



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

News Release

For Immediate Release

Wednesday, July 28, 2021

ACRD Maintains Fire Coverage through the Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department – Finds Efficiencies through Decommissioning Fire Hall #2 Faber Road

Port Alberni, BC. The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors has approved the Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department (SLVFD) to amend their current three-hall model to a two-hall model by decommissioning Fire Hall #2 Faber Road as an active fire hall.

SLVFD currently maintains and operates three halls, each with their own Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) minimum requirements for active members, apparatus, and response distance. Fire Hall #2 Faber Road's response area is completely overlapped by the response area of Hall #3 making the smaller Fire Hall #2 redundant.

The Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department Asset Management Plan, adopted by the ACRD in 2020, identified the financial strain on the department and recommended a review of the three-hall model to determine the feasibility of reducing the number of halls that service the Sproat Lake area. Dave Mitchell and Associates Ltd conducted an operational and response assessment, indicating that Hall #2 materially overlaps with the area covered by Hall #3, providing an opportunity to move to a two-hall response model. By decommissioning Hall #2, the department will avoid having to replace Engine 47 this year at an estimated cost of \$750,000 - \$950,000.

Decommissioning SLVFD's Hall #2 Faber Road, for fire responses, will not alter the determination of protected status by the FUS for single family residences. The active firefighters and equipment will be redistributed to the remaining two halls. This action will allow for the SLVFD to achieve and exceed the required minimum number of responders required for each of the two remaining halls. Some of the Department's financial strain will be relieved by moving Engine 47 to reserve status and not requiring its immediate replacement. The department's smaller rescue truck will continue to be housed in and respond from the building for First Responder incidents. The building will be retained for training and storage until the end of its useful life.

Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief Mike Cann stated, "*I'm confident that with the redeployment of personnel and equipment there will be no decrease in service and the community will remain well protected by Fire Hall #1 & #3.*"

Sproat Lake Electoral Area Director Penny Cote added *“Sproat Lake residents can be thankful every day for the consistent personal and property protection that is provided by the Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department as a whole. The decommissioning of Hall #2 will not affect the protection coverage to the community or the insurance saving we get with the hydrant status the fire department delivers as identified by the Mitchell report. Hall #2 will remain as an important asset to the community for emergency operations and training”*.

The Dave Mitchell and Associates Ltd report can be viewed on the Regional District website at www.acrd.bc.ca/fire-departments

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