

Volunteer Firefighting in Westlock

Facts for Applicants

- ◆ Alberta has over 430 fire departments. Of these, approximately 95% depend entirely on volunteer firefighters.
- ◆ Alberta has more than 10,000 volunteer firefighters – this is approximately 3 times the number of Alberta's total career firefighters.
- ◆ The Fire Chief of the Westlock Fire Department is Stuart Koflick, who has been firefighting for number years. Interesting fact about Stuart: he joined the fire department when he was 15 years old through one of the first Junior Firefighter programs in Alberta.
- ◆ The fire department has 2 Fire Engines, 1 Ladder Truck, 1 Rescue Truck, Mobile Command Post and a Chiefs Pick-up.
- ◆ On average, the department receives 12 calls per month. These may include fires, motor vehicle collisions, dangerous goods response, medical aid, or any other dangerous situation.
- ◆ Before being allowed to respond to emergencies, each firefighter must complete a 6 months probationary period, which includes training and mentoring to an acceptable level.
- ◆ Approximately 2-3 hours are spent on training per week.
- ◆ Personal benefits gained from volunteer firefighting include: a rich volunteer experience which looks great on a resume, the improvement of interpersonal, team building, leadership, and crisis management skills, and the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way to the community
- ◆ Apart from responding to calls, most volunteer firefighters spend 1-2 hours a month at the hall, maintaining equipment and performing other necessary duties.
- ◆ Special initiatives of the Westlock Fire Department include: the Junior Firefighter program, school tours and presentations, public education and the Preventing Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth (PARTY) program.
- ◆ Active members of the fire department receive free access to Town Recreational Facilities.
- ◆ WCB coverage as well as a benefit package (while on duty) is provided.
- ◆ More information about the Westlock Fire Department can be found online at www.westlock.ca, or by calling 780-349-4444.