

Who We Are

Dave Mitchell and Associates Ltd. is a BC company established in 2000 that offers consulting services for all aspects of public safety operations. Our client list includes fire departments and governments at the provincial, territorial, regional and municipal levels in British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Our firm is independent and is not affiliated with any technology, apparatus or other product vendors.

Our services include:

- ◆ master fire plans
- ◆ fleet analysis
- ◆ fire hall location studies
- ◆ fire services reviews
- ◆ GIS analysis
- ◆ governance and bylaw reviews
- ◆ executive recruitment
- ◆ quality assurance programs
- ◆ technology procurement, implementation and support
 - Computer Aided Dispatch
 - Record Management Systems
 - Mobile Communications including mobile workstations
 - Fire Station Alerting
- ◆ planning, assessment and implementation of 9-1-1 systems
- ◆ public safety voice and data radio systems reviews
- ◆ communication centre design

- ◆ dispatcher recruitment and training
- ◆ occupational health and safety reviews
- ◆ organizational reviews and strategic planning
- ◆ executive coaching
- ◆ training including training centre reviews
- ◆ inspections and audits
- ◆ technical writing
- ◆ disaster recovery/business continuity plans



DAVE MITCHELL & ASSOCIATES LTD.

P.O. Box 64618
RPO Como Lake
Coquitlam, BC
V3J 7V7

Phone: 604-812-8951
Fax: 604-552-8951
E-mail: dwmitchell@telus.net

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Fire Service Reviews - Regional Districts



Tel: 604 812 8951

Fire Service Reviews - Regional Districts

Why is it needed?

The rules, regulations and requirements governing fire services have become increasingly demanding over time. Fire fighters face an inherently risky work place, and standards regarding training, occupational health & safety, equipment, deployment and fire ground management have been significantly enhanced to help mitigate that risk – and potential liability.

Fire services, however, tend to grow organically over time. Unlike police and ambulance, fire services are not provincially mandated: they are only created when local taxpayers agree that a service should be established. For Regional Districts, this often means that as many as a dozen or more local fire suppression areas may have been established, typically created over a decade or two. Central oversight and control is often a challenge, and managing budgetary pressures and ensuring proper standards are being met can be an issue.

What does a Fire Service Review entail?

A Fire Services Review involves a ground up review of how the existing fire services are organized, managed, taxed and operating. Depending on the circumstances (as each review is tailored to meet the client's needs), it can include:

1. A review of the underlying bylaws which govern the fire services, including:
 - ◆ Establishment Bylaws
 - ◆ Governance Bylaws
 - ◆ Operational Criteria Bylaws
 - ◆ Automatic/Mutual Aid Bylaws
 - ◆ First Medical Responder Bylaws
2. A review of the governance and taxation structure. This typically includes:
 - ◆ A review of the governance structure and its operation
 - ◆ Facilitations with the principal stakeholder groups
 - ◆ A review of tax levels, budgets and financial pressures on the fire services
 - ◆ Benchmarking against other Regional Districts who provide similar or comparable services
 - ◆ A review of the occupational health & safety structures in place for the fire services.
3. A review of the principal operational challenges, including:
 - ◆ Operational Guidelines
 - ◆ Mutual Aid and Automatic Aid agreements
 - ◆ Training Levels and Standards
 - ◆ Recruitment and Retention
 - ◆ Interoperability issues
 - ◆ Communications and Dispatch
 - ◆ Fire Prevention and Public Education programs
 - ◆ Apparatus and Communications Equipment and Systems
 - ◆ Response Time Analysis

A fire services review is a critical step in updating and modernizing the operation and administration of regional fire services. It will help ensure that current standards are being met, and that fire fighters are operating safely and effectively, while providing direction for future development.

