

Minister's Message

Nova Scotia's fire service is built on dedication, professionalism, and a deep commitment to protecting communities. As we continue our Fire Service Modernization work, our government remains committed to making the changes needed to support a stronger, safer, and more sustainable fire service for the future.

We know that meaningful change takes time. That's why we've focused on getting it right by listening to those who know the fire service best. Since launching this work, we have travelled across Nova Scotia to meet directly with firefighters, fire chiefs, municipal leaders, and fire service partners, and hosted targeted sessions to get information from those directly involved. Your feedback has been invaluable, and it continues to guide our approach.

As I often say, this is not about a Minister or a department making changes in isolation from an office in downtown Halifax. We are on this journey together. It is something we are doing **with** the fire service, to ensure your experience, expertise, and first-hand perspectives are taken into account. By working together, we are building a foundation that will better support firefighters, strengthen training and leadership opportunities, and help ensure communities across Nova Scotia continue to receive the high-quality emergency services they depend on every day.

While there is still work ahead, I am confident we are moving forward thoughtfully, collaboratively, and with a shared commitment to the future of Nova Scotia's fire service.



The Honourable Kim Masland
Minister of Emergency Management



Welcoming the Office of the Fire Marshal into the Department of Emergency Management at Province House.

Second Mobile Burn Unit Rolling Out Soon!

- Since August 2026, the MBU program has visited 9 different locations across the province, training 299 firefighters from 45 different departments.
- Over the past 30 days, the Mobile Burn Unit (MBU) program has continued its provincial rollout, with training deployments completed or underway in Digby, Pictou County, and East Hants.
- Following the success of the first MBU rollout, the Province has purchased a second unit which will become available in October 2026.

Search for Fire Commissioner

The Province has hired an Executive Search Firm to assist with the hiring of Nova Scotia's first Fire Commissioner. Once the job is posted we will share it through our distribution list and on social media. Interviews will take place in late October and into November and we are aiming to announce the successful candidate before the new year!

Community Spotlight: Welcome to Halifax, Chief Rizzi!

- Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency (HRFE) have hired Chief Daryn Rizzi to oversee fire services. She is the first woman to take on this role in HRM.
- Chief Rizzi began her firefighting career with Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service, in Vaughan, Ont., rising through the ranks to ultimately serve as Fire Chief.
- She has a PhD and a Master's degree in Disaster and Emergency Management from York University, and Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Arts degrees from Queen's University.



Chief Rizzi and Minister Masland

Fire Services Modernization Timelines

In our meetings with municipalities and fire service teams we are hearing a lot of questions about the timing of different fire service modernization milestones. We appreciate your ongoing interest and the work you are doing to plan ahead. Here are some answers to the questions we hear most often:

- When will the fire service standards be implemented?
- When will we see and begin using the risk assessment tool?
- When will municipalities need to complete their first fire service plan?
- What is the schedule for roll out of the Fire Records Management System?

The table on the next page shows the key milestones and when we anticipate they will be underway. In many cases, before we finish our work the Department will work with fire departments, fire service coordinators, and municipal leaders to get your feedback. In some cases, we will also create small working groups to have support from subject matter experts as we develop materials and make plans to roll them out.

ESPF Information

Emergency Services Provider Fund (ESPF) applications close on **October 31**. ESPF provides funding to help first responder organizations buy emergency response equipment that's used directly in response to a fire or emergency. To learn more please visit: <https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-funding-buy-equipment-thats-used-directly-response-fire-or-emergency-emergency-services-provider-fund>



FIRE SERVICE MODERNIZATION DETAILED MILESTONES



**YEAR 1:
2026-27**



Build the Foundation

**YEAR 2:
2027-28**



**Strengthen and
Expand**

**YEAR 3:
2028-29**



**Activate and
Improve**

STANDARDS & LEGISLATION

- New Support for *Fire Protection Services Act* (April 2026)
- Convene Technical Working Groups to Provide Advice on Standards
- Develop fire service standards for:
 - Firefighter training
 - Fire service levels
 - Fire service review criteria

- Mandatory Fire Service Review Requirement Comes into Effect
- Create a single fire safety and services Act that provides clear and unified direction to the sector (April 2027)
- Continue to develop standards, with input from Working Groups, for:
 - Firefighter certification
 - Training program accreditation
 - Instructor and trainer certification
 - Fire dispatch
 - Personal protective equipment (PPE)

- Support capacity building and compliance with standards and Continue to develop new ones, as needed:
 - Fire Service Governance
 - Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) Audit and Enforcement Regulations
 - National Fire Code update

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING & CERTIFICATION

- Build Local and Regional Capacity through Level 1 Firefighter Training Grants and the Dalhousie Fire Service Leadership Certificate
- Purchase and Roll-Out Mobile Burn Units
- Firefighter Training Strategy Development
- Improve Certification Process and Backlog Eliminated

- Build out Regional Training Hubs/ Facilities
- Ongoing Support for Level 1 Firefighter Training and Dalhousie Fire Service Leadership Certificate
- Certification Process Enhanced

- Transition to Municipal Delivery for Local Training
- Ongoing support and capacity building for local and regional training delivery; Dalhousie Fire Service Leadership Program

COMMUNITY RISK ASSESSMENT

- General self-assessment survey for three service levels (optional)

- Detailed community risk assessment survey (optional)

- FRMS Risk Assessment Launches (mandatory)

FIRE RECORDS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (FRMS)

- OFM, HRM, CBRM onboarded to FRMS

- FRMS rollout to all municipalities

- FRMS fully implemented with all fire service providers onboarded

MUNICIPAL PLANS

- Criteria for Fire Service Review Plan and Risk Assessment developed with working groups

- Fire Service Review and Plan Templates available

- Fire Service Review, Fire Service Plan and Risk Assessment Survey built into the FRMS system

Certification Update

Over the past six months, the Department of Emergency Management has been working to strengthen and modernize fire services across Nova Scotia, including expanding training opportunities, improving systems, and supporting long-term planning for the fire service. As part of this work, we have identified a significant backlog in firefighter certification and qualifications. We recognize the frustration this has created for firefighters, departments, and training partners, and we want you to know that addressing it is a priority.

The backlog reflects years of paper-based records, manual processes, and limited capacity to keep pace with demand. To help resolve this, we are bringing on a small dedicated team whose primary focus will be reviewing historical records, processing outstanding certifications, and improving service to firefighters and departments. Our goal is not only to reduce the backlog, but to build a certification system that is more efficient, transparent, and responsive in the future.

We appreciate your patience and support as we undertake this important work and will continue to share updates as progress is made.

ESPF Regional Funding Applications Open Until October 31

The Emergency Services Provider Fund helps first responder organizations buy emergency response equipment that's used directly in response to a fire or emergency. For the current application intake period, you can apply for emergency service regional funding from 1 September 2026 to 31 October 2026.

Eligibility

You can apply for funding if you're a:

- fire department
- ground search and rescue organization
- hazardous materials (HAZMAT) organization
- first responder organization

How to apply

1. Review detailed program criteria in the [Emergency Services Provider Fund \(ESPF\) Program Guidelines](#).
2. Complete the application form online.
3. Check the application for details on all required supporting documents.
4. Submit your completed application and supporting documents.
5. Department of Emergency Management reviews your application after the submission deadline (this can take 6 to 8 weeks).

To learn more please visit: <https://www.novascotia.ca/apply-funding-buy-equipment-thats-used-directly-response-fire-or-emergency-emergency-services-provider-fund>

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](#)



Note to Fire Service Leaders

As departments consider upcoming equipment purchases, we have compiled a list of Canadian and European manufacturers and suppliers that may offer alternatives to U.S.-sourced products and could help reduce potential impacts from tariffs. This information is being shared for awareness only and is not intended as an endorsement of any specific vendor. Departments are encouraged to conduct their own due diligence to ensure products meet their operational requirements, applicable standards, and procurement policies.

The Province continues to work with federal and provincial partners to showcase potential tariff impacts and explore broader procurement opportunities that could improve access to, and affordability of, firefighting equipment. While that work continues, the attached list may serve as a useful starting point for departments exploring purchasing options. Based on available supplier information, the list includes Canadian and European manufacturers and suppliers of firefighting PPE and related equipment.

Canadian		
Company	Type	Description
INNOTEX	Manufacturer/ Supplier	• Headquarters and manufacturing in Richmond, Quebec. • Produces structural firefighting turnout gear, rescue gear, hoods, and gloves. • Well-known product lines include: ◦ INNOTEX Energy™ ◦ INNOTEX Classic™ ◦ INNOTEX Rapid Delivery Gear (RDG) • The company states its gear is "Proudly Canadian. From ownership to every stitch."
Starfield Lion	Manufacturer/ Supplier	• Manufactures bunker gear in Canada. • Produces NFPA-compliant structural firefighting PPE including coats, pants, boots, helmets, and accessories. • The company notes that its gear is "Proudly made in Canada by Canadians" and that it has served Canadian firefighters for over 50 years.
A.J. Stone Company	Supplier	• Located in Vaughan, Ontario • Carries a variety of manufacturers including INNOTEX and Starfield Lion
Safety Source Fire	Supplier	• Headquarters located in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia ◦ Locations in Fredericton and Notre-Dame NB, AND St. John's, Newfoundland • Carries a variety of manufacturers including Starfield Lion gear
Associated Fire Safety Gr	Supplier	• Headquarters located in Edmonton, Alberta. • Carries Starfield Lion gear

Note to Fire Service Leaders Continued

European		
TEXPORT	Manufacturer/ Supplier	• Headquarters located in Salzburg, Austria • Specializes in firefighter protective clothing • Products are sold through TEXPORT's sales team and distributor network.
Bristol Uniforms	Manufacturer/ Supplier	• Headquarters located in the United Kingdom. • Manufactures firefighter protective clothing and rescue PPE. • Product lines include structural firefighting, technical rescue, and wildland firefighting clothing. • Supports sales through an international distributor network, including Canada.