

# Surrey Fire Service Hall Tour Program

# Leader's Manual



# **SURREY FIRE SERVICE**

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**Thank you to all those involved  
in the creation and revisions.**

**Created 1986  
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## Introduction

The Surrey Fire Service recognizes that a hall tour can be a valuable learning tool. Not only does it give us a chance to talk about fire safety, but it gives the public, especially young children, the opportunity to understand our job and equipment. We look forward to having you and your group in to the fire hall. During your visit, we hope you will feel comfortable and free to ask questions of your hosts.



## HALL TOUR EDUCATIONAL GOALS

1. Increase public awareness of fire and personal safety related issues such as the proper testing and timely replacement of smoke alarms.
2. Generate awareness about the seriousness of fire play and fire setting behaviour.
3. Replace misconceptions about fire with practical facts.
4. Underscore the need to be responsible for actions.
5. Create awareness about fire fighting and the equipment used

## What to Expect on the Tour

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### Arrival

When you arrive at the hall, please proceed to the front door and ring the doorbell. It may take a minute for the crew to get there, so please be patient. If it appears that no one is there, please call our dispatch center at 604-543-6700 and ask if the engine is in quarters. If the crew is out at a call, the dispatchers should be able to give you an estimated time back to the hall. It may be necessary to reschedule the hall tour if the crew will be engaged in a major incident for an extended period of time.

### Introduction

The crew will welcome you into the hall and introduce themselves. Depending on which hall you attend, there will be one to two Captains and three to four fire fighters.

*At this time, please advise the crew if there are any special needs or considerations with regards to your group. We do not wish to unintentionally cause physical or psychological distress to any of the participants.*

### Hall Tour Safety Behaviour

After the introductions, the crew will ask your group to follow some basic rules while in the hall, such as:

- No running or horse play
- Do not touch any equipment unless invited to do so
- Listen to instructions carefully

Regrettably, we cannot allow groups to remain in the hall if an emergency call comes in. If this occurs, you will be directed to cease all activities and the firefighters will escort your group from the hall. Everyone must be assembled outside and accounted for before the crew can respond to their emergency. It would be helpful if you could prepare your group for this eventuality.

## Fire Safety Lesson

After the introduction, one or more members of the crew will engage your group in a fire safety lesson appropriate to the age of your group. They may or may not show a video. There will be a question and answer period about fire safety. Please encourage your group to have some questions ready for the fire fighters.

## Apparatus Tour

After the fire safety lesson, the firefighters will take the time to remind your group of safety expectations and issues before leading the group to the truck bay. The group may receive a tour of the truck bay, which generally includes a hose tower, shop and gear room. Some halls have specific functions, such as Technical Rescue, Hazardous Materials Response, Hose Repair or Breathing Apparatus Maintenance which they may introduce at this time.

The firefighters will have a set of firefighter structural gear out for the group. This entails the boots, pants, coat, gloves, helmet and Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) that we wear to fight fires. One of your group or group leaders may be asked to don the gear. This is a good photo opportunity! It is an important part of the tour if there are young children in your group. We don't want the children to be afraid of the way we look and sound if they ever find themselves trapped in a fire.

The crew may elect to divide the group into two or more smaller groups for the apparatus tour. One group will be given a tour of the various external compartments while the other will be allowed to trickle through the cab of the vehicle. **At this point, we will need to remind the members of your group not to touch any equipment unless invited to by the firefighters.** Accidentally flipping a switch or moving some equipment could cost us precious seconds at an emergency scene.

## Activity

When the apparatus tour is complete and time permitting, the crew will set up a "Fire Fighting" station. Using a fake flame prop and fire hose connected to the building water supply, the tour participants will be able to try and "put out" a fire.

## Wrap Up

In conclusion, the firefighters will thank everyone for coming, hand out a few souvenir items and reiterate the fire safety lesson. The participants will be encouraged to share what they have learned with family and friends.

**The following sections of the guide will address the preparations that your group can make before the hall tour. You will find sections for:**

[School Age Children \(under 12\)](#)

Youth (12-18)

Adult

Special Needs



Prior to your visit to the fire hall, you should take some time to familiarize the children with some of the language and topics that will be covered. It will help reinforce the fire safety lessons and help them to ask questions of the firefighters.

**BASIC SAFETY LESSONS:****Test Your Smoke Alarms!**

- It is important that the children take this message home to their parents. Smoke alarms need to be tested once a month and the batteries replaced at least once every year. If the alarm is older than 10 years, the whole unit should be replaced.
- Testing the alarm also serves to familiarize the whole family with what the alarm sounds like.

**Stop Drop and Roll.**

- Coach the children in what to do if their clothes catch fire. They should understand that the goal is to smother the flames. Rolling back and forth over the burning section of clothing will extinguish the fire.

**Have an escape plan – and practice it.**

- The children should engage their whole family in this exercise. Consider assigning them the task of drawing a floor plan of their house and indicating where their escapes are. There should be at least two ways to escape in the event that one is blocked by flames. Their family should designate a meeting place for when everyone has escaped from the home. Without a meeting place, they may not know who is out of the house and who might be trapped inside.

**Stay low and crawl under smoke!**

- If they have to escape from their home and smoke is starting to fill the house, they need to stay low. Smoke rises, but it will also push towards the ground as it fills the room so the best thing to do is get as low as you can and get out quickly.

**Check doors for heat before opening!**

- If your smoke alarms are sounding or you see smoke coming from between the door and the door frame, you need to check the door for heat. You don't want to open the door if the fire is right outside! Using the back of your hand, feel the door for heat. Start near the floor and work your way up. If you don't feel any significant

heat, then check the door knob, again with the back of your hand. It is metal, so it will conduct heat better and may be much hotter than the door. If it isn't too hot, you can crack the door open and check your escape route.

### **Don't play with matches!**

- Many fires still happen because of children playing with matches. What children need to understand is that fire is not a toy and it grows incredibly quickly. A fast-developing compartment fire (normal room) can double in size every 30 seconds. If they find matches or a lighter, they should let an adult know. This [video](#) (YouTube link) demonstrates how quickly a fire can grow.

### **Never throw water on a grease or oil fire (an important lesson for the whole family!)**

- Many people are badly burned every year because they try to put out a grease or oil fire with water. Throwing water on a grease fire will create a massive fireball and spray burning grease in all directions. The proper way to put out a cooking fire is by sealing the pot or pan with a lid or cookie tray to smother the flames. Ask the fire crews to demonstrate this (minus the fire!) in their kitchen. This [video](#) (YouTube link) demonstrates what will happen when water and burning grease mix.

### **How do you report a fire?**

- First, get to a safe location then call 911. You will need to know your address. The 911 dispatcher will ask you which city you are in and the nature of your emergency. If you are calling from Surrey, the 911 operator will transfer you to Surrey Fire Dispatch.

At the end of this document you will find two sections that will help you prepare for the tour. There is a section with [web links](#) to fun fire safety activities and educational material. You will also find a section with fire service [terminology](#). It may help your group to be familiar with some of the words firefighters will use during the presentation.



## HOW TO PREPARE

## YOUTH (12-18)

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We acknowledge that youth between the ages 12 and 18 have very different expectations of a fire hall visit than children under 12 years of age. More of our interaction with your group will be dictated by the questions they ask. Some possible questions are:

- Who can be a firefighter?
- What do you have to do to become a firefighter?
- How old do you have to be to apply for a job?
- Are there volunteer opportunities?
- Where can you take your training to become a firefighter?
- How has firefighting changed over the last couple of decades?
- What type of calls do you attend? Which do you attend the most?
- Are there specialties within the department?
- What is the typical day in the life of a firefighter?

The firefighters at the hall will be happy to answer any and all questions to the best of their ability. The group can also research these questions independently by visiting [www.surrey.ca/fireservice](http://www.surrey.ca/fireservice).

During the conversation with your group, firefighters will touch on subjects of particular importance to today's youth, such as:

- The importance of leading a healthy and active lifestyle.
- The dangers of high risk behaviours such as drug use, road racing, distracted driving and criminal activities. During the course of their duties, most firefighters will have seen the dire consequences that result from these activities.

If you have any other items you wish the firefighters to discuss, please make your request in the "Additional Information" section of the on-line so that the crew can prepare themselves.



## HOW TO PREPARE

## ADULTS AND SPECIAL NEEDS

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Adult and Special Needs groups have too many variables for us to cover in this document. The best policy for these groups is for the group leader to provide us with some expectation of what the group would like to get out of their fire hall tour experience.

In the case of Special Needs groups, it would be beneficial for the group leader to advise us of any of the following:

- Comprehension level
- Physical restrictions
- Anxiety or distress triggers (such as loud noises, flashing lights, etc.)
- Topics that may cause upset
- Anything else that may be relevant to providing an enjoyable and educational experience

While we won't be able to accommodate every request or condition, we will do our best to ensure that each individual in your group has a positive experience.

## CONCLUSION

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We hope you find this guide helpful in preparing for your Surrey Fire Hall Tour. Please do not hesitate to contact our Fire Prevention Office at 604-594-1237 if you have any concerns or questions.

## RESOURCES

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### Usefull Web Links

[Sparky.org](http://Sparky.org) – Sparky the Fire Dog's website is full of fun activities and information for kids.

[www.scholastic.com/firesafety/](http://www.scholastic.com/firesafety/) - Find some great lessons, worksheets and printables. There is lots of free content to provide your students.

[www.surrey.ca/fireservice](http://www.surrey.ca/fireservice) - Learn about the Surrey Fire Service and find numerous pages and links to fire safety and disaster preparedness.

### Terminology

Firefighter – firefighters are both men and women. The term “fireman” is no longer used.

SCBA – This stands for “self-contained breathing apparatus” and is the equipment that allows us to breathe clean air in hazardous environments. It includes an air cylinder, face piece, regulator, status gauges, harness and PASS device.

PASS Device – This device helps firefighters locate a downed/injured firefighter by emitting a loud chirping if it does not sense movement for 30 seconds or more.

Turn Out or Bunker Gear – This is the coat, pants, helmet, gloves and boots we wear to fight fire.

PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) – This is anything we use or wear to keep us safe during the course of our duties. Sometimes, it just refers to rubber gloves and safety

glasses that are used at a medical call and other times it might refer to everything we wear into a fire.

Rescue Truck – This is a fire truck that is usually manned by two firefighters. Its primary responsibilities include medical response and vehicle extrication. Most Rescue Trucks will be equipped with hydraulic spreaders (the “Jaws of Life”) and shears to cut entrapped people out of motor vehicles.

Quint – A Quint is a frontline truck for the Surrey Fire Service. It has an Aerial, Auto Extrication equipment, Medical Response equipment and Fire Suppression equipment. The term Quint refers to the five functions that a Quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders.

Fire Engine – The engine is usually staffed by four firefighters. They will respond to virtually any emergency that occurs in their assigned area. They are equipped to handle structure fires, motor vehicle accidents (MVA’s) and medical calls.