



building communities together

2020 Business Plan 108 Mile Fire Protection (1321)

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Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

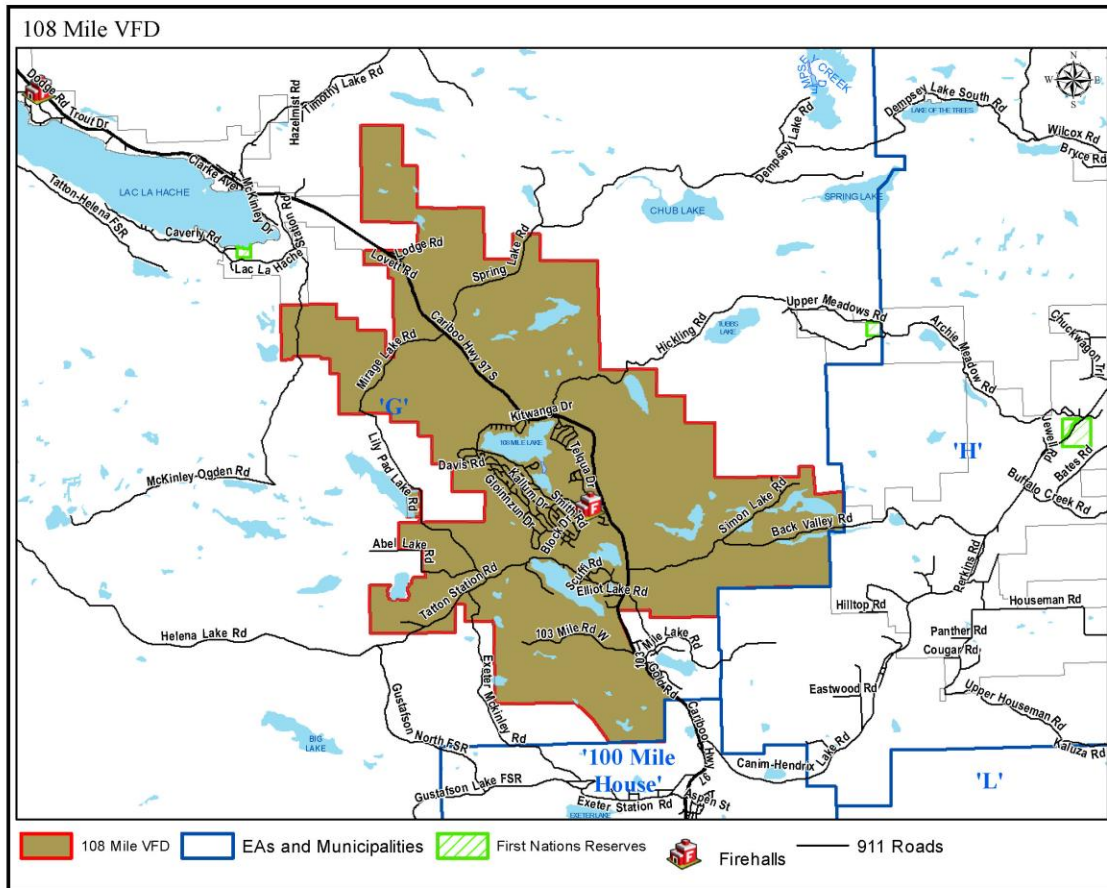
Department/Function Services



The 108 Mile Ranch Fire Protection, authorized by Bylaw No. 3259 (1997), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1974 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. The most recent amendment to 108 Mile Ranch Fire Protection was in 2007 by Bylaw No. 4270. 108 Mile Fire Protection is funded by a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of land and improvements within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate that can be collected is the greater of \$200,000 or \$1.34/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The 108 Mile Ranch Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection, first responder and ice rescue services within their specified area.

As the Electoral Area G Director is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2020 Regional Goals

- Goal:** Facility Asset Management Review
Rationale: Hire a consultant to assess aging CRD owned facilities region wide and develop a replacement or repairs needed strategy to be incorporated into future budget planning.
Strategy: Use CRD administrative funds
- Goal:** VFD Operational Audit
Rationale: Hire a consultant to assess and report on current operational practices to ensure compliance with regulatory bodies and legislation.
Strategy: Use operational funds - \$5,000 estimate/VFD

3. **Goal:** Implementation of updated CRD Fire Department Operational Guidelines
Rationale: Staff will work with all fire departments to ensure that the new operational guidelines are set in place and adhered to and will meet all mandated legislation and policy guidelines.
Strategy: Staff to develop a proper guideline and monitoring mechanism
4. **Goal:** Records Information Management System (RIMS)
Rationale: Staff will work with VFD personnel to implement and maintain records management for all fire department documents as per mandated requirements.
Strategy: Staff to develop a strategy for all records to be submitted to the RIMS at the main CRD office, and to ensure proper records are being updated and maintained.

2020 108 Mile VFD Specific Goals

5. **Goal:** Upgrade radio communication system (deferred from 2019)
Rationale: Current system does not provide adequate coverage in all parts of the area.
Strategy: Use deferred 2019 funds of \$20,000
6. **Goal:** Install turnout/PPE gear lockers
Rationale: Provide necessary storage with the ability to hang gear to ensure proper drying.
Strategy: Staff to seek local bids for installation - \$5,000 estimate
7. **Goal:** Purchase two sets of turnout gear
Rationale: Continue to purchase turnout gear each year to meet the NFPA requirement of a ten-year lifespan for all turnout gear.
Strategy: Use operational funds
8. **Goal:** Seasonal Paid On-Call Weekends
Strategy: Continue to provide paid on-call weekends for four members from June 1st to and including Thanksgiving weekend. This pilot project from 2019 was successful in ensuring response coverage for the department during the summer and early fall months, when regular attendance was lacking.
Strategy: Use operational funds
9. **Goal:** Purchase a used truck to be used for a command/squad duty vehicle in 2022
Strategy: Save funds in 2020 and 2021 to put towards the purchase of a good used truck to be used by VFD Officer/Chief for Incident Command duty use.
Strategy: Put funds in reserve over the next two years to make purchase - \$20,000 estimate total cost

2021 Goal

Goal: Purchase industrial washing machine

Rationale: Meet WorkSafe and NFPA/ULC turnout gear cleaning requirements for the safety of responders by reducing exposure to harmful contaminants.

Strategy: Use funds set aside from 2020, and operational funds from 2021

Significant Issues & Trends

Issues: Recruitment and Retention; Proper Monitoring for Compliance; and Building Capital Reserves

The sustainability of small volunteer departments is being challenged not only by rapidly increasing legislative requirements and related costs but all the increasing administrative demands which accompany these requirements. The proposed 2020 audit of the internal operations of the VFD will allow staff and the Board to review the findings and prepare a strategy to ensure the department has the tools and support necessary to provide this service for the community in the safest and cost-effective manner while adhering to all mandated regulations and policies.

- **Recruitment:** The CRD will be working on administering a regional recruitment campaign in 2020 to educate the residents in all CRD fire protection areas on what is required of a volunteer fire department, the financial impacts of not having this service, the money saved in reduction of fire insurance for residences.
- **Proper Monitoring of Fire Departments:** Fire departments to be monitored to ensure compliance of WorkSafe, NFPA/ULC, CRD policies and Operational Guidelines. By having an internal audit of all CRD VFDs, staff and the Board will be able to develop a strategy on how to bring all departments up to industry standards and to keep our members safe. With this, there will be recommendations on how to ensure proper staffing levels to ensure support and the ability to monitor the departments.
- **Build Capital Reserves:** With the continual strain on current budgets, all CRD VFDs are struggling to maintain acceptable capital reserves. Staff must investigate options and ensure capital reserve yearly contributions are being maintained.