

# 2023 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**

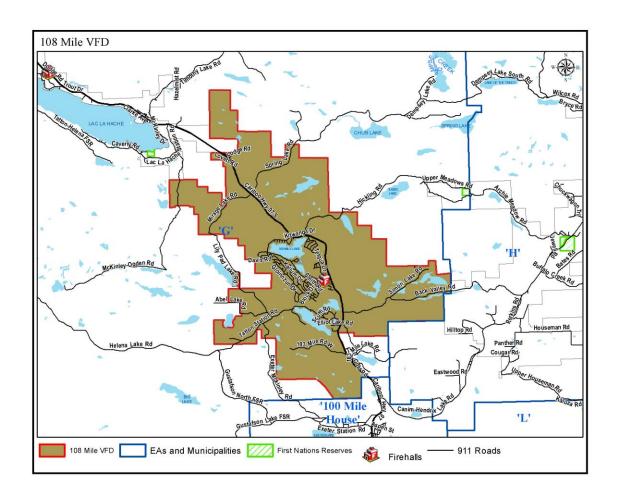


The 108 Mile Ranch Fire Protection, authorized by Bylaw No. 3259 (1997), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1974 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. The most recent amendment to 108 Mile Ranch Fire Protection was in 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**

# **2023 Regional Goals**

**1. Goal:** Purchase turnout gear and PPE.

**Rationale:** Ensure all members have NFPA compliant Personal Protective Equipment, keeping within the 10-year lifespan. CRD staff to inventory turnout gear and ensure ongoing compliance.

Strategy: Use operational funds.

**2. Goal:** Ensure training plans are qualitative and quantifiable

**Rationale:** Training must reflect the primary functions listed within the Fire Services Bylaw. Exterior operations level certification will be done through the College of the Rockies.

**Strategy:** Use operational funds and internal resources to achieve success.

### 2023 108 Mile VFD Specific Goals

**1. Goal:** Replace radio tower.

**Rationale:** Communications are essential for safe operations within the District. **Strategy:** Defer 2021 funds of \$30,000 to complete project. Staff will explore

options of repurposing the unused tower in Miocene.

**2. Goal:** Complete detailed inventory.

**Rationale:** Detailed inventory has not been fully completed to date. The department needs to verify all tangible assets to determine the proper cycle to replace tools, appliances, turn out gear, air cylinders and hose.

Strategy: Support with Protective Services staff.

### **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 to ensure maximum exposure on multiple platforms regarding 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.