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Council Policy

Fire Service Level

Approval Date: May 25, 2020

Resolution No.: R120/20/05/25

Rescinded: N/A

Contact Department: Emergency Services

Purpose

To define the operational level to which members of Grand Forks Fire/Rescue shall be trained in accordance with the requirements of the Office of the Fire Commissioner of British Columbia and WorkSafeBC.

Policy Statement

The City of Grand Forks endorses the 'Fire Service Level' of striving to provide Full Service Operations.

Policy

Authority and Application:

This Service Level Policy has been established by the City of Grand Forks in accordance with the mandatory minimum training standards set by the Office of the Fire Commissioner under paragraph 3(3)(b) of the *Fire Services Act (B.C.)*, published as *British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards: Structure Firefighters Competency and Training Playbook ("The Playbook") (2nd Edition, Amended May 2015)* and WorkSafeBC Occupational Health & Safety legislation, pursuant to the City's authority under the necessary service establishment bylaws.

This Service Level Policy applies to and is binding on the City's fire department and its individual Members. It shall form the basis of the department's training of its members and related operational planning for fire suppression and emergency response activities.

The City of Grand Forks authorizes fire protection services within the city's specified fire protection service areas including Area "D" of the Regional District of Kootenay Boundary. These are essential public safety services that make provision for responding to fire, rescue, emergency situations and the delivery of fire prevention and public education.

This policy applies to Grand Forks Fire/Rescue.

Definitions:

Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) - For the purpose of this document the AHJ is any local government or other entity or organization that provides or oversees the provision of fire services in British Columbia.

City - City of Grand Forks

Exterior Operations Level - Fire service firefighters shall not enter any building, vehicle, dumpster, or other object if an IDLH atmosphere is present. If an IDLH atmosphere is present, Exterior Operation qualified firefighters shall only engage in exterior fire suppression activities.

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

Full Service Operations Level – Fire Departments are equipped and have completed the appropriate training identified in this Playbook to provide a full spectrum of fire services. These services are based on the Competencies included within the NFPA 1001 Firefighter 2 Standard and relevant NFPA 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 (e.g. smoke, noxious vapor, super-heated air), and includes any oxygen-deficient atmosphere or any untested confined space.

Guidelines:

The British Columbia Fire Service minimum training standards identifies three service level options that fire departments may provide. These are Exterior Operations Level, Interior Operations Level, and Full Service Operations Level. Further it requires that each AHJ must carefully examine what level of service its fire department is mandated to provide, and then meet the appropriate training and operations identified for that level. The City, as the AHJ, is responsible for ensuring compliance with the minimum standards established by the provincial standard.

In accordance with the City of Grand Forks Fire Services Level Policy, to strive to provide Full Service operations, the following certification levels or standards will be attained and maintained in order to support the relevant service.

EMERGENCY SERVICES PROVIDED	CERTIFICATION LEVEL OR STANDARD
Firefighting Services	
Firefighting – Structural/Vehicle	NFPA 1001 Level II
Firefighting – Wildland/Urban Interface	SPP WFF1
Incident Command	NFPA1021, ICS 200, Incident Safety Officer, Emergency Scene Management
Emergency Vehicle Operator (Driver/Pump Operator)	Trained to NFPA 1002
Emergency Medical Services	
Medical First Responder	First Responder Level III, CPR(HCP), AED & Spinal Immobilization
Rescue Services	
Motor Vehicle Collisions – Vehicle Extrication	Trained to NFPA 1006 Ch. 10
Rope Rescue (High angle/Low slope)	Trained to NFPA 1006 Ch. 6
Hazardous Material Response	NFPA 472/1072 Awareness and Operations
Confined Space Rescue	Trained to NFPA 1006 Ch. 7 (Awareness and Operations)
Swiftwater Rescue	Trained to NFPA 1006 Ch. 12 (Awareness)

Recognizing the City’s Policy to strive to provide Full Service Operations Level, it should be understood that emergency services may be limited to a lesser level, specifically, Interior Operations Level or Exterior Level Operations Level. The determination of service level is based on the availability of personnel, qualifications and specialized equipment that is available.

Responsibilities:

Grand Forks Fire/Rescue will ensure levels of service are adhered to and that staff and volunteer firefighters providing the services are competent. Council will review and approve service levels periodically. This policy is required to meet the intent of WorkSafeBC Occupational Health & Safety requirements and the Office of the Fire

Commissioner Service training standards, pursuant to Section 3(3)(b) of the Fire Services Act of British Columbia as they are updated from time to time.

It should be noted that this policy does not require that Grand Forks Fire/Rescue have every member trained up to the Full Service Operations level. There always will be situations where new members either are not considered qualified by the department (i.e., are undergoing recruit training, even if they are fully NFPA 1001 FFII qualified) or are starting off as new recruits requiring training. Additionally, certain members provide only support services or otherwise limit their emergency scene activities.

Limitations on Services Provided:

- a) In relation to any specific incident response, the department shall only undertake those emergency response activities for which it is responding.
- b) Services are dependent on the availability of volunteer firefighters who have completed appropriate levels of training.
- c) The number of personnel and equipment available for the delivery of emergency services will determine the level of service the City can provide.
- d) The Fire Chief may determine to limit the fire suppression activities of the department to a lower Service Level in circumstances where, because of turn-over in Members or for other reasons, in the Fire Chief's view the department should suspend undertaking interior fire attack or rescue operations.
- e) Where the Fire Chief has decided as identified above, he or she shall immediately inform the City, including the reasons for the decision. The Fire Chief may elect to recommence providing their authorized level of service when he or she considers it warranted and shall inform the City when making such decision.

Policy Amendment:

This Service Level Policy shall be reviewed as required by the City of Grand Forks with the Fire Chief. It will be amended as determined appropriate by the City, or as required to conform with any changes to The Playbook or other applicable legislation or regulations.

References:

Office of the Fire Commissioner Playbook
<http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc/pdf/playbook.pdf>

Fire Services Act
http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96144_01

WorkSafe BC
http://www2.worksafebc.com/publications/OHSRegulation/Home.asp?_ga=1.154256957.488914581.1394727598

Resolutions and Amendments

July 20, 2016 - Council Policy 901 Established

May 25, 2020 - R120/20/05/25 – Council Policy 901 Revised – includes reduction in Swiftwater Rescue Level to “Awareness”