



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Forest Grove Fire Protection (1319)

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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.

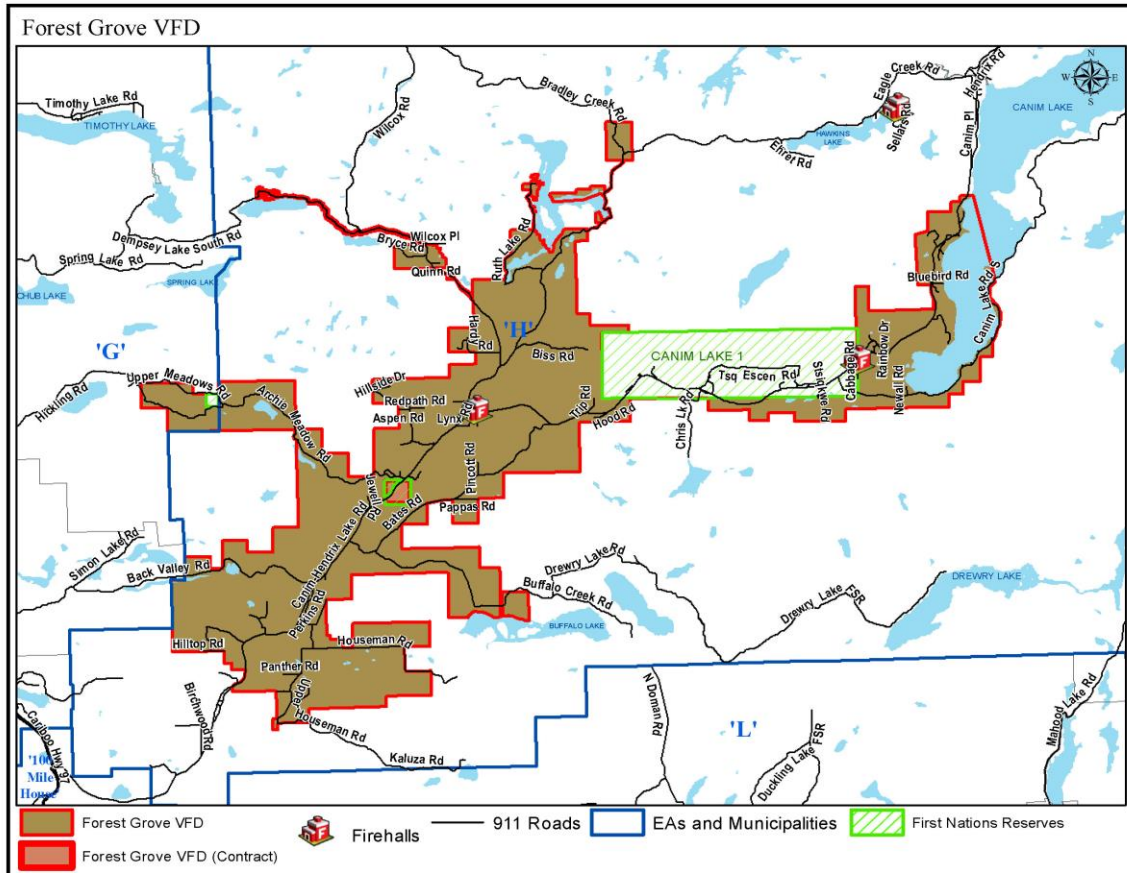
Department/Function Services



The Forest Grove Fire Protection service was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District, by Bylaw No. 2438, in 1990. This service underwent a significant expansion in 2008, authorized by Bylaws No. 4397 and Bylaw No. 4459. It is funded by a combination of a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of improvements only, and a flat parcel tax fee of \$30 applied against every legal piece of property within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate that can be collected is the greater of \$317,843 or \$1.4146/\$1,000 of assessed value of land and improvements.

The expansion amalgamated the Forest Grove and previously independent Canim Lake Fire Protection Society into one large fire protection area with two fire halls – a main and satellite hall. The Forest Grove Volunteer Fire Department provides fire protection and first responder services within their specified area.

The Directors for Electoral Areas G and H are responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

2025 Forest Grove VFD Goals

1. **Goal:** Install a dry hydrant.
Rationale: To ensure that the VFD has an adequate amount of water when actioning fires within the area.
Strategy: Use capital funds.

2. **Goal:** Repair and update firehall.
Rationale: This is necessary to maintain the building or reach WSBC and BC Building Code Requirements. List of issues that need to be addressed over the coming years include siding replacement, ditching to alleviate flooding and lack of shower for decontamination.
Strategy: Review projects with Chief Building Official and Procurement Department and utilize capital funds for possible upgrades.

Significant Issues & Trends

Issues: Recruitment and Retention; Capital Asset Management; Records Management; and Equipment Standardization.

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.

- **Recruitment:** Protective Services will continue to work in conjunction with Communications to enhance advertising programs ensuring maximum exposure on multiple platforms in regard to recruiting.
- **Capital Asset Management:** The Cariboo Regional District is researching options for an asset management program. Protective Services will work with other departments to utilize this to identify possible shortcomings of the firehalls and hire qualified professionals to evaluate the buildings.
- **Records Management:** Protective Services staff will work with VFD personnel to implement and maintain records management for all fire department documents as per mandated requirements.
- **Equipment Standardization:** The standardization of equipment will allow for better operational functionality during emergency response with mutual aid partners. Protective Services will establish a committee to choose standardized equipment and work with Procurement to purchase as budgets allow.