

Fire Suppression and Cost Recovery Policy

5C.001

Section: 5.0 Environmental and Protective Services

- C. Protective Services

Authority: Chief Administrative Officer

Statement

The Fire Services of the Municipal District of Bonnyville (M.D.) will respond to property or personal loss fires and emergency wildfire incidents to stop the forward spread of fire. Further, the Fire Services are authorized to recover costs related to a Fire Service response.

Purpose

To provide fire suppression resources required to respond to property or personal loss fires and to contain wildland and ground fires (sub-surface fires) and to recover costs related to fires that are not considered a municipal Fire Service responsibility.

Such fires include but are not limited to:

- (a) Brush and brush piles
- (b) Prairie or running fire
- (c) Non-permitted fire during the permit season
- (d) Hay/straw piles
- (e) Peat moss (ground fires)
- (f) Grass

(1) Fire Suppression

The Fire Services' primary responsibility is to assist in the preservation of life and property and to reduce injury or destruction due to fire. The Fire Services will initially respond to emergency wildfire incidents to contain and control the forward spread of the fire.

Wildfire overhaul and ground fires are deemed to be hazardous but non-emergent fires and extinguishment is the responsibility of the land owner or person in control of the land not the responsibility of the Fire Services. The municipal Fire Services will however, initially respond to emergency wildfire incidents.

The Forest and Prairie Protection Act and the Fire Services Bylaw provide authority for the municipality to order the owner or person in control of the land involving a ground fire, to control the situation. The landowner or person in control of the land is responsible for extinguishment of hotspots and ground fires within the fire perimeter. Failing this, the municipality may take all necessary measures to eliminate the hazard.

(2) Cost Recovery

The Fire Services Bylaw and the Forest and Prairie Protection Act allow the municipality to recover costs related to Fire Services response for fire types listed under the "Purpose" section of this policy and any other emergency response by the Fire Services.

- (a) The Fire Service will initially respond to emergency wildfire incidents to stop the forward spread of the fire without charge.

- (b) In the case of property or personal loss fires, the landowner or person in control of the land may be advised by letter of the costs involved in extinguishing the fire and will be requested to forward these costs to their insurer for re-imbusement to the Fire Services.
- (c) Where no insurance for property or personal loss fires exists, the letter shall be for information purposes only.
- (d) Where the fire is not considered a municipal responsibility under this policy and the Fire Services have responded, all costs associated thereto may be charged to the landowner or person in control of the land.

Review Period

Within five (5) years from date adopted / amended / reviewed.

For administrative use only:

Previous Policy Number: (prior to July 24, 2019)	20.23.01
Related Documentation: (plans, bylaws, policies, procedures, etc.)	Bylaw: Fire Services Bylaw