



VOLUNTEER FIRE RESCUE SERVICE LEVEL POLICY

Applicability: Public Safety

Effective Date: July 13, 2016

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy for declaring fire rescue service and training levels for each of the CVRD Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments.

DEFINITIONS:

Exterior Operations

Fire service firefighters shall not enter any building, vehicle, dumpster or other object if an Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health (IDLH) atmosphere is present. If an IDLH atmosphere is present, Exterior Operations firefighters shall only engage in external fire suppression activities.

Full Service Operations

Fire Departments are equipped and have completed the appropriate training identified in the Playbook to provide a full spectrum of fire services. These services are based on the competencies included within the National Fire Protection Association 1001 Firefighter 2 Standards and relevant National Fire Protection Association 1021 Fire Officer Standards.

IDLH (Immediately Dangerous to Life and Health)

Refers to incident conditions that present an immediate threat to a person's safety through inhalation or exposure, and includes any oxygen-deficient atmosphere or any untested confined space.

Interior Operations

Fire Departments may engage in internal fire suppression activities within simple structures or objects such as a vehicle, single family dwelling or other small structures. Interior Operations may also include larger or more complex structures that have been assessed and pre-planned for. Firefighters must be trained specifically to the risks associated with these structures.

Playbook

Fire Commissioner of BC has established a competency based ladder that provides for a minimum level of training and operational requirements. This document is known as the Playbook.

POLICY:

Declaration

The following Service Levels are declared for each of the Volunteer Fire Rescue Departments as follows:

1. Honeymoon Bay: Interior Operations
2. Malahat: Interior Operations
3. Mesachie Lake: Interior Operations
4. North Oyster: Interior Operations
5. Sahtlam: Interior Operations
6. Youbou: Interior Operations

Operational Standard and Limitations

1. Fire Rescue Departments will strive to provide Interior Operations level services. Services provided by the Fire Rescue Departments are dependent on the availability of staff that has completed appropriate levels of training.
2. The number of personnel, qualifications and equipment available for delivery of emergency services will determine the level of service the Fire Rescue Department can provide at the time of an emergency incident. Services may be limited to a lesser level, specifically Exterior Operations Service Level. Also, an increased level of service may be conducted on larger or more complex structures if rescue services have been pre-planned for, members have been appropriately trained, and sufficient qualified staff and equipment are available.
3. To ensure Interior Operations Service Level is achieved, only a limited number of personnel should be operating at less than Interior Operations qualifications.

Training Standard

4. The Fire Rescue Departments shall train their members to the minimum competencies required by the Playbook for the Interior Operations Service Level.
5. The required training competencies, as described in the Playbook, will be achieved by members within 2 years of start date.
6. During the 24 month training period, new firefighters will progress through Exterior, then Interior Operations Service Level training as described in the Playbook. During this qualification period, firefighters will only be authorized to operate under the qualification they have achieved.

Responsibilities

7. The Public Safety Division and the departmental Fire Chief are responsible for ensuring this policy is compliant through use of appropriate operational guidelines as well as service/ mutual aid agreements.
8. The departmental Fire Chief shall, on a regular basis or as directed, report to the CVRD Public Safety Division on the departments' readiness, effectiveness and efficiency.

Approved by: CVRD Board Approval date: July 13, 2016
