



REPORT

To: Chair and Directors

Report Number: CS-BRD-350

From: Community Services

Date: October 17, 2024

Subject: Designation of Rural Fire Investigators/Inspectors

RECOMMENDATION: [Corporate Unweighted]

That the Regional Board authorize the designation of Rural Fire Investigators/Inspectors be applied to the class of persons referred to as Fire Chiefs, Deputy Fire Chiefs and their designates who provide Fire Protection Services for the Rural Fire Protection Areas including those areas covered under Fire Protection Agreements.

BACKGROUND/RATIONALE:

The *Fire Safety Act* (the Act) was given Royal Assent in 2016 and was brought into force on August 1, 2024, by the province with the intent of enhancing fire safety through a more rigorous system of inspections and enforcement within unincorporated parts of BC (electoral areas).

Under the Act, Regional Districts are required to designate in writing by October 24, 2024, persons or classes of persons as fire inspectors and fire investigators. There is a one-year transition period before designated fire inspectors and fire investigators must meet established training criteria. Regional Districts have the discretion to use their own designated fire inspector(s) and fire investigator(s), or to request the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) to support inspection or investigation requirements through the utilization of Fire Service Advisors at no cost to the Regional District.

With this designation, the Regional District will complete the requirement to designate fire inspectors and investigators and will enable the municipalities providing rural fire protection for the Peace River Regional District to fulfill their contractual obligations under the Fire Protection Agreements.

This designation replaces the previous designation of Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner (L AFC). As of October 28, 2024, the L AFC program will end requiring all current L AFCs to return their badges to the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. That the Regional Board provide further direction.

STRATEGIC PLAN RELEVANCE:

- Emergency Management
- Engage in Emergency Program Act and Fire Services Act Amendment Processes

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION(S):

None at this time.

COMMUNICATIONS CONSIDERATION(S):

Staff will share this information with Rural Fire Protection Agreement service providers.

OTHER CONSIDERATION(S):

Outside of the Fire Protection Areas, the procedure from the Office of the Fire Commissioner still applies to request assistance for investigation and/or inspection.

Attachments:

1. *Fire Safety Act 2024 Chapter 19 SBC 2016*
2. *Fire Safety Act, Regional District Fire Inspections and Investigations – Procedures*

External Links:

1. [August 15, 2024 Regional Board Meeting](#) – See Item 12.1 “Fire Safety Act - Legislative Requirements – CS-BRD-341”