

Policy Number:	C-704
Policy Owner:	Fire Services & Emergency Management
Adopted By:	Council
Adoption Date:	2020 January 28
Effective Date:	2020 January 28
Date Last Amended:	N/A
Date Last Reviewed:	N/A

Purpose

- 1 This policy outlines fire protection services and the level of service for areas within Rocky View County (the County).



Policy Statement

- 2 The County maintains fire protection services to provide for the safety of its residents and visitors, as well as the protection of property within the County.
- 3 The County works in cooperation with Alberta Health Services (AHS) to provide Medical First Response (MFR). Fire Services provides basic care and comfort to a patient or patients until the arrival of the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) or a higher level of care.
- 4 Council has determined that the most cost effective and appropriate way to deliver fire protection services within the County is through the use of a composite organizational structure, which is comprised of full-time, part-time, and Paid-Per-Call (volunteer) firefighters.
- 5 Council is responsible for determining the applicable level of service for all areas of the County. Fire Services responds within the capacity of the stated level of service applicable to each area defined in this policy.
- 6 The response times referenced in this policy are guidelines only. County residents may have to wait a substantial amount of time for Fire Services to arrive.
- 7 This policy applies to all County firefighters and all personnel providing firefighting and medical services under a service agreement with Fire Services.





Policy

- 8 The County does not guarantee specific response times notwithstanding anything contained in this policy. Factors that impact Fire Services response times include, but are not limited to, the distance from the fire station to the incident and whether the first fire station called is able to respond.
- 9 The County does not guarantee any level of service notwithstanding anything contained in this policy. Factors that may result in a variation of a level of service include but not limited to:
 - (1) environmental factors, obstructions, remote or isolated properties, private roadways, hazardous or unsafe conditions at the incident, or encountered while en-route to the incident;
 - (2) impeded access, topographic or geographic configurations of land; and s
 - (3) the number of firefighters and equipment available to respond to any particular incident.
- 10 Hamlet and private water systems are not guaranteed to provide Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) recommended hydrant fire flows. Fire Services may use available hydrants to augment on-truck water supplies.

Fire Protection Service and Level of Service

- 11 Within eight kilometres of travel by road, County fire stations located in Elbow Valley, Springbank, Bearspaw, Balzac and Langdon provide
 - (1) the fire protection services that include vehicle rescue, shore based water rescue, interior/offensive fire suppression, and exterior/defensive firefighting activities; and
 - (2) at least four firefighters on scene within 10 minutes 80% of the time.
- 12 Within eight kilometres of travel by road, County fire stations in Irricana and Madden provide:
 - (1) the fire protection services that include vehicle rescue; exterior/defensive fire suppression activities; and
 - (2) a level of service of at least four firefighters on scene within 18 minutes 80% of the time.



- 13 For all areas of the County not included in sections 12 and 13 of this policy:
- (1) fire protection services include rescue, basic exterior/defensive fire suppression activities; and
 - (2) the level of service is at least four firefighters on scene within an indeterminate period of time 90% of the time.
- 14 A second unit response arrival is dependent on the proximity of the fire station(s) responding.
- 15 the level of service in sections 12 and 13 provide a response rationale and an indicator to insurance companies of the associated water supply provision.

Structural Firefighting and Rescue

- 16 The level of service for firefighting and rescue involving structure fires may vary depending on the level of fire involvement of a structure upon the arrival of firefighters. The level of fire involvement of a structure is impacted by a variety of factors including but not limited to the distance of the structure from the responding fire station, road conditions, traffic congestion, the time of day, weather, early notification of the fire, witnessing the fire ignition, and the contents of the structure and their flammability.
- 17 Entry into a structure for firefighting and rescue purposes is contingent on the life safety hazard, probability of survivability of occupants, and firefighter safety.
- 18 If rescue is not required and the structure's involvement is such that the likelihood of extinguishment is minimal, then the protection of exposures is the primary focus of firefighters upon arrival.
- 19 For all areas of the County not included in sections 9 and 10 of this policy, the accepted level of service for structural firefighting and rescue is the protection of exposures and protection against fire extension to adjacent properties. A defensive firefighting strategy is mandated to these areas.

Medical First Response

- 20 As a Medical First Response agency, the County strictly adheres to a set of Medical Control Protocols (MCPs) outlined by AHS.
- 21 The minimum training for firefighters is Standard First Aid or its equivalent, including CPR and AED HCP certification.
- 22 Fire Services is dispatched to a medical response call:

- (1) at the request of EMS based on information received during the 911 call, on scene patient assessment, or for manpower;
- (2) when the criteria is consistent with the AHS classification for Delta and Echo calls; and
- (3) when an ambulance response is greater than 20 minutes away.



References

Legal Authorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Related Plans, Bylaws, Policies, etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky View County Bylaw C-7140-2012, “Fire Services Bylaw”, as may be amended or replaced from time-to-time
Related Procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Other	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alberta Medical First Responder Program



Policy History

Amendment Date(s) – Amendment Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
Review Date(s) – Review Outcome Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A



Definitions

23 In this policy:

- (1) “AHS” means Alberta Health Services;
- (2) “Council” means the duly elected Council of Rocky View County;
- (3) “County” means Rocky View County;
- (4) “EMS” means Emergency Medical Services;



- (5) “fire protection service” means a service provided by the Fire Services & Emergency Management Department of Rocky View County;
- (6) “Fire Services” means the department of Rocky View County that provides fire protection service and emergency management;
- (7) “firefighter” means a rescuer extensively trained in firefighting, primarily to extinguish hazardous fires that threaten life, property and the environment as well as to rescue people and animals from dangerous situations;
- (8) “incident” means any situation where a member of the public or mutual aid partner, such as Alberta Health Services or Emergency Medical Services, has requested assistance from Rocky View County Fire Services;
- (9) “Medical First Responder” means the Alberta Medical First Responder Program includes provincial standards for Medical First Responder service delivery, support for agencies providing Medical First Responder, ensuring safe patient care with medical oversight, and providing patient care guidelines;
- (10) “MFR” means Medical First Responder;
- (11) “Rocky View County” means Rocky View County as a municipal corporation and the geographical area within its jurisdictional boundaries, as the context requires; and
- (12) “structure” means various types of residential, commercial, and industrial buildings.