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REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY
Policy Manual

Chapter: REGIONAL FIRE SERVICES

Section: SERVICE LEVELS

Subject: REGIONAL VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT SERVICE LEVEL POLICY

Board Resolution:	262/23; 187/26; 89/26	Established Date:	APRIL 20, 2023	Revised Date:	Feb 19, 2026; April 16, 2026
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POLICY:

INTRODUCTION

This policy describes the requirements for service level declaration regarding Fire Protection and Associated Services by Regional District Volunteer Fire Departments.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

SAFETY. To ensure that Regional District Volunteer Fire Department Members have received the appropriate training and resources to respond to emergencies within our communities.

COMPLIANCE. To ensure Regional District Volunteer Fire Departments are compliant with relevant regulatory and industry standards.

OVERSIGHT. To ensure the Board, through the CAO and the Regional Fire Chief, maintains oversight regarding the service levels and budgets of Volunteer Fire Departments.

APPLICABILITY

The policy applies to Regional District Volunteer Fire Departments and the following services

1. Fire Protection
2. First Responder
3. Auto Extrication
4. Rescue Services

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of the Regional District

- Authorizes changes to the Regional Volunteer Fire Department Service Level Policy

The Chief Administrative Officer

- Reports to the Board regarding potential impacts of changing service levels to the organization and the community at large.

The Regional Fire Chief



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- Recommends changes to Volunteer Fire Department Service Level Declarations to the Board;
- Reports to the Board regarding potential impacts of changing service level declarations to the Regional District Volunteer Fire Service;
- Oversees the training, Apparatus, and Fire Department Equipment for the Regional Fire Service and ensures they correspond with service level declarations.
- Provides direction to the Departmental Fire Chief regarding training, qualification, and service levels

The Departmental Fire Chief

- Oversees training, Apparatus, and Fire Department Equipment for a Volunteer Fire Department and ensures they correspond with service level declarations.
- Reports, as directed, to Regional Fire Chief regarding the Volunteer Fire Departments qualification and readiness to provide Fire Protection and Associated Services.

DEFINITIONS

In addition to the definitions provided below this policy uses the definitions found in Section 1 Definitions of Regional District of Central Kootenay Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769, 2023.

Exterior Operations Level means a Fire Protection service level which requires all functions to conduct structure firefighting activities from the outside of structures and are not provided with any training to safely enter any structure in an active fire incident. Exterior Operations Firefighters must not perform any fire suppression activity that requires entry into any structure, building, vehicle, dumpster, or other object regardless of an Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (IDLH) or harmful atmosphere is present or not. Exterior Operation Firefighters must only engage in external fire suppression and/or mitigation activities.

Full Service Operations means a Fire Protection service level where Fire Departments are equipped and have completed the appropriate training identified in the OFC Training Standards (directly aligned with and inclusive of the NFPA standards) to provide a full spectrum of fire services.

Immediate Danger to Life and Health (IDLH) means Incident conditions that present an immediate threat to a person's safety through inhalation or exposure and includes any oxygen-deficient atmosphere or any untested confined space.

Interior Operations means a Fire Protection Service Level that allows structure firefighters to engage in fire suppression activities within simple structures (as described in BC Building Code Part 9 – buildings of 3 stories or less with maximum of 600 sq metres of living space) or objects such as a vehicle, single family dwelling or other small structures. Interior Operations may also operate inside larger or more complex structures (multi-story, high-rises, commercial complexes, etc.) that the AHJ has allowed to be developed and constructed, where the fire department has pre-planned the structure and determined it safe for internal operations by appropriately qualified firefighters. Firefighters must be trained specifically to the risks associated with each large or complex structure.



TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION

The Regional District is committed to the appropriate minimum levels of training, as established by the Office of the Fire Commissioner, the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board, and National Fire Protection Association to ensure Members of Volunteer Fire Departments are effective and safe in the performance of their duties.

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

The Regional Fire Chief will regularly review the membership and qualification of each Fire Department and make recommendation to the Board regarding the Fire Protection service level declaration of each Fire Department based on training and competencies in accordance with the standards of the BC Office of the Fire Commissioner. The Regional District strives to have all fire service members trained and competent to an Interior Operations service level. Where deemed necessary the Regional Fire Chief may direct a departments to train to the Full Service Operations Standard.

FIRST RESPONDER SERVICES

The Regional Fire Chief will specify which Volunteer Fire Departments are to provide First Responder Services. Membership within these departments will be trained and equipped to certify, through the Emergency Medical Assistants Licensing Board, for the provision of those services. Upon achieving certification and entering into the required agreements with BC Emergency Medical Services and Emergency Management BC the Regional Fire Chief will make recommendation to the Board to update the First Responder Service Level Declaration.

AUTO EXTRICATION SERVICES

The Regional Fire Chief will specify which Volunteer Fire Departments are to provide Auto Extrication Services. The Membership of those departments will be trained and equipped, to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, for the provision of those services. Upon having received the appropriate training, equipment, and having entered into where appropriate, an agreement with Emergency Management BC the Regional Fire Chief will make recommendation to the Board to update the Auto Extrication Service Level Declaration.

RESCUE SERVICES

The Regional Fire Chief will specify which Volunteer Fire Departments are to provide Rescue Services. The Membership of those departments will be trained and equipped, to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, for the provision of those services. Upon having received the appropriate training, equipment, and having entered into the appropriate agreements with Emergency Management BC the Regional Fire Chief will make recommendation to the Board to update the Rescue Services Service Level Declaration.



HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE SERVICES

The Regional Fire Chief will specify which Volunteer Fire Departments are to provide Hazardous Materials Response Services. The Membership of those departments will be trained and equipped to the Nation Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard, for the provision of those services. Upon having received the appropriate training and equipment the Regional Fire Chief will make recommendation to the Board to update the Hazardous Materials Response Services Service Level Declaration.

SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION:

FIRE PROTECTION SERVICE DECLARATION

A list of Volunteer Fire Departments authorized to provide Fire Protection and their declared level of service is attached to this policy as Schedule A. Fire Protection Authorization and Declared Level of Service.

AUTO EXTRICATION SERVICE DECLARATION

A list of Volunteer Fire Departments authorized to provide Auto Extrication service is attached to this policy as Schedule B. Auto Extrication Service Declaration.

FIRST RESPONDER SERVICE DECLARATION

A list of Volunteer Fire Departments authorized to provide First Responder Services is attached to this policy as Schedule C. First Responder Services Service Declaration.

RESCUE SERVICE DECLARATION

A list of Volunteer Fire Departments authorized to provide Rescue Services is attached to this policy as Schedule D. Rescue Services Service Declaration.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE SERVICE DECLARATION

A list of Volunteer Fire Departments authorized to provide Hazardous Materials Response Services is attached to this policy as Schedule E. Hazardous Material Response Services Service Declaration.

RELATED LEGISLATION:

RDCK Volunteer Fire Service Regulation Bylaw No. 2769, 2022



SCHEDULE "A" FIRE PROTECTION AUTHORIZATION AND SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION

The following Volunteer Fire Departments are authorized to provide Fire Protection at an Exterior Operations Service Level.

- Blewett Volunteer Fire Department Volunteer Fire Department
- Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Passmore Volunteer Fire Department
- Riondel Volunteer Fire Department
- Slokan Volunteer Fire Department
- Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department
- Yahk Volunteer Fire Department
- Ymir Volunteer Fire Department

The Following Volunteer Fire Department are authorized to provide Fire Protection at an Interior Operations Service Level.

- Balfour / Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- Kaslo and Area Volunteer Fire Department
- North Shore Volunteer Fire Department
- Ootischenia Volunteer Fire Department
- Robson/Raspberry Volunteer Fire Department
- Tarrys Volunteer Fire Department

The Following Volunteer Fire Departments are authorized to provide Fire Protection at a Full Service Operations Service Level.



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SCHEDULE "B" AUTO EXTRACTION SERVICES SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION

The following Fire Departments are authorized to provide Auto Extrication Services

- Balfour / Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- North Shore Volunteer Fire Department
- Ootischenia Volunteer Fire Department
- Riondel Volunteer Fire Department
- Robson/Raspberry Volunteer Fire Department
- Tarrys Volunteer Fire Department
- Winlaw Volunteer Fire Department
- Yahk Volunteer Fire Department



SCHEDULE "C" FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION

The following Fire Departments are authorized to provide First Responder Program Services:

- Balfour/Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- Blewett Volunteer Fire Department
- Crescent Valley Volunteer Fire Department
- Kaslo and Area Volunteer Fire Department
- North Shore Volunteer Fire Department
- Ootischenia Volunteer Fire Department
- Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Passmore Volunteer Fire Department
- Riondel Volunteer Fire Department
- Robson/Raspberry Volunteer Fire Department
- Slokan Volunteer Fire Department
- Tarrys Volunteer Fire Department
- Yahk Volunteer Fire Department

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SCHEDULE "D" RESCUE SERVICES SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION

The following Fire Departments are authorized to provide the following specialized rescue services:

Still Water Rescue

- Balfour/Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Passmore Volunteer Fire Department

Withstanding the above, all departments authorized for Still Water Rescue Awareness Level Response

Swift water Rescue

- Balfour/Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- Pass Creek Volunteer Fire Department
- Passmore Volunteer Fire Department

Withstanding the above, all departments authorized for Swift Water Rescue Awareness Level Response

Slope Evacuation or Low Angle Rope Rescue

- Balfour / Harrop Volunteer Fire Department
- Beasley Volunteer Fire Department
- North shore Volunteer Fire Department
- Passmore Volunteer Fire Department
- Riondel Volunteer Fire Department
- Robson Volunteer Fire Department
- Slokan Volunteer Fire Department

Confined Space Rescue

- All departments authorized for Confined Space Awareness Level Response



SCHEDULE "E" RESCUE SERVICES SERVICE LEVEL DECLARATION

The following Fire Departments are authorized to Hazardous Materials Response Services:

All departments authorized to provide Hazardous Materials Response Awareness Level Response

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