



building communities together

2022 Business Plan Deka Lake Fire Protection (1326)

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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

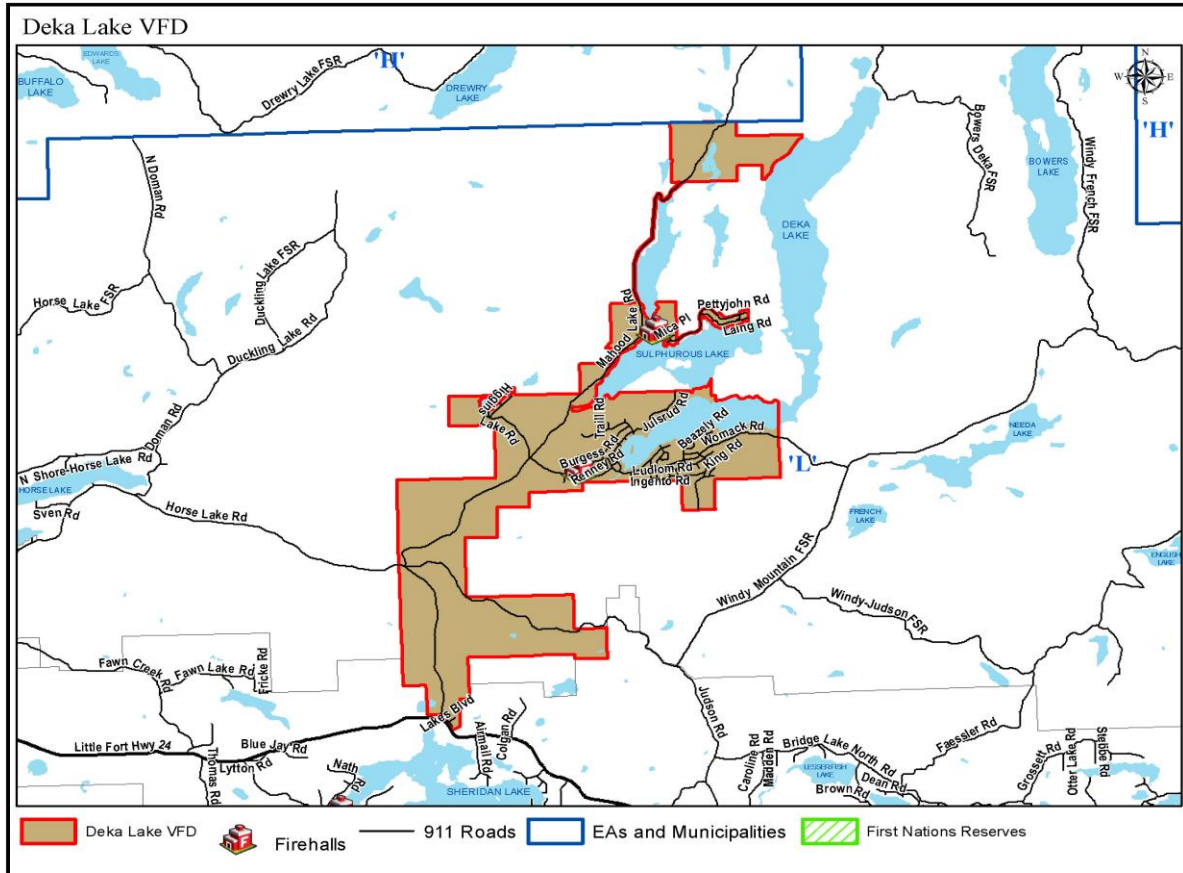


The Deka Lake Fire Protection Service was established by Bylaws No.'s 3377 (1998) and 3450 (1998), as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1982 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Deka Lake Fire Protection was amended in 2006 by Bylaw No. 4198.

A referendum was held in August 2015 to include the Sulphurous Lake fire protection area. That referendum was successful and the Deka Lake fire protection boundary was expanded as per Bylaw No. 4962. Funding is provided for by a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of land and improvements. The maximum taxation rate that can be applied is the greater of \$70,000 or \$1.61/\$1,000 of assessed value.

The Deka Lake Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and suppression services only, within their specified area.

As the Director for Electoral Area L is the only stakeholder, and because 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

2022 Regional Goals

- Goal:** Ensure compliance with OH&S.

Rationale: Staff has enacted various programs throughout 2021 but has not been able to solidify them due to compounding regional emergencies and a temporary reduction in staffing levels. Compliance monitoring and mentorship will resume in October of 2021 and will continue forward on an on-going basis.

Strategy: Use operational funds and support organizational change with Protective Services staff.
- 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 Laserfiche 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.

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:** Protective Services will continue to work in conjunction with Communications to enhance advertising programs started in 2021 to ensure maximum exposure on multiple platforms in regard to recruiting.
- **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 implement cost saving measures and ensure capital reserve yearly contributions are being maintained. This will include the disposal of unnecessary equipment.