



TOWN POLICY

POLICY NUMBER: 2301

REFERENCE:

Resolution No.
224.06.18
163.05.22

ADOPTED BY:

Town Council
June 20, 2018
May 18, 2022

PREPARED BY: Fire Department

DATE: June 20, 2018

TITLE: Strathmore Fire Department – Level of Service Policy

Policy Statement

The Town of Strathmore will provide community, fire, rescue, and medical 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 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 established to assist persons within the Town of Strathmore in protecting their health and property when those emergencies listed within arise. Town Council and Administration recognize 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. A response may differ for a variety of reasons including:

- Geographical size, remote areas, and layout of the Town in a timely manner.
- Staff availability and training levels of the emergency response members.
- Supports from other agencies providing emergency services within the region.
- The availability of water for fire suppression purposes within the Town.
- Adverse weather conditions.
- Trained emergency personnel and equipment, when compared to the different types of emergencies for which training and equipment are required.

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

1.0 DEFINITIONS

- 1.1 "Awareness level" means that Fire Department personnel will recognize risks and hazards, adopt a defensive position, secure the area, and call for specialized assistance.
- 1.2 "Operations level" means that Fire Department personnel will take action to contain and control the incident and seek assistance from outside agencies equipped to mitigate the incident if required.
- 1.3 "Technician level" means that Responders may initiate a combination of actions to bring the incident under control and to an end.
- 1.4 "Fire Department" means the Town of Strathmore Fire Department.
- 1.5 "Rescue" means that Fire Department personnel will respond to any emergency request to the level of training received including but not limited to, medical support activities, vehicle accidents, still/ice water rescue and entrapments.
- 1.6 "Technical Rescue" means that Fire Department personnel may respond to a unique type of emergency that requires specialized equipment and extensive/advanced training such as Ice Rescue, Hazardous Materials, and advanced medical support.
- 1.7 "Wildland fires" means that Fire Department personnel will respond to all running non-structural prairie or forest fires in or threatening the Town of Strathmore.
- 1.8 "NFPA" means the National Fire Protection Agency which all manufacturers of equipment for the fire service use and follow for recommendations.
- 1.9 "EMS" means Emergency Medical Services provided by Alberta Health Services.

2.0 APPLICATION

- 2.1 This policy applies to all Fire Department personnel within the Town of Strathmore or by virtue of a mutual aid agreement.

3.0 PURPOSE

- 3.1 The purpose of the Levels of Fire Service Policy is to establish the levels of service for fire and rescue services provided by the Town and to establish the process for approving the establishment or adjustment of fire and rescue services. The purpose of the Levels of Fire Service Policy is to state what is the minimum fire service the town is willing to provide. This doesn't preclude providing a higher level of service if properly trained and equipped members are able to respond.

4.0 INSURANCE GRADING

- 4.1 The Town shall maintain a minimum grading classification of Dwelling Protection Grade (DPG) 2 and Public Protection Classification (PFPC) 4.

5.0 EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT

- 5.1 Fire apparatus shall be maintained as per the applicable National Fire Protection Agency standards (NFPA) as amended from time to time. Fire apparatus shall be life cycled out every 20 years to maintain the Town fire insurance grading with the Fire Underwriters Survey.
- 5.2 All Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) shall be purchased, maintained and life cycled as per the applicable NFPA standards as amended from time to time.
- 5.3 All Fire Department equipment shall be purchased, maintained, and tested as per the applicable NFPA standards as amended from time to time.

6.0 INCIDENT COMMAND SERVICES

- 6.1 All emergency response incidents shall have an Incident Commander as per the applicable NFPA and ICS Canada standards as amended from time to time.
- 6.2 All emergency response incidents shall have an Incident Safety Officer as per the applicable NFPA standards as amended from time to time.
- 6.3 All emergency response incidents shall have a Rapid Intervention Team as defined in the applicable NFPA standards as amended from time to time.

7.0 TRAINING

- 7.1 Firefighter training shall be based on those services delivered by the Fire Department as described herein.

- 7.2 All Town of Strathmore Firefighters will be equipped and trained for wildland fire suppression according to those minimum standards required by this policy and recognized in the Province of Alberta.
- 7.3 Town of Strathmore officers/firefighters shall be equipped and trained for structural fire suppression to appropriate National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards. Where NFPA standards do not meet minimum requirements, individuals will be trained to those minimum standards recognized in the Province of Alberta and/or approved by the Fire Chief or Designate.
- 7.4 Town of Strathmore firefighters are expected to participate in ongoing training, pre-fire planning, community outreach and awareness/education activities to develop and maintain their knowledge and skills in these areas.
- 7.5 All firefighters shall be trained to the appropriate levels defined in the standard operating guideline and job descriptions of the Fire Department.
- 7.6 The Fire Chief or Designate shall maintain a consolidated report on all training levels.

8.0 LIFE SAFETY / FIRE PREVENTION

- 8.1 Provide fire life safety inspections, occupancy load reviews and investigations as per the approved Quality Management Plan (QMP) signed with the Alberta Safety Codes Council. Provide a public education program to all residents through school visits, open houses, home visits, public events, fire drills, alarm inspections, requests, or complaints from the public regarding fire prevention in buildings.
- 8.2 All commercial and high-risk properties shall have a pre-incident plan completed and filed appropriately to ensure responding personnel have access to the file.
- 8.3 The Fire Department will endeavour to review all construction fire safety plans, evacuation plans, and new development plans and provide feedback pertaining to fire life safety.

9.0 INVESTIGATION SERVICES

- 9.1 The Fire Department will ensure all fires resulting in a loss are investigated for cause and origin and will file the appropriate paperwork with the Province of Alberta.

10.0 EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 10.1 The Fire Department shall provide a response to structure fires, motor vehicle accidents, rescue calls, dangerous goods incidents, disaster response, RCMP requests for assistance, requests for medical assistance, and any type of fires within the Town of Strathmore.
- 10.2 The Fire Chief or 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.
- 10.3 The Fire Chief or designate in charge may, at any time following the receipt of an alarm, request any resources, equipment, or personnel deemed necessary to address the emergency.

11.0 FIRE RESPONSE

- 11.1 The Fire Department provides structural firefighting and rescue up to a Technician Level.
- 11.2 The Fire Department provides vehicle fire response up to a Technician Level.
- 11.3 The Fire Department provides wildland fire response up to an Operations Level.
- 11.4 The Fire Department provides flammable liquid firefighting for small and large spills up to an Operations Level
- 11.5 The response priorities are firefighter life safety, civilian life safety, incident control, property conservation, and environmental conservation.

12.0 DANGEROUS GOODS / HAZARDOUS MATERIALS RESPONSE

- 12.1 The Fire Department provides dangerous goods / hazardous materials response up to an Operation Level and will determine the type of goods, hazards, and identify evacuation requirements should they be required. The Fire Department shall safely assess, evacuate, and contain the spill or leak.
- 12.2 The Fire Department will notify the transporter or owner of the dangerous good as soon as practical to ensure a technical response team will take over the incident.
- 12.3 The Fire Department will provide Operations Level response for Town owned facilities including the arena that has anhydrous ammonia, curling rink that has freon, and the aquatic facility that has liquid chlorine. The Fire Department shall ensure that the incident is brought under control and to an end.

12.4 The Fire Department will provide Technical Level response for fuel spills under 200L.

12.5 The Fire Department will provide Technical Level response for propane flaring up to 100-pound tanks.

13.0 MOTOR VEHICLE COLLISION RESPONSE

13.1 The Fire Department will provide Technical Level Response for motor vehicle collisions (MVC's).

13.2 The Fire Department will bill for response to all MVC's.

14.0 EMS ASSIST / MEDICAL CO-RESPONSE

14.1 The Fire Department will provide lift assists, standard first aid and basic life support for ambulance assists and medical co response for Echo codes or for significant ambulance delay.

14.2 The Fire Department will provide medical support up to an Operations Level.

15.0 RCMP ASSIST

15.1 The Fire Department will respond to requests for assistance from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police as personnel and equipment are available.

16.0 WATER / ICE RESCUE RESPONSE

16.1 The Fire Department will provide Technical Level response for surface water Rescue.

16.2 The Fire Department will provide Technical Level response for ice rescue.

16.3 Surface water and ice rescue will only be provided to all waterways located within Town limits or upon mutual aid request if appropriate resources are available to maintain adequate staffing within Town limits. The request shall be approved by the Fire Chief or Designate.

16.4 The Fire Department will provide Operations Level response for canal rescue within the Town limits or upon mutual aid request if appropriate resources are available to maintain adequate staffing within Town limits. The request shall be approved by the Fire Chief or Designate.

17.0 DISASTER RESPONSE

17.1 To provide disaster services planning and response in the event of a major disaster event in the Town, including, but not limited to flooding, fires, utility shutdowns, severe weather conditions, 911 interruption.

18.0 TECHNICAL RESCUE

18.1 The Fire Department will provide Operations Level response for elevator rescue.

18.2 The Fire Department will provide Awareness Level response for building collapse.

18.3 The Fire Department will provide Operations Level response for entrapment in machinery.

19.0 MUTUAL AID

19.1 The Fire Chief will recommend mutual aid agreements with neighbouring municipalities to Council.

19.2 The level of response is as per the requesting agency and in accordance with response levels outlined above.

19.3 Fire services outlined in this policy may be made available to a municipality that the Town of Strathmore does not have an agreement with by the Fire Chief or Designate at the request of an RCMP member, the Chief Officer of another Fire Department, or the Chief Administrative Officer of another municipality.

19.4 Mutual aid requests shall only be granted if appropriate resources are available to maintain adequate staffing within Town limits and the request shall be approved by the Fire Chief or Designate.

19.5 All requests and confirmation of any response will be relayed through 911 dispatch.