

it's your City!

Understanding Parksville's Fire Service

This is the second article in a series about the PVFD and is in response to a recent survey where residents indicated a need for more information. The department looks forward to receiving your comments – stop by the fire hall or email info@parksville.ca.

The Parksville Volunteer Fire Department responds to a variety of fire and emergency related calls for service. The major types of calls include alarms, motor vehicle incidents, medical calls (first response and ambulance assistance) and burning complaints. The majority of calls received by the department are through the North Island 911 emergency dispatch system.

ALARMS - PVFD responds to all reported residential and commercial alarm calls, treats all alarm calls as potential fires and responds by dispatching a duty officer and a fire engine. All available volunteers report to the fire hall when calls are received and if more resources are necessary, the duty officer will immediately request additional fire crews, apparatus or other support.

Depending on the situation, commercial alarms may receive additional resources. Certain facilities (such as care homes or large hotels), due to the large number of individuals that may require assistance, will trigger an automatic aid response from surrounding departments.

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENTS - A duty officer will respond to motor vehicle incidents where there is no indication of the need for extrication or of fire. The duty officer will assess the situation for hazards such as leaking fluids or potential for fire and provide assistance with site safety. If other resources are required, the duty officer will request additional support in the form of appropriate equipment and personnel.

Through a mutual aid agreement, the PVFD also provides rescue and extrication services for the Parksville fire service area and by request from neighbouring departments. When automobile extrication services are provided outside the boundaries of the area, the PVFD receives some reimbursement from the Province.

MEDICAL CALLS - The PVFD responds to select medical calls to supplement and support the ambulance service. Although BC Ambulance receives more than 2000 calls in the Parksville fire service area each year, the department only responds to those medical calls which meet criteria as laid out by department operational guidelines. The PVFD responds to calls in which:



- Individuals involved are in imminent danger of death or there has been extreme trauma.
- Additional personnel can improve the quality of medical care.
- Ambulance response time is more than 15 minutes.
- Ambulance service requests assistance.

For example, the PVFD responds to medical calls involving cardiac arrest. This is a situation where the individual involved is at great risk of serious injury or death. Because performing CPR is a physically strenuous activity, trained fire department personnel on the scene may relieve paramedics, ensuring consistent effective administration of CPR. If ambulance response time will be greater than 15 minutes, the PVFD will respond to medical calls to stabilize the patient and provide first response medical care.

BURNING COMPLAINTS - Burning in Parksville is regulated by "Outdoor Burning Bylaw, 2007, No. 1428". Bylaws are implemented at the municipal government level by Council and are generally enforced by City bylaw compliance officers. The PVFD

works closely with the bylaw compliance department to respond to burning complaints, often responding in the evenings and on weekends when bylaw compliance may not be on duty. Generally the fire department responds to first-time complaints with the goal of educating residents. If multiple burning complaints are received from the same property, bylaw compliance will assume responsibility and may take additional steps to gain compliance, including the issuance of fines.

OTHER EMERGENCIES - As well as the emergencies mentioned in this article, the PVFD responds to a wide variety of other emergencies such as brush fires, natural gas and propane incidents, hazardous materials incidents, structure fires, technical rescue incidents such as confined space, and many other types of public service requests.

The term "fire department" is a traditional term - in reality, the PVFD is an emergency services department with a wide-ranging mandate.



Summertime in the City



Five Weeks of Beach Fun - We are proud to be one of the community sponsors of the 2013 Quality Foods Canadian Open Sand Sculpting Competition and Exhibition. Beach Festival runs from July 13 to August 18. As well as the world famous sand sculpting, activities include Lions Kitefest (July 20-21), Art in the Park (July 27-28), Oceanside Overdrive Car Show (August 4), Quality

Foods Fireworks (August 17), Kidfest (August 18), Friday and Saturday night concerts in the picnic shelter (July 19 - August 17) as well as buskers in the Community Park gazebo most afternoons. Much more info at parksvillebeachfest.ca.

Downtown Free Bus - Provided by the Parksville Downtown Business Association until August 31, the bus brings riders from the resort areas and outlying neighbourhoods to enjoy downtown shops and services. Details are available at parksvilledowntown.ca and in brochures throughout Parksville.



City Services

2012 Annual Report

The City's annual report is now on the website for public review [Quicklinks - Financial Reports]. The report will be formally presented to Council at the July 15 meeting at which time the public is welcome to provide comments.

Reminder of Level 2 Water Conservation

Water Conservation Level 2 now in effect, allows for a total of four hours watering per watering day (odd numbered addresses on odd numbered days and even numbered addresses on even numbered days). Watering times are 6 am to 10 am and 6 pm to 10 pm for no more than two hours per period.

Highway 19A Improvements

General cleanup on the newly aligned Bay Avenue, relocation of poles and overhead wires and installation of sidewalks on Highway 19A continues. During July and August, only work which will not interfere with traffic flow is permitted. As the highway is still classified as a construction zone until the contractor returns in September, there is signage along the highway to alert traffic and pedestrians to potential hazards. We ask the public to be mindful when driving through the area.

DCC Open House - July 17

As part of the development cost charges review process, the City will host a public open house from 4 pm to 6:30 pm on Wednesday, July 17 in the Forum at City Hall. Presentations will be held promptly at 4 pm and 5:30 pm.

City Dates

July 11	Advisory Design Panel
July 15	Council and Committee of the Whole
July 17	Open House - Development Cost Charges
July 18	Advisory Planning Commission
August 5	Offices closed for BC Day statutory holiday
August 7	Council and Committee of the Whole
August 8	Advisory Design Panel
August 15	Advisory Planning Commission
August 19	Council and Committee of the Whole

The public is encouraged to attend Council and Committee of the Whole meetings held on the first and third Mondays of the month. The public is welcome to observe advisory committee meetings. Please refer to the website for agendas, dates and times.

How to Reach Council

MAYOR

Chris Burger.....250 954-4661

COUNCILLORS

Al Greir.....250 248-1285
 Marc Lefebvre250 248-2292
 Peter Morrison.....250 240-4050
 Bill Neufeld250 954-2063
 Sue Powell.....250 951-1082
 Carrie Powell-Davidson.....250 954-3758

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Twitter: twitter.com/city_parksville

Pinterest: pinterest.com/cityparksville

It's Your City is published in the PQB News on the second Tuesday of the month with a copy on the City's website. We are committed to improving communications with our residents and you can help by providing your comments and suggestions to 250 954-3073 or communications@parksville.ca.