



# TOWN POLICY

**POLICY NUMBER:** 2304

**REFERENCE:**

Council 291.08.10

**ADOPTED BY:**

Town Council  
4 August 2010

**PREPARED BY:** Fire Department

**DATE:** 12 October 2005

**TITLE:** Strathmore Fire Department Level of Service Policy

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## **Policy Statement**

The Town of Strathmore will provide fire protection services according to the provisions of this policy statement.

The Town of Strathmore Council recognizes that within the boundaries of the Town there is a great potential that residents and visitors can be exposed to a variety of dangers from fire and other emergencies.

The Town of Strathmore Fire Department was created to assist, whenever possible, persons within the Town of Strathmore in protecting their health and property when those emergencies listed within arise. Town Council and Administration recognize however, that emergency response cannot be guaranteed for each and every emergency incident that arises due to the limited resources Council can expend on emergency services and the difficulty in ensuring that volunteer staff will be available in sufficient number and with sufficient training on a 24 hour basis, to respond to every call for assistance received in a timely and safe manner.

Council also recognizes that when a response is provided the service level of that response may be different in various areas of the Town or in Mutual Aid Districts. A response may differ for a variety of reasons including:

- the geographical size and layout of the Town;
- the difficulty in accessing the remote areas within the Town and;
- the location, staffing and training levels of the emergency response members, and other agencies providing emergency services within the region,
- the differing availability of water for fire suppression purposes within areas of the Town or region;
- adverse weather conditions;
- reliance on contract emergency support services;
- the limited resources the Town of Strathmore can expend on training emergency personnel and on the purchase of equipment when compared to the different types of emergencies for which training and equipment are available;

Council therefore establishes those levels of service contained in this policy document and such further levels of service as Council may formally approve by resolution.

## 1. **Scope**

- 1.1 This policy applies to all Fire Department personnel for the provision of fire protection and emergency services within the Town of Strathmore or by virtue of a mutual aid agreement.

## 2. **Definitions:**

- 2.1 Awareness level means that Responders will recognize risks and hazards, adopt a defensive position, secure the area and call for trained assistance.
- 2.2 Fire Department means the Town of Strathmore Fire Department.
- 2.3 Fire Executive Committee means that advisory group constituted under Bylaw #05-02, consisting of the Fire Department Chief, Deputy Chief, Training Officer and Captains of the Department.

- 2.4 Operations level means that Responders will take offensive action to contain and control the incident and seek assistance from outside agencies equipped to mitigate the incident
- 2.5 Technician level means that Responders may initiate **a combination of** action to bring the incident under control and to an end.

### 3. **Training:**

- 3.1 Firefighter training shall be based primarily on those services delivered by the Fire Department as described herein.
- 3.2 All Town of Strathmore Firefighters will be equipped and trained for structural and wild land fire suppression according to those minimum standards required by this policy and as recognized in the Province of Alberta.
- 3.3 The Members of the Executive Committee are responsible for ensuring all members initially achieve and maintain the training levels required by the Fire Department.
- 3.4 The Fire Chief shall submit their training records to the Deputy CAO of the Town of Strathmore by October 15<sup>th</sup> of each calendar year who shall in turn maintain a consolidated report on training levels for the Town Manager.
- 3.5 The Fire Executive Committee will ensure that appropriate training occurs for all Fire Department members on an annual basis and as directed by them.
- 3.6 Those Town of Strathmore Firefighters who provide any or all of the specific service delivery tasks noted below shall be trained and equipped to those minimum standards as recognized in the Province of Alberta.

- 3.7 Town of Strathmore Firefighters are expected to participate in ongoing training to achieve these minimum levels and to maintain their skills in these areas.
- 3.8 Firefighters shall not be expected to perform duties beyond their scope of training.

#### 4. **Emergency Responses:**

- 4.1 The major fire apparatus of the Town of Strathmore Fire Department shall be deployed for all emergencies as it is deemed that they are required and where practical to do so.
- 4.2 The Fire Department shall provide when possible, a response to all structure fires; motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, dangerous goods incidents and wild-land fires within the Town of Strathmore in accordance with this policy. Wild-land fires include those, which the Town of Strathmore is obligated to provide an initial response to pursuant to the Forest and Prairie Protection Act of the Province of Alberta.
- 4.3 A response as permitted above may only be initiated where the Fire Chief or his designate in charge determines, in his sole discretion, that it is safe to respond. The Fire Chief or his designate in charge may, at any time following the receipt of an alarm, request the assistance of any other department with whom the Town of  
  
Strathmore has entered into a mutual aid agreement or, any Town resources or personnel he deems necessary.
- 4.4 All dispatches shall be made according to the policy established herein and shall be tiered such that where the manpower is not available or where the Fire Chief or a designate determines a safe response can not be made in the manner prescribed in 1), the most appropriate and available apparatus will be asked to respond.

## 5. **Structural Fires:**

- 5.1 The Fire Department provides Structural Firefighting at the Technician Level.
- 5.2 At a structural fire incident size up, the Fire Chief or his designate in charge, in his sole discretion, may choose an offensive or defensive attack or to withdraw his resources as applicable.
- 5.3 It is the responsibility of the Fire Chief, or designate, receiving the call to request appropriate backup from a mutual aid partner if deemed necessary.

## 6. **Dangerous Goods:**

- 6.1 The Fire Department **may** provide dangerous goods response at the awareness level and may:
  - 6.1.1 Use binoculars to determine contents or make up of the dangerous goods.
  - 6.1.2 Contact CANUTEC at 613-996-6666 (call collect 24 hours) or \*666 (press star 666) for assistance in mitigating the incident.
- 6.2 If known and applicable, notify the transporter or the owner of the goods as soon as is practicable.

## 7. **Flammable Liquid Fire Fighting:**

- 7.1 The Fire Department **may** provide flammable liquid fire fighting for small spill fires and small containers up to 500 litres at the Technician level.
- 7.2 The Fire Department provides flammable liquid fire fighting for large spills or containers in excess of 500 litres up to the Operations level.

## 8. **Rescue Calls**

- 8.1 The Fire Department provides vehicle crash rescue at the technician level.
- 8.2 The Fire Department provides high angle rescue at the operations level.
- 8.3 The Fire Department provides water and ice rescue at the operations level.

8.4 The Fire Department provides most other rescue services at the awareness/operations level.

9. **Mutual Aid Agreements**

9.1 The Town of Strathmore Council encourages the Fire Chief to recommend Mutual Aid Agreements with neighbouring Municipalities to Council.

9.2 Level of Response as per agency's request according to guidelines as above for manpower and available apparatus.

9.3 Services may be made available at the request of the RCMP, the Chief Officer of another Fire Department or the Chief Administrative Officer of another Municipality. All requests and confirmation of any response should be relayed through 911 Dispatch.

9.4 A minimum of five (5) firefighters will be maintained in the Town of Strathmore at all times.

10. **End of Policy**