



BIG LAKES COUNTY POLICY



TITLE: Fire Service - Levels of Service

POLICY NUMBER: Fire 04

LEGAL AUTHORITY:

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 26th, 2021

REVISED DATE:

Policy Statement

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to identify the level of fire services provided by the Big Lakes County fire service and the standard to which each level of service will be performed as authorized by Council.

Definitions:

1. Awareness Level - Responders will recognize risks and hazards, secure the area, and call for trained assistance.
2. Operations Level - Responders will take defensive action to control the incident.
3. Technician Level - Responders will initiate offensive action to bring the incident under control.
4. Wildland Fire – any non-structure fire that occurs in vegetation or natural fuels.
5. Structure Protection – The protection of homes or other structures from active wildland fire.

Scope:

This policy applies to all Fire Service members.

Policy objectives:

1. To align Fire Service Level with the Fire Service Bylaw.
2. To ensure appropriate levels of fire services for Big Lakes County and other jurisdictions it serves by agreement.
 - a. This may include but not limited to training, prevention programs, emergency response, acting on behalf of the fire service or County.
3. To recognize there are training and equipment requirements to meet the Service Levels within the fire service.
4. To provide appropriate levels of funding to meet the levels of service as set out by Council.



Fire Service Administration:

The Fire Chief will:

- Ensure the level of service identified is adhered to and the members providing the services are deemed competent.
- Develop and implement training programs to achieve stated level of services.
- Develop an operational funding model and long-term capital budget planning to meet service levels.
- Ensure alignment with the Alberta Code of Practice for Fire Fighters and Alberta OH&S Standards.
- Develop and maintain policies and standard operating guidelines that align with the level of service.

Levels of Service

1. Fire Fighting
 - a. The fire service shall provide initial responses at the technician level to structure, vehicle, industrial and aircraft fires only when the incident commander deems it safe to do so.
 - b. If the incident is beyond the scope of the service level indicated or the resources readily available, then the incident commander will request assistance.
2. Rescue
 - a. The fire service shall provide initial responses at the technician level to vehicle, water, ice, aircraft, low angle and farm rescue only when the incident commander deems it safe to do so.
 - b. If the incident is beyond the scope of the service level indicated or the resources readily available, then the incident commander will request assistance.
3. Medical
 - a. The fire service shall provide first responder medical care and services as outlined in the Medical First Responder agreement.
4. Dangerous Goods
 - a. The fire service will provide an initial response at the operations level.
 - b. If the incident is beyond the scope of the service level indicated or the resources readily available, then the incident commander will request assistance.
5. Wildland
 - a. The fire service will provide technician level for wildland fires.
 - b. The fire service will provide operations level for structure protection.
6. Disaster Services
 - a. In the event there has been a declaration of a state of local emergency, the fire service will act as per the emergency response plan under the direction of the Director of Emergency Management.



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7. Mutual Aid Agreements
 - a. The fire service will respond with the appropriate resources to meet the objectives of the agreement.
 - b. If the incident is beyond the scope of the service level indicated or the resources readily available, then the incident commander will request assistance.
8. Other service levels
 - a. The fire service will respond to all other incidents not listed above at the awareness level.

Reeve

Chief Administrative Officer

Date of Final Signature