



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

Dear Safety Partners,

This message is a reminder that all individuals designated as fire inspectors or fire investigators under the *Fire Safety Act* must meet the training standards by **September 30, 2026**.

Local authorities have until September 30, 2026, to ensure that all currently designated fire inspectors and investigators meet the required training standards. This timeline provides sufficient time for training delivery and compliance across all jurisdictions.

Individuals who already meet the training requirements set out in the Fire Safety Act Inspector Training Standard and/or the Fire Safety Act Investigator Training Standard can complete a Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR) form instead of taking the training.

Information on the Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training Standards, PLAR, and how to access training is available here: [Fire inspector and investigator training standards - Province of British Columbia](#)

Please note that access to a course ends once that course is completed and a certificate is issued. Individuals who require both the fire inspector and fire investigator training should complete both courses simultaneously to ensure they meet the September 30, 2026, training deadline.

For more information, please see the Fire Investigator and Fire Inspector Q&A below. Additional details on the *Fire Safety Act* are available here: [Fire Safety Act Q&A](#) or email OFC@gov.bc.ca.

Thank you for your commitment to meeting training standards and for your dedication to keeping our communities safe.



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

Q&A Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

1. If an individual initially registers for only one course, can they take the second course at a later date?

- Individuals who require both the fire inspector and fire investigator training should complete both courses simultaneously to ensure they meet the September 30, 2026, training deadline.
- Both courses can be requested and registered for at the same time.
- Once a participant completes a course and receives their certificate, access to that course is removed.
- If the second course is taken later, the learner will need to be re-registered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner.
- Individuals who initially register for only one course but later determine they require both must ensure all required training is completed by September 30, 2026. In these cases, the learner's supervisor should submit a registration request for the additional course to allow the learner to meet the September 30, 2026, training deadline.

2. How long does it take to receive access to the training course(s) after a Training Request Form is submitted?

- Processing times may vary, but learners should expect to receive access to the training within approximately 7 business days.

3. Can training be completed after September 30, 2026?

- Local authorities have until September 30, 2026, to ensure that all currently designated fire inspectors and investigators are compliant. Registration close to the deadline – including registrations submitted in August – does not extend or alter the requirement to complete training by September 30, 2026.
- This deadline applies equally to all designated individuals to ensure a consistent and equitable approach across the province.



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

- If challenges arise that may affect the ability to meet the deadline, local authorities should contact OFC@gov.bc.ca as early as possible, and prior to the deadline.
 - Individuals who will be designated after September 30, 2026, must meet the minimum training standard prior to being designated. For new designates, local authorities may submit a Training Request Form or complete a PLAR form if applicable.
- 4. Who should complete the Basic Fire Inspector Fundamentals and Basic Fire Investigator Fundamentals training?**
- The Basic Fire Inspector Fundamentals and the Basic Fire Investigator Fundamentals training programs, offered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), are designed to support fire inspectors and fire investigators in meeting the Fire Safety Act Inspector Training Standard and Fire Safety Act Investigator Training Standard.
 - The training courses support the minimum requirements for designation under the *Fire Safety Act*. However, individuals who are able to pursue more comprehensive training are encouraged to complete the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1021 Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications, NFPA 1033 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator, or the NFPA 1030 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Prevention Positions as the OFC courses are not intended to replace these standards.
 - These training programs are provided at no cost. If individuals already meet all the fire inspector or fire investigator training requirements set out in the Fire Safety Act Training Standards, they should complete a [Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition \(PLAR\)](#) form to confirm that they meet the required standards.



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

5. When did the online training for fire inspectors and fire investigators become available? How does this impact fire inspector and fire investigator designations?

- The fire inspector and fire investigator courses were released December 15, 2025.
- Local authorities will have until September 30, 2026, to ensure that all currently designated fire inspectors and investigators meet the required training standards. This timeline provides sufficient time for training delivery and compliance across all jurisdictions.
- Regional districts may continue to request fire inspection and investigation services from the Office of the Fire Commissioner by following the procedures outlined in the [Regional Districts Fire Investigations and Inspections - Procedures](#) document. This process remains unchanged.
- Information on the Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training Standards, PLAR, and how to access training is available here: [Fire inspector and investigator training standards - Province of British Columbia](#)
- For any questions or assistance, please contact your Fire Service Advisor, or email the OFC@gov.bc.ca.

6. How do you access the fire inspector and fire investigator online training?

- Access to fire inspector and fire investigator training must be requested by an individual's supervisor. The procedure to request and access training is as follows:
 - The supervisor must complete the [Training Request Form](#).
 - Once a request is processed, the Office of the Fire Commissioner will email the individual doing the training with their login credentials and a link to the training platform, OpenSchoolBC.
 - Individuals log in to OpenSchoolBC, complete the self-paced modules, and then take the final exam. A passing grade of 80% is required to successfully complete the training and receive a certificate. If the individual does not



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

pass on the first attempt, they may retry after 24 hours. If an individual does not pass on their second attempt, they need to contact OFC@gov.bc.ca regarding next steps.

- Individuals who require both the fire inspector and fire investigator training should complete both courses simultaneously to ensure they meet the September 30, 2026, training deadline.
- Both courses can be requested and registered for at the same time.
- Once a participant completes a course and receives their certificate, access to that course is removed.

7. How long does the fire inspector and fire investigator training take? Is there a test?

- Both training courses, Basic Fire Inspector Fundamentals and Basic Fire Investigator Fundamentals, are self-paced online modules to be completed in about eight hours per course.
- Participants can work through the modules at their own pace, save their progress and return to the training later.
- To successfully complete the course and receive a certificate, participants must pass a final online exam after finishing all the modules. A passing grade of 80% or higher is required.
- If an individual does not pass on their first attempt, they can retry 24 hours later. If they do not pass on the second attempt, they must contact OFC@gov.bc.ca to determine next steps.

8. What is the cost to access fire inspector and fire investigator training?

- Basic Fire Inspector Fundamentals and Basic Fire Investigator Fundamentals training programs are provided by the Office of the Fire Commissioner at no cost to local authorities or participants.



Office of the Fire Commissioner

Information Bulletin

Date: February 23, 2026

Fire Inspector and Fire Investigator Training

9. Is there a limit to the number of people who can be designated as fire inspectors/fire investigators and who can complete the fire inspector/fire investigator training offered by the Office of the Fire Commissioner?

- There is no limit on the number of people who can be designated to complete the training.
- The local authority can designate a person or a class of persons as fire inspectors or fire investigators.

10. What should fire departments do if they are registering a large number of participants for training?

- Fire departments that are registering more than 20 individuals for fire inspector and/or fire investigator training are asked to contact the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) in advance.
- The OFC will provide a registration template to support bulk submissions and ensure information is submitted consistently and efficiently.
- Using the template helps streamline processing and reduces delays in providing learners with access to the training.
- Departments can request the template by emailing OFC@gov.bc.ca.