

VILLAGE OF CHASE

Bylaw No. 795-2014

A Bylaw to provide for the Establishment and Regulation of a
Volunteer Fire Department for the Village of Chase

**(CONSOLIDATED FOR CONVENIENCE ONLY, INCLUDING BASE 795, AMENDMENTS 885, 886,
894, 903)**

The Council of the Village of Chase in open meeting ENACTS as follows:

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Municipal Fire Department will be known as Village of Chase Fire Department (the Department).
- 1.2 This bylaw may be cited as “Village of Chase Volunteer Fire Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw No. 795, 2014”.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1 “Fire Chief” means the person appointed by Council as the head of the Fire Department or his/her designate.
- 2.2 “Fire Protection Area” means the lands within the boundaries of the Village of Chase.
- 2.3 “Incident” means a fire or any other class of circumstance that may cause harm to persons or property.
- 2.4 “Member” means any volunteer person or officer that has successfully completed the probationary period and has been appointed by the Fire Chief as a member of the fire department. All members (except those in any junior firefighter program instituted from time to time) must be at least 18 years of age.
- 2.5 “Exterior Operations Level Training” means the minimum Competency required to ensure all firefighters are trained to Exterior Operations Level Firefighters as prescribed by the BC Fire Service Minimum Training Standards Playbook. Training will be ongoing, with the goal for each member of reaching Exterior Operations Level within two years of joining the Fire Department. Members may be subsequently trained to Interior Operations Level Firefighter provided there are adequate pre-approved budget resources for such training. (Amending bylaw 886-2020)

- 2.6 “Officer” means the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief, Captain, Lieutenant, Safety Officer and Training Officer. All officers must complete and pass the first level of the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTAS) approved ‘Officer Training’ course to either have an opportunity to become an officer or to continue serving in an officer role. Existing officers will be given eight months in which to complete the training and if they are not satisfactory, will be removed of their officer status.
- 2.7 “Operational Guidelines” means rules, regulations and policies necessary for the proper organization and administration of the Department.
- 2.8 “Probationary Period” means the period of time which allows the Fire Chief to determine whether the new recruit has the ability to learn the skills necessary to be a competent fire fighter, as well as professional and mature attitude to work with others in stressful situations. Initially this probationary period will be three months, but may be extended or shortened by the Fire Chief depending on the ability of the new recruit to demonstrate their suitability.
- 2.9 “Public Service Calls” means the provision of assistance in non-emergency situations to persons within the Fire Protection Area – such calls may be responded to at the discretion of the Fire Chief or his/her designate.
- 2.10 “Recruit” means a volunteer person who is participating in training and practice activities and is acting within the probationary period.
- 2.11 “Road Rescue Response Area” means the area shown on the Map attached to this bylaw as Schedule “A” and is described as:
- All areas along Highway #1 (Neskonlith, McGilvary Lakes, Pritchard & Pinantan area) to the Monte Creek Interchange
 - Southwest on Highway 97 from the Monte Creek Interchange to Westwold
 - South on the Chase Creek/Falkland Road approximately half way to Falkland at Moser Road
 - North (approximately 50 km) past Squam Bay on Adams Lake Road (to Honeymoon Bay) and Bear/Laokin Creek Road area
 - East on Highway #1 to Balmoral Store including Sorrento, Shuswap Lake Estates, Notch Hill, Turtle Valley
 - North Shuswap up to and including Seymour Arm

3. ADMINISTRATION

Establishment/Responsibilities

- 3.1 The Chase Volunteer Fire Department is hereby established and has the responsibility for fire suppression and prevention within the Fire Protection Area, and the responsibility for fire suppression and prevention in any other areas outside the Fire Protection Area into which formal agreements are entered between the Village of Chase and appropriate entities.
- 3.2 The Chase Volunteer Fire Department will also, from time to time, when adequate numbers of members are available for fire protection within the Fire Protection Area and any other areas for which fire suppression and prevention has been formally agreed, provide road rescue services within the Road Rescue Response Area.
- 3.3 The Chase Volunteer Fire Department will also, from time to time when adequate numbers of members are available for fire protection within the Fire Protection Area and any other areas for which fire suppression and prevention has been formally agreed, perform public service calls as well as emergency lift assists for the BC Ambulance Service upon request.
- 3.4 Rules, regulations and policies in the form of Operational Guidelines necessary for the proper organization and administration of the Department will be developed, and may, from time to time, be amended by the Fire Chief in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer to fit the needs of the Department.

Fire Chief

- 3.5 Reporting to the Chief Administrative Officer, the Fire Chief has complete responsibility and authority over the Fire Department subject to provisions of this bylaw, operational guidelines in effect from time to time, policies and other applicable legislation.
- 3.6 The Fire Chief in the performance of his/her duties:
 - a. Will oversee the provision of services for the protection of lives, property and the environment within the Fire Protection Area
 - b. Will work with the members of the department to periodically review the policies, procedures, operational guidelines and other applicable documents
 - c. May make rules and regulations for the proper and efficient administration and operation of the Department and the discipline of its members
 - c. May enforce all Village Bylaws in relation to fire protection, fire suppression and other fire related matters as may be directed by the Fire Services Act
 - d. May exercise all powers given them by the Fire Services Act

- e. Is responsible for the enforcement of this Bylaw and the adherence to operational guidelines and other applicable policies, bylaws and legislation
- f. Shall report to the Fire Commissioner's Office as required by the Fire Services Act
- g. Shall work with the Chief Administrative Officer to submit budget requests for upcoming budget years.

Members

- 3.7 Every effort will be made to ensure a minimum of seven (7) firefighters (including one officer) are available at all times to ensure adequate response to a fire within the fire protection area and any areas for which the Village has an agreement to provide fire protection.
- 3.8 The Department will endeavor to have a minimum of fifteen members at all times, and will regularly recruit members and engage in activities in the community that provide an opportunity for the Department to increase its profile with the objective of building positive relationships and building membership.
- 3.9 The Department will consist of various positions, such structure shown in Schedule "B" forming part of this bylaw. Positions will be filled based on numbers of members and operational needs, all positions may not always be filled at any one time.
- 3.10 The Fire Chief will appoint members to required positions following all applicable operational guidelines pertaining to a selection committee, and in accordance with requirements outlined in the position descriptions developed by the Fire Chief in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer.
- 3.11 All members will be required to have a criminal record check performed and will be required to provide a driving abstract – any costs associated with either of these checks will be paid for by the Village of Chase.
- 3.12 All members who are engaged in Fire suppression or other physically demanding duties such as road rescue response will be required to take and pass a medical examination once per year, the cost to be paid for by the Village of Chase.
- 3.13 All new recruits will be required to attend all weekly practice meetings and will be required to take training as is deemed necessary by the Training Officer and the Fire Chief. Any recruit not successfully completing the probationary period will be dismissed from the Department.

- 3.14 All members will be required to attend all weekly practice meetings and will be required to take training as is deemed necessary the Training Officer and the Fire Chief. Members missing more than two consecutive meetings in any 6 meetings may be asked to resign from the Fire Department, unless approval is granted in writing by the Fire Chief.
- 3.15 All members available for responses to fire and rescue calls will not be permitted to attend on any fire or rescue scene or any practice if they are under the influence of alcohol or debilitating or intoxicating drugs.

Remuneration

- 3.16 All members will be considered volunteer, and will be provided compensation for practices and call-outs, such amount of compensation to be determined by Council. Stipends for members who hold officer positions will be determined by Council and are shown in Schedule "C" attached to and forming part of this bylaw.

Fire Suppression

- 3.17 The Department shall not respond to fire or emergency outside the boundaries of the Fire Protection Area except where:
- a. An agreement for mutual aid exists with another local government or other organization;
 - b. On property with respect to which an agreement has been entered into with any person or corporation to provide fire protection services;
 - c. When ordered to do so by a senior level of government;
 - d. When dispatched for road rescue services within the road rescue callout area;
 - e. If a fire event occurs within 10km outside the boundaries and the Fire Department's assistance is requested by another jurisdiction, the Fire Chief will consult, in order of availability, the Mayor, CAO, any member of Council, and finally the Corporate Officer, before providing suppression assistance; AND, provided there is adequate fire suppression coverage for the properties within the current Village of Chase fire boundary. (Amending bylaw 886-2020)
- 3.18 The Fire Chief or another officer in command at an incident is empowered to enter premises or property where the incident has occurred and to cause any members, apparatus or equipment of the Department to enter, as they deem necessary, in order to combat, control or deal with the incident.
- 3.19 The Fire Chief or another officer in command at an incident shall have control, direction and management of all Department apparatus, equipment, and manpower assigned to an incident and, where an officer in command is in charge, they shall continue to act until relieved by a senior officer.

- 3.20 The Fire Chief or another officer in command at an incident is empowered to enter premises or property where the incident has occurred and to cause any member, apparatus or equipment of the Department to enter, as they deem necessary, in order to combat, control or deal with the incident.
- 3.21 The Fire Chief or another officer in command at an incident, is empowered to enter, pass through or over buildings or property adjacent to an incident and to cause members of the Department and the apparatus and equipment of the Department to enter or pass through or over buildings or property, where they deem necessary to gain access to the incident or to protect any person or property.
- 3.22 No person shall impede, obstruct, abuse or in any way hinder the Fire Chief, or any officer in command, or any member of the Department in attendance at an incident under the direction of the Fire Chief or officer command.
- 3.23 Anyone who fails to comply with an order or direction of the Fire Chief or any officer in command, or any officer or member of the Department engaged at any incident, may be forcibly removed from the scene of any such incident by a Peace Officer or any member of the Department.
- 3.24 The officer in command is empowered to order the evacuation of any building or structure that is directly involved with fire or other risk to life. The Fire Chief or their designate is empowered to order the evacuation of a building, structure or area which in their opinion is endangered by fire or other risk to life. In such cases no person other than the Fire Chief, officer in command, or member of the Department, Peace Officer, or other person authorized by any of these individuals shall remain in or shall enter those buildings, structures or areas.
- 3.25 The Fire Chief or officer in command is hereby empowered to cause to be pulled down or demolished, any adjacent buildings or structures when they consider necessary to do so in order to prevent the spread of any fire.
- 3.26 The Fire Chief or officer in command at any incident is hereby empowered to commandeer privately owned equipment which they consider necessary to deal with such incident.

Inspection and Testing

- 3.27 The Fire Chief, or any qualified inspector, may at all reasonable hours enter into and upon any vehicles, lands, or buildings for the purpose of testing and inspecting:
 - a) The said vehicles, lands, or buildings, as required or permitted by the Fire Services Act;
 - b) The water supply, so as to determine if Chase Fire Rescue has satisfactory access to an adequate water supply for fire suppression purposes; and

c) To determine if the requirements of this bylaw are being carried out.

If more than one re-inspection of vehicles, lands, or buildings is performed by the Fire Chief to ensure that fire safety violations discovered during a previous regular inspection have been rectified, a fee as set out in the *Fees & Charges* bylaw will be charged to the owner or occupant of the vehicles, lands, or buildings. If the owner or occupant of the vehicles, lands, or buildings fails to pay to the Village the aforesaid fee, then the Village may recover the fee in the same manner as municipal property taxes.

Entry for Inspection

3.28 No person may obstruct, hinder, or prevent any authorized Chase Fire Rescue member from entering into or upon any vehicles, lands, or buildings for the purposes of inspection or testing.

Assistance in Inspection

3.29 The owner, occupier, or lessee of vehicles, lands, or buildings or any other person having knowledge of the vehicles, lands, or buildings shall, upon request, give to the Fire Chief or an inspector such assistance as he may require in carrying out an inspection or test.

Indemnity

3.30 Neither the Village nor any officer or employee of the Village is liable for any damages or loss, including economic loss sustained by any person, or to the property of any person, resulting from:

- a) Any inspection carried out under this bylaw;
- b) Any failure to carry out an inspection under this bylaw;
- c) Any permit or notice issued under this bylaw; or
- d) The approval or disapproval of any equipment under this bylaw.

4. ROAD RESCUE

4.1 The Department will respond to a road rescue incident within the boundaries of the Road Rescue Response Area if there are a minimum of seven (7) available fire fighters within the Fire Protection Area who will not be attending the road rescue call, with a minimum of two (2) fire fighters are available attend the road rescue call.

- 4.2 The Department shall not respond to a road rescue outside the boundaries of the Road Rescue Response Area unless:
 - a. An agreement for mutual aid exists with another local government or other organization
 - b. Ordered to do so by a senior level of government
 - c. Authorized to do so by the Mayor or Acting Mayor of the Village.
- 4.3 The Fire Chief or an officer in command at an incident shall have control, direction and management of all Department apparatus, equipment, and manpower assigned to an incident and, where an officer in command is in charge, they shall continue to act until relieved by a senior officer.
- 4.4 The Fire Chief or an officer in command at an incident is empowered to enter premises or property where the incident has occurred and to cause any member, apparatus or equipment of the Department to enter, as they deem necessary, in order to combat, control or deal with the incident.
- 4.5 No person shall impede, obstruct, abuse or in any way hinder the Fire Chief or an officer in command, or any member of the Department in attendance at an incident under the direction of the Fire Chief or officer in command.
- 4.6 Anyone who fails to comply with an order or direction of the Fire Chief or any officer in command, or any officer or member of the Department engaged at any incident, may be forcibly removed from the scene of any such incident by a Peace Officer or member of the RCMP.

5. PENALTIES AND ENFORCEMENT

- 5.1 No person shall falsely represent themselves as a member of the Department.
- 5.2 Any person who contravenes any of the provisions of this Bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of any provision of this Bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any provision of this Bylaw, commits an offence against this Bylaw and is subject to:
 - a. A fine in accordance with the most recent Municipal Ticket Information Bylaw if an information respecting the infraction is laid by means of a ticket; or
 - b. Upon summary conviction, a minimum fine of not less than One Thousand Dollars (\$1000.00) and a maximum fine of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) and the cost of prosecution. Every day during which there is an infraction of this Bylaw shall constitute a separate offence.
- 5.3 The “Village of Chase Fire and Rescue Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw No. 744-2010” and any amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

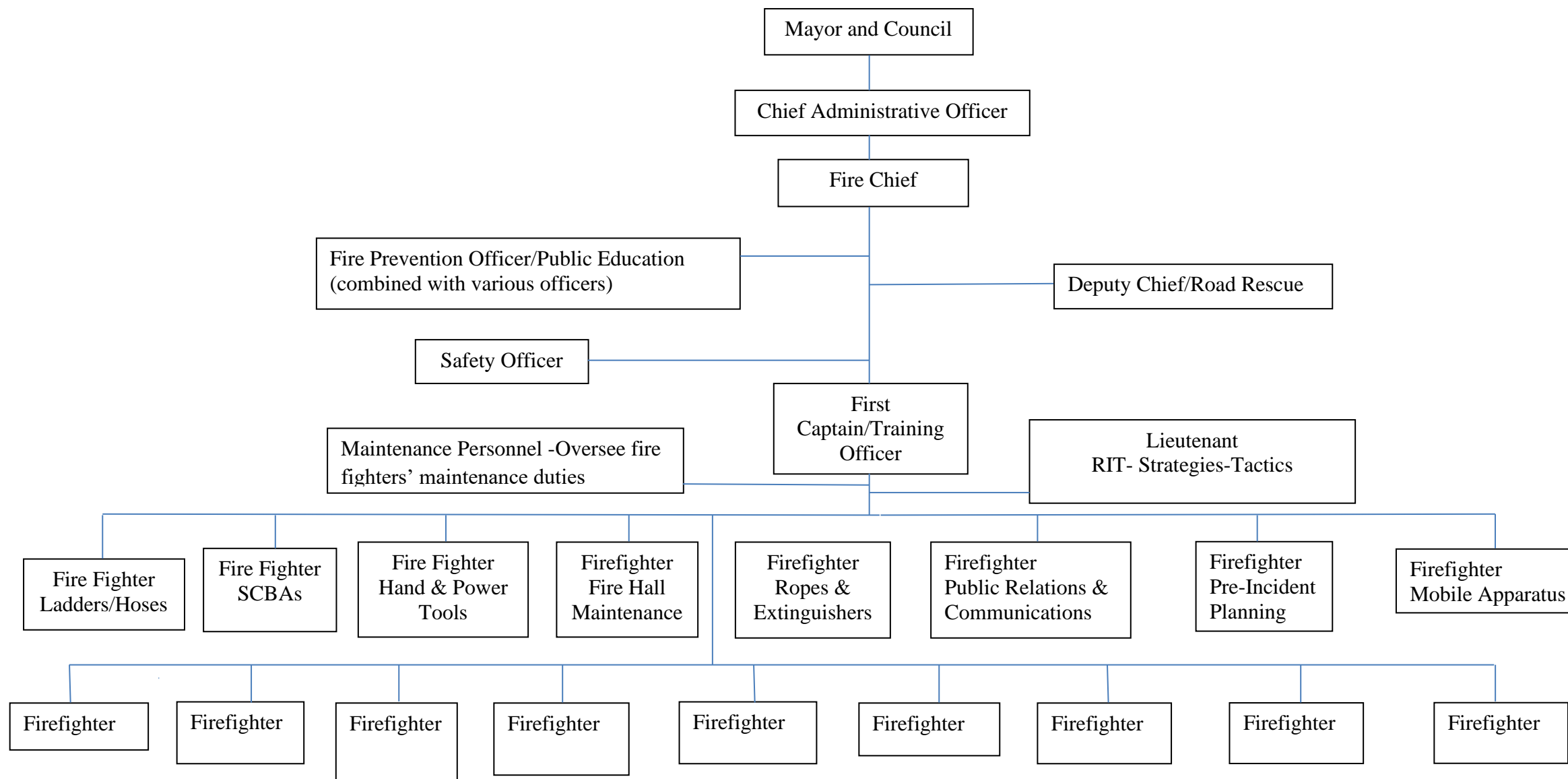
READ a First time this 24th day of June, 2014
READ a Second time this 24th day of June, 2014
READ a Third time this 24th day of June, 2014
ADOPTED this 8th day of July, 2014

Ron Anderson, Mayor

Tammi Pretty, Deputy Corporate Officer

Schedule "B" to Bylaw 795-2014

Structure of Village of Chase Fire Department



**Schedule “C” to
Village of Chase Volunteer Fire Department Establishment
and Regulation Bylaw No. 795- 2014 (Amending bylaw 903-2021)**

Renumeration – Officers and Firefighters

Officers*

Fire Chief	\$6,300/annum
Deputy Fire Chief	\$3,000/annum
Safety Officer	\$1,400/annum
Training Officer	\$1,100/annum
Captain	\$1,100/annum
Lieutenant	\$1,000/annum
Road Rescue Training & Scheduling	\$1,000/annum
Maintenance Personnel (non-officer position)	\$ 850/annum

*Any officer that takes on the responsibilities of more than one officer role will be granted 100% of the honorarium of the additional role(s).

Fire Department Services

Firefighter	\$14 per hour
Firefighter with Exterior Operation Certification	\$15 per hour

Road Rescue Services

Attending Member	\$15 per hour
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