



*building communities together*

## **2021 Business Plan 150 Mile Fire Protection (1327)**

*Stuart Larson, Manager of Protective Services*

***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.***

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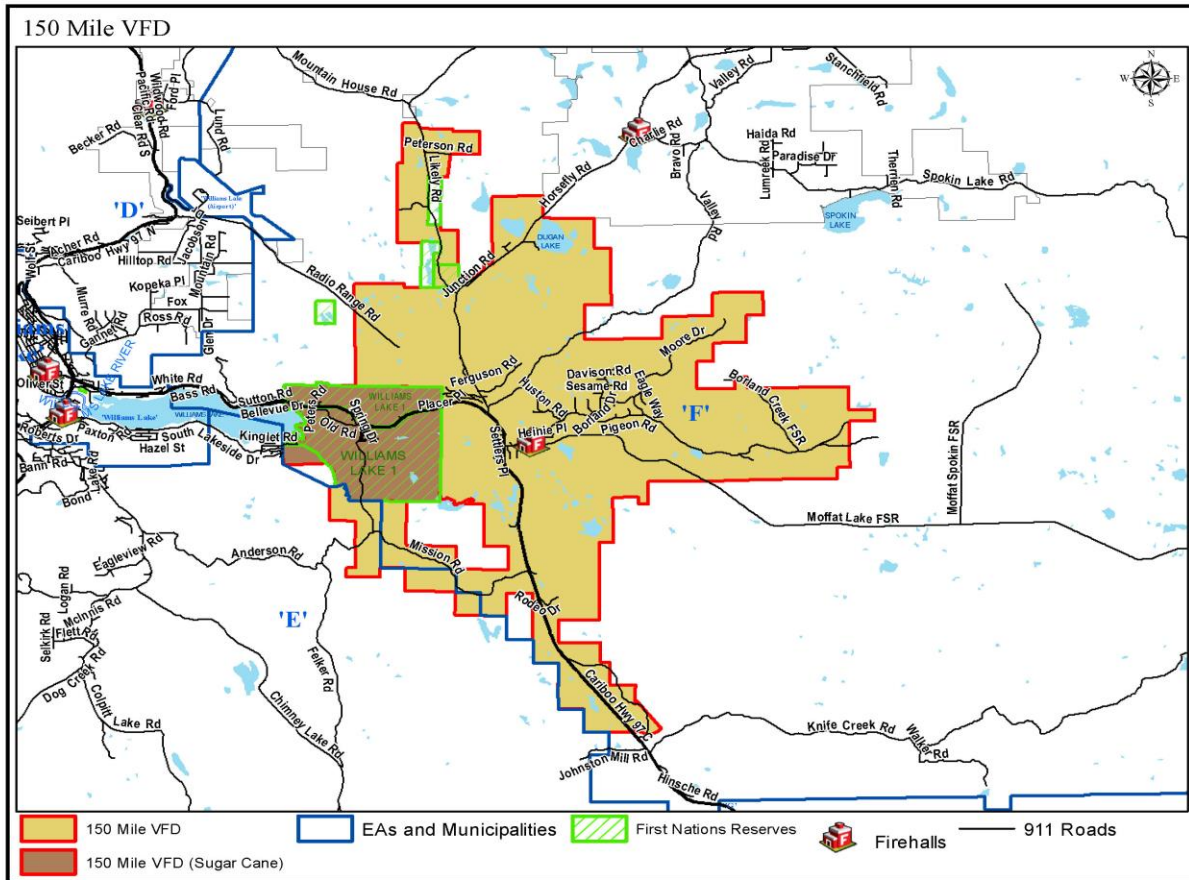
### **Department/Function Services**



The 150 Mile Volunteer Fire Department, authorized by Bylaw No.'s 3897 (2004), 3940 (2004), and 4088 (2005), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1982. 150 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 applied is the greater of \$125,000 or \$1.28/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The 150 Mile Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and first responder services within their specified area.

The Directors for Electoral Areas E and F are responsible for the governance of this function.



## Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

### 2021 Regional Goals

1. **Goal:** Ensure compliance with OH&S.  
**Rationale:** In light of the Jolley report, several issues need to be rectified, including, but not limited to, OH&S inspections, PPE, and operations.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds and support organizational change with Protective Services staff.
  
2. **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 sync FDM with Laserfische for all records to be submitted to the RIMS at the main CRD office, and to ensure proper records are being updated and maintained.

3. **Goal:** Purchase turnout gear and PPE.  
**Rationale:** Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan. Plan on purchasing two new sets each year.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds.
4. **Goal:** Ensure training plans are in accordance with core service(s).  
**Rationale:** Training must reflect the primary functions listed within the Fire Services Bylaw. Exterior operations certification will be the sole focus for membership. Leadership training will be developed and delivered by CRD staff.  
**Strategy:** Use operational funds and internal resources to achieve success.

### **2021 150 Mile VFD Specific Goal**

5. **Goal:** Submit business plan for training grounds with engineer's stamp.  
**Rationale:** Significant effort and fundraising has occurred to create a rated live fire training system. If engineer's assessment is more cost effective than investing in the City of Williams Lake for central departments, this option should be exploited.  
**Strategy:** 150 Mile department to take the lead on this project with support of the Manager of Protective Services.

### **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 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 most cost-effective manner while adhering to all mandated regulations and policies.

- **Recruitment:** The CRD will be administering a regional recruitment campaign in 2021 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 must be monitored to ensure compliance of WorkSafe, NFPA/ULC, CRD policies and Operational

Guidelines. CRD staff will engage in person with departments to ensure compliance, reduce administrative burden, and promote fiscal responsibility.

- **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. This will include the disposal of unnecessary equipment.