

REGIONAL FIRE SERVICES



INTRODUCTION

It has been a busy time in Fire Services throughout the Regional District. There are many projects on the go including researching and petitioning two fire service expansions and a new fire suppression service, new software implementation, hall expansion, policy updates and fire chief appointments slated for the fall of 2016.

DEPARTMENT OF THE YEAR AWARD

The annual Fire Chiefs meeting was held in February of 2016 with very good attendance. The Fire Department of the Year award for 2015 was presented to the Nicholson Volunteer Fire Department and their Fire Chief Parker Vaile.



DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

The following statistics show the number of call-outs each fire department has been called to between January 1 and December 31, 2015 compared with the three year annual average number of call outs.

| Fire Department | Total Call Outs (January– December 2015) | Average annual call outs (2013 – 2015) |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| Anglemont | 19 | 19 |
| Celista | 17 | 13 |
| Eagle Bay | 17 | 11 |
| Falkland | 7 | 8 |
| Malakwa | 28 | 23 |
| Nicholson | 9 | 12 |
| Ranchero Deep Creek | 19 | 19 |
| Scotch Creek Lee Creek | 26 | 24 |
| Silver Creek | 11 | 11 |
| Shuswap | 103 | 70 |
| Swansea Point | 7 | 7 |
| Tappen/Sunnybrae | 62 | 55 |
| White Lake | 20 | 12 |
| <i>Region-wide Totals</i> | 345 | 284 |

STAFFING - NEWS AND UPDATES

The current term for all Fire Chiefs and Interim Fire Chiefs expires on October 31, 2016. An Expression of Interest – Fire Chief package has been posted at all 13 Fire Departments in the Regional District. The posting closes on July 15th and all applications will be reviewed by CSRD staff. Some of the criteria used in the selection of Fire Chiefs are training completed, commitment to training, and experience in fire services. The Regional Fire Chief will recommend the preferred candidates to the CSRD Board for approval.

There were some notable changes in ranks at Fire Departments that included:

- Jayson Tracy took on the role of Interim Fire Chief at the White Lake Fire Hall in the fall of 2015.
- Janet McQuhae, the Swansea Point Fire Chief decided to step down from the position on October 31, 2015. The Deputy Fire Chief Dave Schurek offered to fill the position of Fire Chief for a one year term.
- Art Stoll, the Fire Chief of the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Fire Department retired on May 31, 2016. Chief Stoll had over 10 years of service with CSRD Fire Services. Deputy Mike Engholm has been appointed Interim Fire Chief for the remainder of the term.

ROSTER UPDATES

The following table identifies the number of active firefighters at each Fire Department:

| Department | June 1, 2016 | Department | June 1, 2016 |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------------|--------------|
| Anglemont | 29 | Scotch Creek/Lee Creek | 19 |
| Celista | 25 | Shuswap | 42 |
| Eagle Bay | 17 | Silver Creek | 26 |
| Falkland | 25 | Swansea Point | 20 |
| Malakwa | 18 | Tappen/Sunnybrae | 31 |
| Nicholson | 17 | White Lake | 21 |
| Ranchero/Deep Creek | 22 | Region-wide Total | 312 |

In 2015, the fire department rosters totaled 290 members region-wide and 313 in 2014.

2016 PROJECTS AND CAPITAL UPDATES

Nicholson

- The construction of a two bay addition to the existing fire hall building was completed in the spring of 2016.
- Lighting upgrades have been completed and improvements to attic insulation will be scheduled using the Community Works fund (Gas Tax).
- Contracts have been awarded for the supply and installation of a 10,000 gal water storage tank to be installed at the fire hall.
- The Command Unit currently assigned to the Regional Fire Chief is scheduled to be delivered to the fire hall in 2016.

Ranchero/Deep Creek

- A water supply study to look at the best locations to provide a recognized water supply that is properly engineered and meets the Fire Underwriters requirements is anticipated to begin this fall.

Falkland

- The radio system to Falkland has gone through some improvements. The Fly-Hills repeater became problematic this year and with the support of Surrey Fire Services and a local radio provider we were able to temporarily bypass Fly-Hills and use the Tuk Mountain Repeater. We are scheduling the removal of Fly-Hills equipment and have done some improvements on the backup system at the Falkland Fire hall to provide better coverage through internet communications.

Silver Creek

- The Silver Creek Fire Department anticipated the receipt of their new water tender in the spring of 2016. The CSRD was notified by the supplier that the unit is delayed and is expected to arrive in the fall.

White Lake

- A water supply study to look at additional supply points to improve coverage in the southern area of White Lake is anticipated to begin this summer and fall.
- The new training building at the White Lake Fire Department was used for the first time in March 2016 for a Regional training course – Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) was held with members from many other departments attending.
- The White Lake Fire Department held their 35th annual Mother's Day pancake breakfast fundraiser on May 8th, 2016.



Tappen/Sunnybrae

- The contract award to an Architect, Civil, Structural, Electrical and Mechanical Engineer has been awarded for the hall expansion. Tender specifications are currently being developed and the project is on-schedule for construction in 2016.

- The Sunnybrae water system is being improved with the support of the CSRD and their Utilities Team. The location of a new pump house will be located on the far eastern part of the open lot on the fire hall property. The improved water system will include the addition of a hydrant close to the fire hall.



Shuswap

- The outdated mini pumper in Hall #1 broke a front axle when responding to a call in 2015. There are plans to dispose of this unit and specifications are being developed to replace the unit this year.
- An exhaust system and gas detection monitor was installed at the fire hall at Sorrento Hall #1 in May/June 2016.
- The Shuswap Fire Department hosted a FireSmart seminar on June 12 in Blind Bay. The session focused on educating residents on how they can take steps to defend and reduce their homes susceptibility to wildfires.

Eagle Bay

- An open house was held at the Eagle Bay Fire Hall in August of 2015 with a focus on public education

Malakwa

- The compressor has been relocated to a proper location in the Fire Hall where it now has adequate ventilation.

Swansea Point

- The Swansea Point Fire Department will be participating in the upcoming Celebrating Community BBQ coming up in July.

Scotch Creek/Lee Creek

- Lighting and Exterior Door Upgrades to the Scotch Creek Community/Fire Hall were approved in November 2015 by the Board using Community Works Fund in the amount of \$30,000. The installation of energy efficient lights at the Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Fire Hall will include upgrades to exterior lighting and an increase in parking lot lighting. Additionally, upgrading the existing entry doors to a modern, energy efficient commercial door, will decrease the heating and cooling loss currently experienced. Additionally, upgrading the facility's washroom fixtures to the low consumption type will also reduce water demands.

Celista

- A new fill station has been installed in Celista and some connection improvements and air bottles additions to the system are currently in progress.
- The location of a new dry hydrant has been identified in Celista near the North Shuswap Community Hall. The cost of drilling is greater than what was budgeted for 2016. Allocating funds and budgeting properly for expected drilling costs will be the main priority for Celista and Area F in 2017.



Anglemont

- The Engine is scheduled for replacement in 2016. The CSRDF has been notified that the unit may be delayed and are hopeful that it will arrive in late 2016 or early 2017.
- The Anglemont Fire Department will be hosting a Canada Day celebration including a fireworks display and public education.

POLICY AND REGULATION UPDATES

Fire Services updated Policy F-12 – CSRDF Firefighter/Officer Remuneration in November, 2015 and presented a new Policy W-12 – Fire Department Level of Service.

Changes to **Policy F-12 – CSRDF Firefighter/Officer Remuneration** were approved and endorsed at the November 19, 2015 board meeting and included in the CSRDF Policy manual as amended. The amendments are intended to provide a clear approach to the remuneration of firefighters and officers that is consistent based on requirements of the Playbook and an understanding that the level of proficiency is related to the level of education and training received by the members.

Through ongoing discussions with staff, firefighters and officers, it was determined that changes to the policy were required. Through benchmarking and financial analysis, it was determined that a remuneration model which considers the new Playbook requirements for training and proficiency and payment for actual work performed is preferred over the current model which is based on standard hourly rates and additional compensation based on call out volume allocated to ranked positions regardless of actual involvement in the work itself.

Policy W-12 – Fire Department Level of Service, was presented at the May 19, 2016 Board Meeting for approval by the Board and was adopted for distribution and inclusion in the CSRDF Policy Manual on that date. The Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) released the second edition of the Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook (Playbook) in May 2015. The Playbook provides a detailed approach to establishing minimum standards of training for fire services personnel in BC. The Playbook requires that by June 30, 2016 local authorities will review its fire service capabilities within each of its departments and designate the fire service according to the Playbook training guidelines. The new guidelines have been developed to ensure firefighters are trained accordingly and therefore are safer in the roles they perform.

Exterior Operations include firefighting activities restricted to the control and/or extinguishment of a fire from a position external to the building outside any “immediately dangerous to life and health environment”. Interior Operations include activities that require entry into structures and objects with the purpose to control and/or extinguish fire utilizing specialized protective equipment and procedures not covered by training related to Exterior Operations. Full Service Operations include activities that are undertaken by firefighters in Interior and Exterior Operations, as well as hazardous materials and other competencies under the NFPA 1001 standard.

The CSRDF’s fire service training program continually strives to provide training and competencies to the Interior Operations Service Level.



Policy No. W-12 identifies that the CSR will strive towards an Interior Operations Service Level. Specific procedures related to the level of each respective fire hall and other technical elements will be incorporated into the CSR's Fire Service Standard Operating Guidelines (SOG's) and the CSR's Operational Criteria for Fire Departments Bylaw No. 5587 and amendments.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Financial Statements to the end of April 30, 2016 have been distributed to all department chiefs and committee members.

Staff has initiated the work on a comprehensive asset management program and plan that will guide the CSR in ensuring the ongoing capital liabilities are clearly understood and the CSR Board is given the information required to make informed decisions regarding the ongoing funding of these liabilities.

Preliminary investigations into capital liabilities discovered that the reserve funds are substantially underfunded. The CSR Board in many instances approved increases to reserve contributions to address these concerns. These increases may be phased in over multiple years.

The new monthly payroll system is being implemented using the new Fire Pro II software. The first monthly payment is expected to be paid in July. A semi-annual remuneration payment was made to all Fire Members and Officers for the period November 2015 to April 30, 2016 in June using the old system.

FIRE UPDATE & NEWS

Wildfire season predictions for the southern interior are predicted to be about normal. This can be expected to change in the summer months if the weather is uncooperative with several weeks of dry hot weather without any precipitation. The north of B.C and the Yukon is above normal and extremely dry with the Yukon reporting its warmest winter ever on record. The province has increased the fines for non-compliance with the wildfire management act allowing for greater impact on individuals being held responsible for the cause of a wild fire.

Malakwa – The Skyline gas station in Malakwa was a complete loss from a fire that destroyed the store and office building. Fire at gas stations pose an increased amount of risk and safety to first responders. Crews were able to focus on exterior defensive operations and protect the gas pumps and propane tanks from exposure to this large fire. Support from the Sicamous Fire Department and Swansea Point Fire Department were required for this incident. No fire fighters were injured during this call as a rehab team was in place to assist with proper firefighter recovery.



Scotch Creek – Many firefighters missed Xmas dinner over the holiday break as crews from the North Shuswap and Shuswap Fire Departments battled a large residential structure fire in Scotch Creek. This fire spread rapidly from the interior attic space as the roofing material combined with the teak interior made this a difficult fire to suppress. The team of firefighters were able to stop the spread to neighbouring homes and save the garage and boat house from any damage. Many thanks have gone out to the members that were able to support this incident overnight.

TRAINING UPDATE & NEWS

Interior Live Fire

Our first 2 deliveries of the newly developed Interior Live Fire course took place during the fall training. The students and Instructors all felt the course went very well. The course was developed to ensure compliance to the OFC Playbook training standards and ensure consistency throughout the Regional District.

A new lesson plan was developed by a small group of experienced instructors supervised by Sean Coubrough the Assistant Regional Fire Chief. It is the practical component of Interior Operations Firefighter training as per the OFC Playbook. And includes:

- NFPA 1403 compliant Rapid Intervention Training (RIT), safety officer, lead instructor, and rehab.
- Focuses entirely on interior firefighting including building searches, above grade/below grade fires, ventilation, utility shut off, team leader/radio communications.



New Courses

New courses were added to the 2016 Spring calendar in an effort to bring new and relevant training to our firefighters and fire officers in the Regional District;

- Ventilation Training – a full course dedicated to the process of Positive Pressure Ventilation that is used to remove hot smoke and gasses from a structure to make it safer for any occupants still trapped and for firefighters entering the structure. This training meets the requirements of the OFC Playbook.
- Salvage/Overhaul Training – This course was designed to give firefighters the skills needed to prevent unnecessary or excessive loss at structure fires by looking at ways to protect property from fire, smoke and/or water damage.

Training Calendar (Spring 2016)

The spring 2016 training calendar has just concluded. It was a very busy training season with very good attendance. There were many courses offered such as Exterior and Interior Live Fire practical training, RIT at the White Lake training building, Fire Instructor 1 & 2, Loss Control/Forcible Entry, Hazmat Awareness, S-100 and S115, Marina Firefighting course in Anglemont, Strategies and Tactics, Emergency Vehicle Driving (EVD) and Apparatus Pump Operator (APO).

Lesson Plan Consolidation

A comprehensive file of lesson plans is under development for Training Officers to draw from when preparing for their weekly practice nights. They will focus on the Exterior and Interior Operations firefighter

skills as per the OFC Playbook. This will result in a better method for tracking training through well as consistency throughout our departments in training standards.

TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

IFSTA Resource One is an online system that at no cost allows fire departments to access online training material that is relevant to the text books that are used for training. Each fire department has its own online access and can download training material to support classroom deliveries and evaluations. With this system we can reduce the amount of hard copy text books that are required on an annual basis.

FirePro II has been acquired and training and implementation is underway. This program will provide a regional mechanism to track and maintain the training records requirement of the OFC Playbook. Additionally, it will provide a more comprehensive system to facilitate remuneration/honorarium payments on a monthly basis. FirePro II will also be used for inspections and investigations using custom templates.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- The CSRD received informal petitions from over 70 residents in the Silver Creek area and over 40 residents in the Nicholson area interested in learning more about the opportunities to be included in the respective service areas. A public meeting was held in Silver Creek with the interested residents and a formal petition has been released. A public meeting is scheduled in Nicholson in mid-July.

The CSRD has also received an informal petition from over 200 residents and business owners at the Kicking Horse Mountain Resort just outside of the community of Golden. Staff have conducted research into the feasibility of the service and the costs of providing the service. A public meeting is being scheduled for mid-July.

- The Scotch Creek/Lee Creek Fire Department, with the support of several neighbouring fire departments, recently passed the Commercial Flow Rating Test administered by the Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) for Superior Tanker Shuttle Service (STSS) accreditation. This new certification allows commercial businesses an enhanced fire protection classification which should result in fire insurance savings.

In order to achieve STSS accreditation, a fire department is required to perform a physical test in order to demonstrate it can provide a water flow rate of at least 500 Imperial gallons per minute over a two hour period, from a recognized water supply. The test must be performed by the fire department and witnessed by a FUS field technician. If successful, the fire department qualifies for an improved rating within the Public Fire Protection Classification. Properties not covered under the personal lines dwelling protection grading will now be able to negotiate with insurance companies for improved commercial insurance rates.

With the success of this test in Scotch Creek, the FUS will provide the CSRD with updated mapping which will outline the areas within Scotch Creek that are now covered by this recent achievement. Typically, properties within 2.5 km of a fire hydrant and 5 km from a fire hall (referred to as a polygon) receive the upgraded rating.



The accreditation of the Scotch Creek/Lee Cree Fire Department could not have been achieved without the investment in apparatus and the training and dedication of the fire department members. The test requires the use of one engine, one mini pumper and five water tenders. Support from the Celista, Anglemont and Shuswap Fire Departments was also necessary to make the Scotch Creek/Lee Cree test successful.

It is important to note that the accreditation process requires a department to recertify every five years in order to maintain the Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation.

Insurance companies that subscribe to the FUS should recognize this achievement by the Scotch Creek/Lee Cree Fire Department and are expected to offer discounted premiums. Commercial businesses are now protected through the department's ability to provide water flow rates equivalent to that of a commercially rated fire hydrant. Structures that are not in close proximity from a hydrant but fall within the polygon should be able to negotiate an improved insurance rate.