

Riverview Fire & Rescue Service Mandate

Jan. 27, 2025



Service Mandate: Background

- NB *Fire Prevention Act* does not provide municipal fire departments with a mandate.
- NB *Municipalities Act* (Sec. 109) establishes that municipalities may provide fire protection services within their boundaries.
- Thus, the issue of mandate falls to the municipalities.

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Service Mandate: Background

- The modern fire service in North America has evolved to provide a wider array of public safety services than fire suppression alone.
- In 2020 the Canadian Association Fire Chiefs in a report concluded “*We believe that all levels of government must recognize that fire departments are more than just about the flames and consider appropriate risk assessment. They are all hazard respondents, including as part of a tiered medical response...*”



CAFC, September 2020, 2nd Ed.

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Service Mandate: Best Practice



- The *National Fire Protection Association* (NFPA) standards are a set of industry consensus standards and often serve as a model for best practices in the fire service.
- NFPA 1710, the Standard for the organization and deployment of operations in within career departments recommends that the Authority Having Jurisdiction (Municipal Council) provide a written statement that includes the services that the fire department is required to provide.

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Based on Risk Assessment

- Fire department service mandates should be based on community risk assessment.
- In 2024 our department conducted a community risk assessment from the fire service perspective.
- This assessment does not replace the broader risk assessment contained within the *Municipal Emergency Measures Plan*.

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Risk Assessment Findings

Documented Hazards (condition, situation or behavior that presents the potential for harm or damage)

- Structure fire
- Forest fire
- Wildland/Urban Interface fire
- Hazardous Materials
- Water/Swiftwater
- Ice
- Confined Space
- Low Angle Environments (slopes)
- High Angle Environment
- Off Road Environment (trails & woodland)

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Event History/Past Loss

Structure Fire- The majority of structure fire loss in Riverview occurs in single family homes & duplexes. Larger events have however occurred, such as the August 2010 explosion and fire at a two-storey daycare and the September 2024 exterior fire occurring at a three-storey apartment building.

Forest Fire- The 2004 Justin Street fire in Lower Coverdale and the 2017 Pine Glen forest fires were outside the municipality but demonstrate the risk to Riverview.

Wildland Urban Interface Fire- In July 1997, a large brush fire near the Coverdale Recreation Centre threatened homes in the Bridgedale neighborhood.

Water/Ice Rescues- Four documented water rescues on the Petitcodiac River between 1984 and today.

Off Road Rescues- On an annual basis RFR typically responds to 2-5 such calls.

Hazmat/Confined Space Rescues- Very few serious calls of note, however the risk remains present.

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Current Risk Observations

- Riverview has an aging population. Those aged 65-74 have a 2.2 times greater risk of dying in a fire, and persons aged 75-84 have a 3.1 times higher risk of dying in a fire.
- Riverview has an increasing building stock and there is a shift to multi-unit residential housing options, which require different skills and equipment for fighting fire.
- The older single-family homes are now entering the 35–50 year age range, which can present higher fire risk.
- Riverview is bounded by forest to the south, east and west. 68% of NB forest (by volume) consists of softwood trees (conifers), in which forest fire can travel quickly.

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Current Risk Observations

- Expanding trail networks and increased use of trails.
- Increasing population, more structures and higher traffic volumes will result in more incidents. The overall call volume for RFR increased 89.5% from 2021 to 2023 alone. This is led by an increase in medical calls, fire alarms and motor vehicle collisions.

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Risk Assessment Matrix

Risk Matrix

Likelihood	5	Moderate	Moderate	High	High	High
	4	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate/ High	High	High
	3	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	High
	2	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	1	Low	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate
		1	2	3	4	5
	Consequence					

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Assessment Results

Wildland urban interface fire risk

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	4	High Risk

Structure fire risk associated with increasing cultural diversity

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	3 to 4	Moderate/High Risk

Structure fire risk associated with aging building stock (single family homes)

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	2	Moderate

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Assessment Results

Structure fire/exposure risk associated with new single-family homes (exposure risk)

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	3	Moderate/High Risk

Structure fire risk associated with multi-unit residential properties (sprinkler/stand-pipe)

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	3	Moderate/High Risk

Structure fire risk associated with multi-unit residential properties (no sprinkler/stand-pipe)

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	4	High Risk

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Assessment Results

Structure fire risk associated with commercial properties

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
3	2	Low Risk

Structure fire risk associated with critical infrastructure

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
1	3	Low Risk

Water related risk associated with the Petitcodiac River

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
4	3	Moderate/High Risk

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Assessment Results

Off-road rescue risk associated with forested area and trail systems

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
5	3	High Risk

Confined spaces risk associated with various properties

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
2	3	Moderate Risk

Low angle risk associated with properties that have slopes

Probability/likelihood Score (1-5)	Impact/Consequence Score (1-5)	Risk Matrix Result
3	2	Low Risk

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Service Mandate-Definitions



Awareness Level

Firefighters recognize hazards and determine risk, adopt a defensive position, secure the area, and call for assistance.



Operations Level

Firefighters recognize hazards and determine risks, will take action to contain the incident and may take limited action from a safe location.



Technician Level

Firefighters recognize hazards and determine risks and may initiate a combination of actions to bring the incident under control and resolve it.

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Service Mandate

Incident Command Services

- All emergency response incidents (excluding medical first response incidents) shall have an Incident Commander.
- RFR shall utilize the principles of command as set forth by ICS Canada.

Fire Inspection Services

- RFR shall provide fire inspection services in accordance with procedures set forth by the New Brunswick Office of the Fire Marshal.

Fire Investigation Services

- RFR shall provide fire investigation services in accordance with procedures set forth by the New Brunswick Office of the Fire Marshal.

Fire Prevention Education

- RFR shall provide fire prevention education services to residents.

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Service Mandate

Dangerous Goods / Hazardous Materials Response

- RFR shall provide dangerous goods / hazardous materials response to the Operations Level.

Structure Fire Response

- RFR shall provide structural firefighting, which *may* include interior operations (dependent on conditions, risk calculation and firefighter safety).

Forest Fire Response

- RFR shall provide forestry fire suppression services.
- The municipality *may* request the Department of Natural Resources and Energy Development to assume overall responsibility for fighting a forest fire within the town boundaries. Furthermore, the Minister of Natural Resources and Energy Development *may* order a conservation officer or a forest service officer to combat a fire within the boundaries of Riverview.

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Service Mandate

Wildland Urban Interface Fire Response

- RFR shall provide wildland urban interface fire suppression services.

Swiftwater Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide swiftwater rescue response services at the Operations Level.

Ice Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide ice rescue response at the Technician Level.

Confined Space Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide confined space rescue response at the Technician Level.



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Low Angle Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide low angle rescue response at the Operations Level.

High Angle Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide High Angle Rescue at the Awareness Level.

Off-Road Rescue Response

- RFR shall provide Off-Road Rescue services.

Vehicle Extrication

- RFR shall provide vehicle extrication services.

Medical First Response

- RFR shall provide medical first responder services.
- Calls will be responded to at a Primary Care Paramedic level when operational capacity permits.



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Service Mandate

- Riverview Fire and Rescue seeks Councils endorsement of this service mandate policy.

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Questions?

