunteer first responder organizations and municipalities that are able to work together on projects that improve emergency response and preparedness across multiple communities. Projects must enhance prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts that benefit their entire area.
- The ESPF funds up to 90% of eligible costs, to a maximum of \$200,000 for regional projects. The new online portal makes it even easier to apply this year.
- Learn more and apply here: <https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-funding-buy-equipment-thats-used-directly-response-fire-or-emergency-emergency-services-provider-fund>

Fire Services Certifications

- DEM continues to make steady progress in addressing certification, qualification testing, and historical training backlogs. We know how important timely access to training and certification information is for firefighters, and we are committed to improving that experience.
- We are modernizing certification management, digitizing historical records, and introducing new processes that will make it much easier to access training and certification information when it is needed. While this work is extensive and will take time to fully complete, meaningful progress is being made every day.
- We want members of the fire service community to feel confident that we are moving in the right direction and that these improvements will create a more reliable, efficient, and accessible system for everyone. We greatly appreciate the patience, understanding, and ongoing partnership of firefighters across the province as we continue this important work together.

Class 3 Licensing Pilot Program

- The Class 3 licensing program will reduce barriers for firefighters—particularly volunteers—by improving local access to driver training and testing while maintaining strong safety and competency standards.
- The training will be piloted in three areas to test the program model: Colchester and Digby began in August, with CBRM scheduled to begin in October.
- Once the pilot is complete, the rollout of the Class 3 licensing program will continue throughout the province to support consistent firefighter driver training and improve emergency response readiness.



Truro Fire Service

Stakeholders Help Shape the Future of Fire Service Risk Assessment

- **Stakeholder feedback:** DEM held 4 focus groups in late August and early September with small groups of Chief Administrative Officers, Fire Service Coordinators, and Fire Chiefs from small and medium-sized communities to gather input on fire service risk assessment tools.
- **Fire service modernization:** Participants shared perspectives on how risk assessment tools could add value for the sector through community risk identification, service level decisions, and fire service planning. They also provided great insights into the risk assessment process for fire departments and municipalities.
- **Next steps:** DEM will share a summary of what we heard in the next bulletin. Additional engagement opportunities will be organized as we continue to develop the assessment process and tools.

Experts and Partners Come Together to Support Fire Service Standards

- **Why are we forming working groups?** The Fire Service Standards Working Groups will support the development of provincial fire service standards under the *Support for Fire Protection Services Act*. In Year 1 our priorities are firefighter training, service levels, and Fire Service Reviews.
- **Role and Participation:** Working Group members provide technical advice, review draft standards, identify operational considerations, and help ensure proposed standards are evidence-based and reflective of the realities of Nova Scotia's fire service sector.
- **Launch and Collaboration:** The first meeting of the Fire Service Standards and the Firefighter Training and Accreditation Working Groups was held in Halifax on September 4, 2026, bringing together over 20 members from municipal, fire service, provincial, and sector organizations to begin collaborative development of Nova Scotia's new fire service standards framework.

Mobile Burn Units & Regional Training Plan Updates

- **Expanded Mobile Burn Unit Capacity:** A second Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) will be available in October, increasing live-fire training capacity and providing firefighters with safe, regulated training opportunities.
- Nova Scotia will have three MBUs available province-wide, including one based in the Cape Breton Regional Municipality.
- See the infographic below for booking instructions.
- **Understanding the Current State of Regional Training:** DEM has developed a form to understand the status of Level 1 FF activities in the regions. This information will be used to provide updates on the Regional Training Plans. Fire Service Coordinators will receive the form via email and are asked to complete it by September 30, 2026.
- Have questions on the form or submission process? Email us at FireTraining@novascotia.ca.

Provincial Partnership with Dalhousie University to Strengthen Fire Service Leadership

- The Province is investing over \$200,000 in partnership with Dalhousie University to launch a new **Nova Scotia Fire Service Leadership Certificate**.
- The pilot program consists of six customized courses covering: station operations, fire prevention and suppression, municipal administration, finance, human resources, and organizational leadership.
- “Our firefighters step up when their communities need them most. They deserve the training, tools and support they need to lead with confidence,”- Honourable Kim Masland.
- Use this link for more information on the program: <https://www.dal.ca>



Launching the Fire Service Leadership Certificate at Dalhousie University

Where to Find Us

Check out our [website](#) for the latest updates.

Questions about the fire modernization process? [Contact us](#).

Follow the Department of Emergency Management on [Facebook](#) and [X](#)

Find the Department of Natural Resources on [Facebook](#), [X](#) and [Instagram](#)



MBUS HOW TO BOOK?

REQUIREMENTS TO BOOK

- ☐ Flat surface 60' X 100'
- ☐ Sufficient access to water as specified by RelyOn
- ☐ Hose supply – 100 ft of 2 ½ ", 300 ft of 1 ¾ "
- ☐ Department must provide all participants with PPE and SCBAs in accordance with NFPA 1850
- ☐ Access to washroom facilities
- ☐ Access to a rehabilitation area with shelter and warming/cooling capabilities
- ☐ Must be able to host the Mobile Burn Units for 5 days
- ☐ Must have someone present to position the trailer when it is delivered
- ☐ Must provide a pumper and volunteer operator for each session

STEPS TO BOOK

- ☐ Make sure that you meet the 'before you book' requirements
- ☐ Book through the website: <https://www.nsmbu.ca/>
- ☐ Host Mobile Burn Unit for 5 days
- ☐ Fill out Mobile Burn Unit course feedback

CONTACT US

- Use this link to learn more: <https://www.nsmbu.ca/>
- For fire training questions, please contact firetraining@novascotia.ca
- Please contact firemodernization@novascotia.ca for all other fire service inquiries.



Mobile Burn Unit Training in Chester