



THE MUNICIPALITY OF THE VILLAGE OF LIONS BAY

Type	Request for Decision		
Title	Declaration of Fire Service Level Amendment		
Author	Peter DeJong	Reviewed By:	Andrew Oliver
Date	January 19, 2021	Version	
Issued for	January 19, 2021 Council Meeting		

Recommendation:

- (1) THAT the Declaration of Fire Service Level dated November 17, 2020 be rescinded; and
- (2) THAT the Declaration of Fire Service Level dated January 19, 2021 be approved.

Attachments:

- (1) Declaration of Fire Service Level dated November 17, 2020;
- (2) Declaration of Fire Service Level dated January 19, 2021.

Key Information:

At the November 17, 2020 Council received a report from the Fire Chief and adopted the Declaration of Fire Service Level as “Exterior” with the ability to go “Interior” if circumstances permitted” per attachment (1). This was based on the notion that the department didn’t have enough members trained to the required level to regularly meet the requirements of the “Interior” service level.

However, upon further review it has been determined that we currently have high level of qualified personnel to support an Interior level of service per the following:

- a. Interior Firefighter Level: all “pre-recruits have NFPA 1001 (Firefighter 1) – 30 interior qualified members
- b. Interior Team Leader Level: 6 qualified and 6 more going through training
- c. Interior Incident Commander Level: 4 qualified and 8 more going through training



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The LBFR has also set up its training program such that it is geared toward an Interior level of service. The newly completed Live Fire Training Facility (Burn Building) is a key part of that program.

Staff also discussed with one of the Deputy Fire Commissioners at the Office of the Fire Commissioner and concluded that a Declaration of Interior Fire Service Level per the attached provided better clarity, subject to the regulatory requirements associated with Interior attacks. Indeed, no Interior level department can go inside an involved structure if they don't have all the regulatory and operational requirements of doing so addressed at the incident site.

Options:

- (1) Approve the recommendations;
- (2) Refer the matter back to staff for further information.

Preferred Option: Approve the recommendations and adopt the new Declaration of Fire Service Level dated January 19, 2021 for the "Interior Operations Level".

Financial Considerations: Fire protection services are vital for every community but are not inexpensive. The model adopted for the Village of Lions Bay requires a healthy contingent of pre-recruits already well on the way to full certification and a strong training program to ensure that members have the capability and capacity to provide effective fire protection services for the residents of the Village.

Legal Considerations: As the Authority Having Jurisdiction, Council is responsible for determining the level of fire service to be provided to the Municipality and its residents, and ensuring that the department has the resources necessary to meet the requirements of that service level.

Follow Up Action and Communication Plan: Update documentation on file and confirm new declaration with the Fire Chief.

LIONS BAY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT DECLARATION OF FIRE SERVICE LEVEL

1. The Lions Bay Fire Rescue Department (“LBFR”) is a volunteer department, with dedicated members of varying skill levels and experience. Turn-out of members in response to an emergency call varies depending on the time of day and day of the week.
2. Aggressive interior fire attacks and primary search and rescue in a burning structure (an “Interior Attack”) are among the most dangerous operations which can be undertaken by members of a fire department. The safety of LBFR members is of paramount importance.
3. The existing training levels of a sufficient number of members of LBFR are not consistently advanced enough to enable interior operations in accordance with statutory requirements in every anticipated circumstance.
4. Therefore, LBFR will operate as a defensive, exterior operations fire department and members of LBFR will not enter a fire-involved structure to conduct fire suppression, search or rescue operations unless, in the judgement of a qualified Incident Commander, there are a sufficient number of declared Interior Operations Level Firefighters and Interior Operations Level Team Leaders present at a fire scene which would allow for Interior Operations in accordance with all statutory and regulatory requirements.
5. The Village of Lions Bay (the “Municipality”), being the Authority Having Jurisdiction (“AHJ”), in consultation with LBFR, hereby declares that the Fire Service Level for LBFR within the boundaries of the Municipality and in accordance with Fire Bylaw No. 428, 2011, as amended (the “Service Area”), will be the **Exterior Operations Level** as outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards (the “Declaration”), subject to sections 4 and 9 of this Declaration of Fire Service Level. This Declaration will also extend to any mutual or automatic aid agreements involving the Department operating outside the Service Area.
6. It is understood that this Declaration only deals with the structural firefighting aspect of the operations and training for the Department and that the Department must adhere to Fire Bylaw No. 428, 2011, as amended, and other standards and practices dealing with their other operational functions such as the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) guidelines for Incident Commanders, Driver/Operators and Incident Safety Officers; Emergency Management BC (“EMBC”) guidelines for Road Rescue and Search & Rescue; Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (“FLNRO”) guidelines for Wildfire Management Branch-Wildland Fire Fighting; BC Emergency Health Services (“BCEHS”) guidelines for First Responders, and any other similar requirements, as applicable.
7. With this Declaration, the Department agrees to review and make changes as soon as possible to any existing operational and training policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and

operational guidelines to align with the Exterior Operations Level standard outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards. It is understood and agreed by the Department that the Exterior Operations Level is the minimum standard of Fire Service in British Columbia.

8. It is further understood and agreed that if circumstances change, and upon review, it is determined that LBFR is ready, willing and able to meet the requirements outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards on a consistent basis for an increased Fire Service Level, then the Municipality, in consultation with LBFR, may amend this Declaration to increase the Fire Service Level accordingly.
9. Notwithstanding the foregoing:
 - (a) the Municipality and LBFR recognize that there are circumstances where a fire may be substantially confined or sufficiently small that it may reasonably be considered that the structure itself is not “fire-involved”. (Examples would include a pot fire on a stove, a smoldering couch, small appliance fires (dryer vents, toasters etc.) and other similar small, non-structure events); this determination is an issue of professional judgment on the part of a qualified Incident Commander based on his or her considered initial size-up of the incident and the Incident Commander’s determination that this is not a circumstance which is Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (“IDLH”);
 - (b) LBFR will refer to the operational guideline which sets out the risk assessment considerations to be undertaken by Incident Commanders when faced with a situation of the type referred to in paragraph 9(a) above, and the Fire Chief will ensure that officers and members have the training needed to make such determinations; when presented with such circumstances, an Incident Commander may determine that it is not an IDLH situation and may direct that Exterior Operations Level Firefighters may enter the structure to conduct operations in accordance with LBFR’s operational guidelines;
 - (c) in relation to any operations undertaken under this policy, the Fire Chief of LBFR will also ensure that officers and members are well-educated on the operational guidelines specifying the minimum training levels for members and officers involved in carrying out such fire suppression activities;
10. In all operations and situational assessments, incident commanders will give priority to ensuring that responding members are not put in situations where they are unnecessarily placed at risk, or where they are required to operate beyond their training levels.

This Declaration adopted by the Council of the Village of Lions Bay on November 17, 2020.

**LIONS BAY FIRE RESCUE DEPARTMENT
DECLARATION OF FIRE SERVICE LEVEL**

1. The Lions Bay Fire Rescue Department (“LBFR”) is a volunteer fire department, with dedicated members of varying skill levels and experience. Turn-out of members in response to an emergency call varies depending on the time of day and day of the week. In order to address this issue, efforts are made to keep LBFR membership at 30-35 members.
2. Aggressive interior fire attacks and primary search and rescue in a burning structure (an “Interior Attack”) are among the most dangerous operations which can be undertaken by members of a fire department. The safety of LBFR members is of paramount importance.
3. The existing training levels of the members of LBFR are geared toward ensuring a strong contingent of trained and competent:
 - (a) Interior Operations Level Firefighters,
 - (b) Interior Operations Level Tactical Team Leaders, and
 - (c) Incident Command Level Leaders,to enable interior operations in accordance with statutory requirements in circumstances warranting interior attack.
4. However, LBFR will not enter a fire-involved structure to conduct fire suppression, search or rescue operations unless, in the judgement of a qualified Incident Commander and the Fire Chief (or the Fire Chief alone, or if the Fire Chief is unavailable, two qualified Incident Commanders) there are a sufficient number of declared Interior Operations Level Firefighters and Interior Operations Level Tactical Team Leaders present at a fire scene who have met the job performance requirements of the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards (the BC firefighter’s Playbook), which would allow for Interior Operations in accordance with all statutory and regulatory requirements, in particular the WorkSafe BC Occupational Health and Safety Regulations for firefighters.
5. The Village of Lions Bay (the “Municipality”), being the Authority Having Jurisdiction (“AHJ”), in consultation with LBFR, hereby declares that the Fire Service Level for LBFR within the boundaries of the Municipality and in accordance with Fire Bylaw No. 428, 2011, as amended (the “Service Area”), will be the **Interior Operations Level** as outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards (the “Declaration”), subject to sections 4 and 9 of

this Declaration of Fire Service Level. This Declaration will also extend to any mutual or automatic aid agreements involving the Department operating outside the Service Area.

6. It is understood that this Declaration only deals with the structural firefighting aspect of the operations and training for the Department and that the Department must adhere to Fire Bylaw No. 428, 2011, as amended, and other standards and practices dealing with their other operational functions such as the National Fire Protection Association (“NFPA”) guidelines for Incident Commanders, Driver/Operators and Incident Safety Officers; Emergency Management BC (“EMBC”) guidelines for Road Rescue and Search & Rescue; Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (“FLNRO”) guidelines for Wildfire Management Branch-Wildland Fire Fighting; BC Emergency Health Services (“BCEHS”) guidelines for First Responders, and any other similar requirements, as applicable.
7. With this Declaration, the Department agrees to review and make changes as soon as possible to any existing operational and training policies, procedures, rules, regulations, and operational guidelines to align with the Interior Operations Level standard outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards.
8. It is further understood and agreed that if circumstances change, and upon review, it is determined that LBFR is not able to meet the requirements outlined in the British Columbia Fire Service Minimum Training Standards on a consistent basis, then the Municipality, in consultation with LBFR, may amend this Declaration to decrease the Fire Service Level to the Exterior Operations Level.
9. In addition to the foregoing:
 - (a) the Municipality and LBFR recognize that there are circumstances where a fire may be substantially confined or sufficiently small that it may reasonably be considered that the structure itself is not “fire-involved”. (Examples would include a pot fire on a stove, a smoldering couch, small appliance fires (dryer vents, toasters etc.) and other similar small, non-structure events); this determination is an issue of professional judgment on the part of a qualified Incident Commander based on his or her considered initial size-up of the incident and the Incident Commander’s determination that this is not a circumstance which is Immediately Dangerous to Life or Health (“IDLH”);
 - (b) LBFR will refer to the operational guideline which sets out the risk assessment considerations to be undertaken by Incident Commanders when faced with a situation of the type referred to in paragraph 9(a) above, and the Fire Chief will ensure that officers and members have the training needed to make such determinations; when presented

with such circumstances, an Incident Commander may determine that it is not an IDLH situation and may direct that Exterior Operations Level Firefighters may enter the structure to conduct operations in accordance with LBFR's operational guidelines;

(c) in relation to any operations undertaken under this policy, the Fire Chief of LBFR will also ensure that officers and members are well-educated on the operational guidelines specifying the minimum training levels for members and officers involved in carrying out such fire suppression activities;

10. In all operations and situational assessments, incident commanders will give priority to ensuring that responding members are not put in situations where they are unnecessarily placed at risk, or where they are required to operate beyond their training levels.

This Declaration adopted by the Council of the Village of Lions Bay on January 19, 2021.

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