



building communities together

2025 Business Plan Deka Lake Fire Protection (1326)

Cody Braaten, Manager of Fire Administration

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

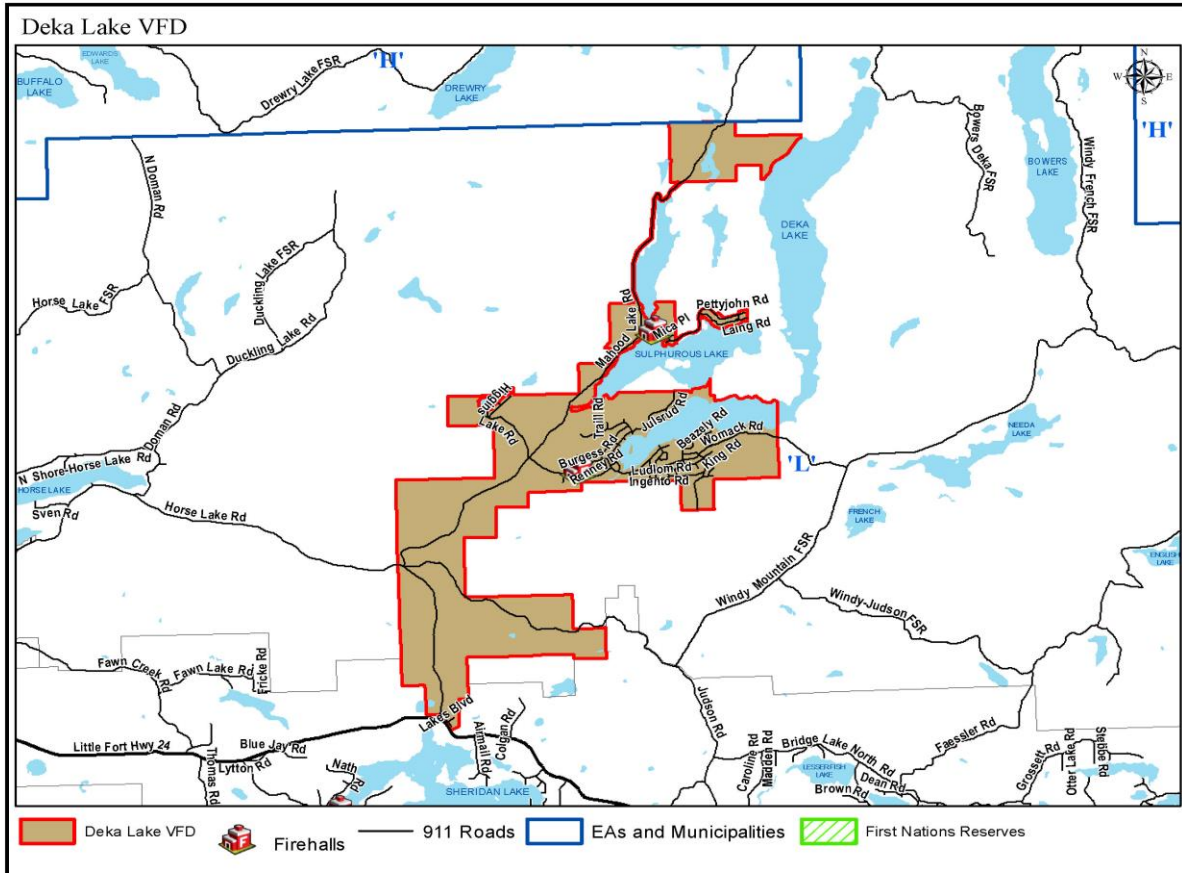


The Deka Lake Fire Protection Service was established by Bylaws No.'s 3377 (1998) and 3450 (1998), as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1982 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. Deka Lake Fire Protection was amended in 2006 by Bylaw No.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

2025 Deka Lake VFD Goals

1. **Goal:** Install two dry hydrants.
Rationale: To ensure adequate amount of water when actioning fires within the area and ensure member safety by not having to cut through ice on the lake in the winter.
Strategy: Use capital funds.

2. **Goal:** Demolish small structure behind the firehall and research options of closing in existing pole barn.
Rationale: Current small structure is dangerous and not being utilized. Closing in existing pole barn would allow for storage of all fire response equipment at one central location.
Strategy: Use operational funds.

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.