

PITT MEADOWS POLICY MANUAL	POLICY NO. C038
SUBJECT: Fire & Rescue - Service Level Establishment & Limitations	Approved: February 23, 2016 Reaffirmed:

1) PURPOSE:

To provide direction to the City of Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Service (“Fire & Rescue Service”) on establishment and limitations of services authorized by City Council.

2) BACKGROUND:

- a) The City of Pitt Meadows has directed that the Fire & Rescue Service operational model is to be primarily undertaken by a volunteer Paid on Call membership (“POC”). This model is consistent with the budgetary and operational capabilities and requirements of the City of Pitt Meadows, as determined by City Council.
- b) The Fire & Rescue Service operates pursuant to section 3.6.1 of City of Pitt Meadows **Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 2405**. The Fire Chief, as appointed by City Council, is responsible for the safe, effective and efficient operation and administration of the fire & rescue service.
- c) The *British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structure Firefighters – Competency and Training Playbook* (May 2015), as set under paragraph 3(3)(b) of the British Columbia (BC) **Fire Services Act** is hereby recognized as the applicable Provincial Statute under which emergency response and training activities of the Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Service will be based.

3) OPERATIONAL STANDARD

- a) The Fire & Rescue Service is authorized to provide fire suppression activities in accordance with and subject to the limitations set out in the **Full Service Operations Level**, as generally described in the Playbook and considering any and all limitations contained within this Policy.
- b) The City of Pitt Meadows **Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw No. 2405** defines “Assistance Response” as aid provided in respect of fires, alarms, explosions, medical emergencies or incidents, floods, earthquakes or other natural disasters, escape of dangerous goods, rail transport or aeronautical incidents, motor vehicle or other accidents, or circumstances necessitating rescue efforts.

4) OPERATIONAL LIMITATIONS:

Availability for Assistance Response will be determined by the Fire & Rescue Service on a case-by-case basis and is dependant on the circumstances, availability of service, level of training and skill of responding personnel, timing and resources. The following levels of service for Assistance Response are not directly performed by the Fire & Rescue Service:

A. Technical Rescue:

- i) No High Angle Rope Rescue capability – contracted through aid agreement or other agency/contractor, if available;
- ii) No Swift Water Entry or Ice Rescue capability - contracted through aid agreement or other agency/contractor, if available;
- iii) No Confined Space Rescue capability - contracted through aid agreement or other agency/contractor, if available; and
- iv) No Structural Collapse Rescue - contracted through aid agreement or other agency/contractor, if available.

B. Dangerous Goods / Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Technician Response:

- i) Technician Level response is not provided - contracted through aid agreement or other agency/contractor, if available.

C. Marine Firefighting and Rescue:

- i) Response to persons, vessels, aircraft or other vehicles in water bodies, as well as foreshore areas from the water side, is not provided - contracted through partner agency/contractor, if available.

D. Wildland-Urban Interface and Forestry Firefighting:

- i) The forested land in the north east corner of the jurisdiction is inaccessible to the fire department from the floodplain treeline boundary upwards. Similar conditions exist in portions of the Sheridan Hill area. Firefighting response to these areas is provided by BC Wildfire Branch by Agreement with the City.

The following components of Assistance Response are performed in a reduced/modified manner, by the Fire & Rescue Service:

A. Technical Rescue:

- i) Entrapment Rescue, such as vehicle extrication, capability is provided if the incident is determined by the Fire & Rescue Service to fall within its level of training, skill and available resources. Additional specialized back-up from Mutual Aid can be requested, if available .

B. Dangerous Goods / Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Operations Response:

- i) Operations Level response is dependant on the circumstances and is limited to simple vehicle fuel leaks/fires and simple compressed gas leaks/fires or other incident where it is determined by the Fire & Rescue Service to fall within its level of training, skill and its available resources; and
- ii) For all other incidents of this type, an Awareness Level of response will be provided by the Fire & Rescue Service depending on the nature of the incident, the level of training and skill, and the availability of resources. Specialized back-up from outside agencies, through agreement, is available if required.

C. Aviation Firefighting/Rescue:

- i) Fire & Rescue Service response to aircraft incidents is limited depending on the circumstances of the incident and whether Fire & Rescue Service determines that the incident is within its level of training and skill. Additional resources, including specialized aircraft firefighting apparatus, will be requested for major incidents; and
- ii) Firefighting capabilities of the Fire & Rescue Service are based upon use of traditional structural firefighting apparatus using firefighting foam application.

5) TRAINING STANDARD:

- a) The Fire & Rescue Service shall train its Principal Responding Members to the minimum competencies required by the Playbook for the Full Service Operations Level. The required training competencies, as described in the Playbook, will be achieved by all members within 36 months of start date.
- b) During this 36 month training period new firefighters will sequentially progress through the Exterior, then Interior Operations Service Level training as described in the Playbook. During this qualification period firefighters will only be authorized to perform the competencies they have successfully achieved.
- c) The Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Service has and will continue to establish Training Programs, applicable Operational Guidelines, Policies, Procedures, Lesson Plans and Evaluation Instruments that ensure compliance with the competencies and other requirements as described within the Playbook for all operational service levels.
- d) The Fire Chief will establish regular review and compliance checks to ensure that the ongoing requirements of the Playbook are adhered to and that Council is made aware of any required changes to operations or training in a timely manner.
- e) The Fire Chief will also establish Training Programs, applicable Operational Guidelines, Policies, Procedures and Lesson Plans for all departmental service delivery areas not specifically described within the Playbook Standard. These include, but are not limited to: incident command; personnel accountability; health & safety; aircraft incident response; vehicle rescue; water-borne emergencies; large animal rescue; and vehicle operations.

6) NON-SUPPRESSION LIMITATIONS:

The City of Pitt Meadows *Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw* No. 2405 describes activities related to Fire Prevention in sections 3.1.3 (b, c, d and f) as including development and building plan review, fire and safety inspections, fire investigations and fire and life safety education.

- A. The following components of Fire Prevention, are not directly performed by the Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Service at this time:
 - i) Fire & Rescue Service does not provide a registered professional review or assurance of Fire Protection System design drawings. Limited plan review will be conducted by various departments within the City of Pitt Meadows and its contractors, as applicable.

- B. The following components are performed in a reduced/modified manner by the Fire & Rescue Service:
 - i) Inspections of properties at the Pitt Meadows Regional Airport. Given the federal jurisdiction involved fire personnel will accompany airport staff on inspections of occupancies. The airport will then ensure enforcement of violations is carried out; and
 - ii) Investigation of major incidents, particularly those that involve serious injury or death. Such investigation should be provided with assistance from other jurisdictions such as law enforcement, Worksafe and the Office of the Fire Commissioner, as well as contractor agencies, as applicable; and
 - iii) Fire & Rescue Service's decision to undertake and conduct an investigation of major fire incidents is within its discretion depending on the circumstances of the incident, the required level of training and skill and the available resources.

7) ACCOUNTABILITY:

- a) The Fire Chief for the City of Pitt Meadows, or designate, is responsible for ensuring this policy is complied with through the use of appropriate department Operational Guidelines as well as service/aid agreements, service contracts, and/or partner agencies.
- b) In relation to any particular incident/assistance response, the department shall undertake only those emergency activities for which its actual responding members at the incident are properly trained and equipped. If additional assistance is required such assistance will be promptly requested from the most appropriate qualified agency/organization.
- c) The Fire Chief may determine to limit the fire suppression activities of the department to the Interior or Exterior Operations Service Level in circumstances where, because of turn-over in members or for other reasons, in the Fire Chief's view the department cannot ensure ongoing full service operations level response.

- d) Where the Fire Chief has made a determination under section 7(c), he or she shall immediately inform the CAO, including reasons for the decision. The Fire Chief may elect to recommence providing Full Service Operations Level response when he or she considers it warranted, and shall inform the CAO when making such decision.

8) REVIEW:

The Fire Chief shall, on a regular basis or as directed, report to the City on the departments readiness, effectiveness and efficiency. The Fire Chief will ensure ongoing compliance with the contents of the policy and all other applicable Bylaws, Statutes or Regulations.

Additional Related Legislation/Standards/Policies/Bylaws/Agreements:

Fire Protection and Life Safety Bylaw #2405, 2009 and any amendments thereto.

British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structure Firefighters – Competency and Training Playbook (May 2015), Office of the Fire Commissioner of BC

Pitt Meadows Ticket Information Bylaw #1401, 1993 and any amendments thereto

Contract for Services Agreement between the City of Pitt Meadows and Ridge-Meadows Search and Rescue, dated 1 January 2011 and any amendments thereto.

Computer Aid Dispatch Service Agreement, with Surrey Fire Service dated 8 December 2014 and any amendments thereto.

Mutual Aid Agreement for Fire Service Emergencies between the City of Pitt Meadows and the District of Maple Ridge and the Township of Langley and the District of Mission, 2009 and any amendments thereto.

Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergencies with all GVRD fire services, dated 13 October 1995 and any amendments thereto.

Joint Municipal Emergency Program Agreement between the District of Maple Ridge and the City of Pitt Meadows, dated 1 January 2013 and any amendments thereto.

First Responder Agreement with the Province of BC, dated 24 August 2009 and any amendments thereto.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Forests and the District of Pitt Meadows, dated 23 February 1993 and any amendments thereto, as well as other current EMBC / Wildfire Branch policy and operating guidelines.