

THE CORPORATION OF THE
CITY OF WHITE ROCK
BYLAW 2057



A By-law to establish services to prevent and suppress
fire, as well as other powers relating to hazards, dangerous
conditions and public safety.

WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the City of White Rock under the authority of the *Community Charter* and of the *Fire Services Act* may provide services and requirements for the protection of persons and property;

NOW THEREFORE, the COUNCIL of the Corporation of the City of White Rock in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. In this Bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

"**Apparatus**" means any vehicle provided with machinery, devices, equipment of materials for firefighting as well as vehicles used to transport fire fighters or supplies.

"**Chief Administrative Officer**" (CAO) means the Chief Administrative Officer of the City of White Rock.

"**City**" means the Corporation of the City of White Rock.

"**Council**" means the elected Council of the Corporation of the City of White Rock.

"**Equipment**" means any tools, contrivances, devices or materials used by the Fire Department to combat an incident or other emergency.

"**Extraordinary Waste**" means vegetation located on a property when it has become a health, fire or safety hazard.

"**Fire Chief**" means the person appointed to hold that position by Council.

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

"**Incident**" means a fire, an explosion, a situation where a fire or explosion is imminent or any other situation presenting a danger or possible danger to life or property or the environment and to which White Rock Fire Rescue has responded.

"**Member**" means any person appointed by the Fire Chief as a Member of the Department and includes without limitation the Officers, Firefighters, and administrative staff of the Department.

- (c) **Rescue Operations:**
To provide rescue operations in areas commensurate with the training levels of response personnel.
- (d) **Mutual Aid to Fire Services including Ministry of Forests:** To provide mutual aid as per agreements entered into from time to time and to provide mutual aid commensurate with available apparatus and manpower.
- (e) **Hazardous Materials (Dangerous Goods):**
To provide a first responder awareness level response to any Hazardous Materials (Dangerous Goods) incident and to provide for response by competent personnel from industry and/or other jurisdictions to mitigate, confine and eliminate any hazard to life, environment, and property.
- (f) **Fire Prevention and Pre-Planning**
- (g) **Response to situations that present a danger or possible danger to life, property or the environment**
- (h) **Emergency Planning**

2.8 The Fire Chief shall establish rules regulations, policies and committees necessary for the proper organization and administration of the Fire Department, including:

- (a) use, care and protection of City property;
- (b) the conduct and discipline of Officers and Members of the Fire Department;
- (c) efficient operations of the Fire Department

2.9 The Fire Chief, or in their absence, their designate or the senior ranking Member present shall have control, direction and management of all Fire Department apparatus, equipment or manpower assigned to an incident and, where a Member is in charge, they shall continue to act until relieved by a Senior Officer.

2.10 The Fire Chief shall take responsibility for all fire protection matters including the enforcement of the *Fire Services Act* and regulations thereunder and shall assume the authority of the Local Assistant to the Fire Commissioner.

2.11 The Fire Chief, or any Officer or Member authorized by the Fire Chief may at any reasonable time enter any premises for the purpose of Fire Protection matters.

2.12 The Fire Chief, Officer, or Member in charge at an incident, is empowered to cause a building, structure, or thing to be pulled down, demolished or otherwise removed if he deems it necessary to prevent the spread of fire to other buildings, structures or things.

- 3.4 No person shall falsely represent himself as a member or wear or display any White Rock Fire Rescue Department badge, cap, button, insignia or other paraphernalia for the purpose of such false representation.
- 3.5 No person shall obstruct or otherwise interfere with access roads or streets or other approaches to any incident, fire hydrant, cistern or body of water designated for firefighting purposes.

4. CONTAMINATION AND REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 4.1 The Fire Chief may charge an owner or occupant of a premise for the replacement or repair of Fire Department equipment where as a result of an incident at or near their premises, such equipment has been damaged or contaminated by a hazardous substance or dangerous good, and will require decontamination, repair or replacement. This will be the actual repair or replacement cost. Failure for the owner or occupant to pay a fee charged within thirty (30) days will result in those costs being added to the property taxes of the owner of the property.

5. FIRE PREVENTION

- 5.1 **OUTDOOR BURNING** - No person shall at any time start, light, ignite or burn, or knowingly permit or cause to be started, lighted, ignited or burn any fire of any kind in the open air or in any portable incinerator or other portable appliance or device in the open air, except where such fire is contained within an approved portable appliance or device that has been specifically designed to be fueled by propane, natural gas or charcoal.

For purposes of this section, an open air fire does not include:

- (a) fire training exercises approved by the Fire Chief;
- (b) fires necessary for public safety and approved by the Fire Chief;
- (c) fires for special circumstances and approved in advance in writing by the Fire Chief;

5.2 RESIDENTIAL BURNING

- (a) A person must not burn residential waste, including, without limitations, household waste and yard materials, indoors or in the open air under any circumstances.
- (b) A person must not fuel a residential fireplace or woodstove with any material other than seasoned firewood or similar material designed for that use and that does not contain painted or adhesive materials.

5.5 FIRE PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

Buildings

- (a) In respect of every building or occupancy, Fire Protection Equipment must be installed and maintained in accordance with good engineering practices and in accordance with the codes and standards
 - i) Set out in the *British Columbia Building Code* and *BC Fire Code* as amended, from time to time; and
 - ii) Published by the National Fire Protection Association as amended from time to time;
- (b) Where the design or construction of a new or existing building may cause poor communications for firefighting and rescue operations, or where the owner is directed to do so by the Fire Chief, the owner shall, at the owners cost, ensure that an engineered communications system, compatible with Fire Department radio communications and acceptable to the Fire Chief, is installed and maintained on the building.

5.6 INSPECTION FEE COST RECOVERY

- (a) Where violation(s) under the Fire Code, *Fire Services Act* or this Bylaw are observed upon inspection of a premises, an Officer may issue an order requiring that the violation(s) be corrected within a specified time period and advising of a return date for a re-inspection. If upon re-inspection the order has not been complied with and the violations corrected, the owner or occupier of the premises shall pay the applicable re-inspection fee prescribed in the City's current Fees and Charges Bylaw, for that re-inspection and for each re-inspection required thereafter until the violations are corrected.
- (b) If any additional inspection is requested or required during an inspection period, a fee shall be charged for each additional inspection. The charge is subject to a cost recovery in accordance with the City's current Fees and Charges Bylaw. Failure for the owner or occupant to pay a fee charged within thirty (30) days will result in those costs being added to the property taxes of the owner of the property.
- (c) **Remedial Orders**
The Fire Chief or an Officer designated by them are hereby authorized and empowered to issue orders in writing requiring the correction or removal of any condition or thing in or about any building or structure which is in contravention of this Bylaw, and every owner or occupant of same shall carry out of every requirement of the order.
- (d) **Dating of Orders**
Every order issued by the Fire Chief or an Officer designated by them pursuant hereto shall state a date by which the order shall be carried out, which date shall in the discretion of the issuer, have regard to the degree or urgency

- (c) Any owner or occupier, or both as the case may be, that fails or whose Contact Person fails to comply with Sections 5.7(a) and 5.7(b) will pay the fees prescribed in the City's current Fees and Charges Bylaw.

5.8 ADDRESSING OF OCCUPANCIES

- (a) Each premise must be individually addressed. An individual address must be legible from a distance of 15 meters and placed on new or existing buildings or structures in such a position as to be plainly visible and legible from the street, road, fire lane or other right of way or easement and at the front of the structure.
- (b) Sizing of Address - The letters or numbers of any address shall be a minimum of 127 mm in height and no less than 12.7 mm width.

5.9 SECURING FIRE DAMAGED OR VACANT BUILDINGS

- 5.9.1** Where a fire has occurred in a building or structure which, in the opinion of the Fire Department has rendered entry to that building or structure unsafe, it is the registered owner's responsibility to immediately secure the building or structure in a manner sufficient to prevent entry to the same.

The City may, after making reasonable efforts to contact the registered owner or occupant of the building or structure or the Contact Person where applicable, to advise them of the need to secure the building or structure under this section, instruct its employees or agents to board up the building or structure to the extent required by this section.

The registered owner of the property on which the building or structure is situated shall be liable for the cost of securing and boarding the building or structure.

Every registered owner of the property on which a vacant building or structure is located must comply with Section 2.4.6 of the Fire Code which requires that the building or structure be secured against unauthorized entry. Where a registered owner fails to meet the requirements of this section, the City may, after making reasonable efforts to contact the registered owner of the vacant building or structure or the Contact Person where applicable, to advise them of the need to secure the vacant building or structure under this section, instruct its employees or agents to board up the vacant building or structure to the extent required by this section. The registered owner of the property on which the vacant building or structure is situated shall be liable for the cost of securing and boarding the building or structure.

9. SEVERABILITY

- 9.1** If any portion of this Bylaw is held invalid by a Court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of this Bylaw is deemed to have been adopted without the severed portion.
- 10.** This Bylaw shall come into full force and effect on its adoption by Council.
- 11.** "*White Rock Fire Department Establishment and Regulation Bylaw, 1998, No. 1479*" and all amending bylaws pertaining to it are hereby repealed in their entirety.
- 12.** This Bylaw may be cited as "*White Rock Fire Protection and Safety Bylaw, 2014, No. 2057.*"

RECEIVED FIRST READING on the 31st day of March, 2014

RECEIVED SECOND READING on the 31st day of March, 2014

RECEIVED THIRD READING on the 31st day of March, 2014

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED on the 14th day of April, 2014



MAYOR



CITY CLERK