



VILLAGE OF HARRISON HOT SPRINGS
BYLAW NO. 1236

A bylaw to provide for the establishment and operation of the Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department and to provide for fire prevention and suppression

WHEREAS pursuant to section 8 of the *Community Charter*, Council may by bylaw, regulate, prohibit and impose requirements in relation to section 63 [*protection of persons and property*];

NOW THEREFORE in open meeting assembled, Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs enacts as follows:

1. CITATION

This bylaw may be cited as “Fire Services Bylaw No. 1236, 2026”.

2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this bylaw:

“Apparatus” means any vehicle provided with machinery, devices, equipment or materials for Fire Protection and assistance response as well as vehicles use to transport firefighters and/or supplies.

“Captain” means the rank between Lieutenant and the Deputy Fire Chief.

“Chief Administrative Officer” means the Chief Administrative Officer for the Village or their designate, appointed under section 147 of the *Community Charter*.

“Complex Structure” means a structure that exceeds three stories or 600m² in area.

“Corporate Officer” means the Corporate Officer for the Village or their designate, appointed under section 148 of the *Community Charter*.

“Council” means the Council of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

“Deputy Chief” means the rank directly below the Fire Chief.

“Equipment” means any tools, contrivances, devices or materials used by the Fire Department to combat an Incident or other emergency.

“Executive” means the Fire Chief, Deputy Fire Chief and up to two Captains.

“Fire Chief” means the person appointed by Council, from time to time, as the Fire Chief of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

“Fire Code” means the British Columbia Fire Code, as established from time to time, under the *Fire Safety Act*.

“Fire Department” means the Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department.

“Firefighter” is the rank directly below Lieutenant.

“Fire Inspector” means a person appointed by Council and trained to perform fire inspections in accordance with the requirements of the *Fire Safety Act* and any regulations made thereunder.

“Fire Investigator” means a person appointed by Council and trained to perform fire investigations in accordance with the requirements of the *Fire Safety Act* and any regulations made thereunder.

“Fire Protection” means all aspects of fire safety including but not limited to, fire prevention, fire fighting or suppression, pre-fire planning, fire investigation, public education and information, training and other staff development and advising.

“*Fire Safety Act*” means the *Fire Safety Act*, SBC 2016, c. 19 as amended or replaced from time to time.

“Fire Safety Assessment” means a fire safety assessment completed by property owners or their authorized agent when requested by the Village pursuant to the *Fire Safety Act*.

“Incident” means a fire or a situation where a fire or explosion is imminent and includes assistance response circumstances described in section 10 of this bylaw.

“Incident Commander” means the Member in charge of an Incident.

“Inspection” means a fire safety inspection as defined in the *Fire Safety Act*.

“Interior” refers to operations inside a burning building or enclosed structure, involving direct engagement with the fire for suppression, rescue, and search.

“*Local Government Act*” means the *Local Government Act*, R.S.B.C. 2015, c. 1 as amended or replaced from time to time.

“Lieutenant” means the rank between POC and Captain.

“Mayor” means the duly elected Mayor of the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

“Member” means a person who having been recruited and having received appropriate training, becomes a paid on call (POC) Firefighter of the Fire Department. A “member” is deemed to be a Municipal Officer as defined in the *Local Government Act*.

“Minimum Training Standards” means the British Columbia Structure Firefighter Minimum Training Standards 2022, as amended or replaced from time to time.

“NFPA” means the National Fire Protection Association.

“Officer” means a member who is specifically authorized to assist the Fire Chief in their duties, specifically the Deputy Fire Chief, Captains and Lieutenants.

“POC” means a Member who is a paid-on-call Firefighter.

“Pre-Incident Plan” has the same meaning as in the NFPA glossary of terms, as amended or replaced from time to time.

“Public Building” has the same meaning as in the *Fire Safety Act*, as amended or replaced from time to time.

“Village” means the Village of Harrison Hot Springs.

3. INTERPRETATION

- (a) A reference to a statute refers to a statute of the Province of British Columbia unless otherwise indicated, and a reference to any statute, regulation, bylaw or code refers to that enactment as it may be amended or replaced from time to time.
- (b) Words in the singular include the plural and gender specific terms include both genders. Headings are for convenience only and must not be construed as defining or limiting the scope or intent of this Bylaw.

4. ADOPTION OF FIRE CODE AND OTHER STANDARDS

- (a) The substantive regulations (but not the procedural or remedial provisions) of the Fire Code are hereby adopted and made part of this Bylaw such that every provision of the Fire Code shall be considered a provision of this Bylaw.
- (b) Standards of the NFPA as issued from time to time are hereby adopted as applying to the Fire Department.
- (c) Water supply requirements for public Fire Protection as issued by the Fire Underwriters Survey and updated from time to time are made part of this

bylaw such that every requirement shall be considered a provision of this bylaw.

5. ESTABLISHMENT

- (a) The Fire Department as previously established is hereby continued and authorized to provide Fire Protection and other related services within the Village and, for any area outside the boundaries of the Village, only in accordance with section 10 of this bylaw.
- (b) The Fire Department shall consist of the following positions, ranked in descending order:
 - (i) The Fire Chief;
 - (ii) The Deputy Fire Chief;
 - (iii) Up to two (2) Captains;
 - (iv) Up to four (4) Lieutenants; and
 - (v) Up to eighteen (18) Firefighters

with the total number of Members not to exceed twenty-six (26) persons.

6. LEVEL OF SERVICE

- (a) The authorized level of service for the Fire Department shall be that of Interior Operations for firefighting as identified in the Minimum Training Standards. If, in the opinion of the Fire Chief, there are sufficient resources and trained personnel to undertake Interior Operations as described by the Minimum Training Standards, then the Department may undertake Interior Operations at any incident where sufficient personnel and equipment are available.
- (b) Members are authorized to enter structures and objects for the purposes of fire suppression and rescue operations, provided that:
 - (i) The Member is trained to the competency requirements of the NFPA 1001 Level 1; and
 - (ii) The Incident Commander determines that conditions are safe for entry.
- (c) Operations within Complex Structures are authorized provided that Pre-Incident Plans are established and training on building-specific systems is conducted annually.

7. APPOINTMENT AND POWERS OF THE FIRE CHIEF

- (a) The Fire Chief shall be appointed by resolution of Council.

- (b) The Fire Chief is the head of the Fire Department.
- (c) The Fire Chief reports to the Chief Administrative Officer in respect of the management of the Fire Department, the Fire Department budget, and the condition of buildings, Apparatus and Equipment under the control of the Fire Department.
- (d) The Fire Chief, in consultation with the Chief Administrative Officer, shall recommend to Council the appointment of the Deputy Fire Chief.
- (e) The Fire Chief may:
 - (i) Exercise all powers, duties and functions under the *Fire Safety Act*;
 - (ii) Make reasonable rules and regulations for the proper and efficient administration and operation of the Fire Department and may change, replace or withdraw the rules as he or she considers necessary;
 - (iii) Make reasonable rules and regulations or take measures respecting the discipline of members of the Fire Department;
 - (iv) Enter on property and inspect premises for conditions that may cause a fire, increase the danger of a fire or increase the danger to persons or property from a fire;
 - (v) Take measures to prevent and suppress fires, including, in relation to an Incident, cause or direct the demolition of buildings and other structures, which the Fire Chief believes should be demolished in order to prevent the spread of fire or to prevent damage to property, injury to persons or loss of life;
 - (vi) Enforce this bylaw and other municipal bylaws, rules, orders and regulations respecting fire prevention and suppression and the protection of life and property;
 - (vii) Provide advice and make recommendations to the Chief Administrative Officer and the public in relation to the establishment and administration of the Fire Department, the provision for adequate water supply and pressure, the installation or maintenance of automatic or other fire alarm systems and fire extinguishment equipment, the enforcement of measure for the prevention and suppression of fire and the protection of life and property and fire prevention generally;

- (viii) Take any action that a Fire Inspector or Fire Investigator is authorized to take pursuant to the *Fire Safety Act*.
- (f) The Fire Chief shall appoint Captains and Lieutenants. Each duly appointed Captain and Lieutenant shall continue in office until a new Captain or Lieutenant is appointed.
- (g) All members appointed to the rank of Lieutenant or Captain must meet the job performance requirements of NFPA 1021: Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications (Level 1) within 12 months of appointment.
- (h) The Fire Chief shall appoint a Member to fill any vacancy on the Executive and may determine the responsibilities and functions of the Executive as they relate to the operation of the Fire Department.

8. **MEMBERSHIP**

- (a) A person is qualified to be appointed as a Member of the Fire Department for firefighting duties who:
 - (i) Is at least 18 years of age;
 - (ii) Is of good character; and
 - (iii) Passes such, training aptitude and other tests as may be required by the Fire Chief.
- (b) A person appointed as a Member shall be on probation for a period of one (1) year during which period said Member shall take such training and examinations as may be required by the Fire Chief.
- (c) If a probationary Member appointed for firefighting duties fails any such examination:
 - (i) They may be dismissed; or
 - (ii) Their probationary period may be extended for a further six months by the Fire Chief.

9. **REMUNERATION AND EXPENSES**

- (a) The remuneration of all Members will be set by resolution of Council from time to time.
- (b) Fire Department expenses and expenditures shall be incurred in accordance with all applicable Village bylaws and policies, including any approved budgets, financial plans and purchasing and procurement policies.

10. AREA OF JURISDICTION

- (a) The services provided by the Fire Department are limited to the geographic boundaries of the Village, and Members have no responsibility to respond to any emergency outside of these boundaries except:
 - (i) By written agreement to provide Fire Protection services with a jurisdiction outside of the Village's boundary;
 - (ii) Under mutual aid agreement with another local government, municipality or regional district;
 - (iii) Under a provincially mandated deployment related to a provincial emergency; or
 - (iv) Under any request from another agency with the permission of the Chief Administrative Officer.
- (b) The Mayor and Corporate Officer, after consultation with the Fire Chief and on the recommendation of the Chief Administrative Officer, are hereby authorized to enter and execute any agreements made under this section or other instruments as may be required to give full force and effect to this section.

11. FIRE PROTECTION AID AGREEMENTS

Council may enter into Fire Protection and aid agreements for the provision of Fire Protection by, for, or on behalf of the owners or occupiers of property situated within or outside of the municipality, with any person, firm, corporation, municipality, Crown Provincial or Crown Federal or other properly constituted authority and for the paying or collecting, as the case may be, of such charges therefore as may be agreed upon.

12. RISK-BASED SYSTEM OF COMPLIANCE

- (a) The Fire Inspector shall establish a risk-based system of compliance monitoring of Public Buildings within the Village in accordance with the requirements of the *Fire Safety Act* and regulations made thereunder.
- (b) The Fire Inspector may determine which Public Buildings are to be subject to an Inspection and in accordance with the *Fire Safety Act*. The frequency of Inspection for any Public Building shall be set by the Fire Inspector, based on the risk assigned to the particular Public Building under the risk-based system of compliance monitoring established in accordance with section 12(a).

- (c) The Fire Inspector shall ensure that the risk assessments are reviewed periodically at such intervals as the Fire Inspector considers advisable or as otherwise may be required by the *Fire Safety Act*.
- (d) An owner of a Public Building who is required to produce a Fire Safety Assessment shall do so within 30 calendar days of the request using the format prescribed under the *Fire Safety Act*.
- (e) Where a Fire Safety Assessment has not been produced as required under section 12(d), the Fire Inspector may conduct an Inspection for a fee as set out in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs Miscellaneous Fee Bylaw No. 1049, 2014, as amended or replaced from time to time.
- (f) Where a property owner is required by the Fire Code to develop and maintain a Fire Safety Plan in accordance with the Fire Code, a copy of such Fire Safety Plan shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review in accordance with the Fire Code. The Fire Department may prescribe the form in which any Fire Safety Plan is to be submitted.
- (g) The Fire Safety Plan shall be reviewed not less than annually by the owner of the property. The Fire Safety Plan shall be updated and a new Fire Safety Plan submitted to the Fire Department for review if at any time there has been any change to a building, property or premises, or any change to the use thereof, that makes the existing Fire Safety Plan inaccurate or obsolete.
- (h) Notwithstanding any review of a Fire Safety Assessment or Fire Safety Plan by the Fire Department or Fire Inspector as the case may be, the owner of the Public Building or other property in respect of which a Fire Safety Assessment or Fire Safety Plan is submitted remains solely responsible for the content and sufficiency of that assessment or plan, and neither Fire Department nor the Fire Inspector shall be liable for any deficiency in any Fire Safety Assessment or Fire Safety Plan or for any loss, damage, costs or injuries arising from that deficiency.

13. PROHIBITIONS

No person shall:

- (a) Impede, hinder or obstruct any Member at an Incident or when carrying out their duties under this bylaw, and every person in the proximity of an Incident shall comply with orders or directions of a Member responding to the Incident;
- (b) Obstruct or otherwise interfere with access roads or other approaches to an Incident, or with fire hydrants, reservoirs or bodies of water required for fire suppression purposes;

- (c) Damage, destroy, obstruct, impede or hinder the operation of any Apparatus, or, unless authorized by the Fire Chief, Incident Commander or other Officer, travel across a fire hose or other Equipment;
- (d) Falsely represent themselves as a Member of the Fire Department; or
- (e) Obstruct or interfere with the Fire Chief, Fire Inspector or Fire Investigator while they are carrying out any inspection or investigation pursuant to this bylaw, the Fire Code or the *Fire Safety Act*.

14. PENALTIES

- (a) This bylaw is designated under the provisions of section 260 of the *Community Charter* as a bylaw that may be enforced by means of a ticket issued under the provisions of the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw.
- (b) Every person who violates any of the provisions of this bylaw or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention or in violation of any of the provisions of this bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence under the Bylaw Notice Enforcement Bylaw.

15. IRREGULARITY

In the event of a conflict, discrepancy, variation or inconsistency between this bylaw and the *Fire Safety Act* or the Fire Code, the provisions of the *Fire Safety Act* or Fire Code shall prevail over the provisions of this bylaw to the extent of that conflict, discrepancy, variation or inconsistency.

16. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of this bylaw is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of a court of competent jurisdiction, the invalid portion shall be severed and the decision that it is not invalid will not affect the validity of the remainder of this bylaw.

17. REPEAL

Village of Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department Regulation Bylaw No. 1031 and all amendments thereto are hereby repealed.

18. READINGS AND ADOPTION

READ A FIRST TIME THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

AMENDED AND READ A SECOND TIME THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

READ A THIRD TIME THIS 17th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2026

ADOPTED THIS 2rd DAY OF MARCH 2026

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Fred Talen', written above a horizontal line.

Fred Talen
Mayor

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Amanda Graham', written above a horizontal line.

Amanda Graham
Corporate Officer