

Function: Community & Protective Services - 02
Department: Fire Services - 040
Policy #: 015



Conducting Fire Training Evolutions and/or Live Fire Burns


Effective Date: March 9th, 2017

Review Date: March 9th, 2022

References:

Cancel: Policy 771: Conducting Fire Training Evolutions and/or Live Fire Burns

Resolution #: 122-17

CAO Signature: 

Purpose: To provide Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services with direction regarding performing Fire Training Evolutions (such as ice and water rescue) on privately owned properties, as well as requests to conduct Live Fire Burns in acquired structures, or for Wildland (areas of land that has not been cultivated, or is unfit for cultivation, or has been set aside and protected as a wilderness), grass or brush Live Fire Burns.

Policy Statement: The ability to host Fire Training Evolutions and/or Live Fire Burn training opportunities for Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services Members is a useful tool in honing the skills Firefighters require for real life emergencies. A policy ensures that approved procedure is in place for safety, liability, responsible training practices and environmental protection.

Scope: This policy applies to any Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn performed or requested within Lac Ste. Anne County borders.

Guidelines: The decision to conduct a Fire Training Evolution and/or a Live Fire Burn in a Hamlet or County subdivision or other privately-owned land, including Crown Land, as part of a training exercise (at no cost to the County), is approved by the County Fire Chief.

Training of Firefighters is addressed in Part 1 of the Alberta Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code under the definition of “competent” and in Section 15 of the OHS Regulation under “Safety Training”, as outlined below:

Safety Training

15(1) An employer must ensure that a worker is trained in the safe operation of the equipment the worker is required to operate.

15(2) An employer must ensure that the training referred to in Subsection (1) includes the following:

- a) the selection of the appropriate equipment;*
- b) the limitations of the equipment;*
- d) the use of the equipment;*
- h) the hazards specific to the operations of the equipment at the work site.*

Further, the Code of Practice for Firefighters, an application of OHS Code to Emergency Operations of the Fire Service in Alberta, outlines required training provided to a firefighter must:

- a) be provided before the firefighter is allowed to engage in emergency operations, except for on-the-job training assignments conducted under close supervision;*
- d) match the duties, functions and role that the firefighter is expected to perform;*
- e) address procedures required to perform operational assignments including sudden changes in conditions.*

The *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act* – Substance Release Regulation, Part 2 – Particulate Release, Section 8 – Maximum Concentrations, states:

(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to the release of particulates from the following sources:

- (d) fire used in firefighting training under the direction or with the consent of*

- (i) a municipal fire department,*
- (ii) the Provincial Fire Commissioner or his representative,*
- (iii) a director of a municipal disaster service agency under the Public Safety Services Act, or*
- (iv) a designated person for a plant,*
if the Director is notified in advance of the training.

When an acquired structure is involved, the County Fire Chief must be in receipt of a Live Fire Burn Plan at least three (3) business days prior to the anticipated Live Fire Burn. Additionally, the County Fire Chief shall notify the following entities of the anticipated Live Fire Burn at least two (2) business days prior to the anticipated Live Fire Burn:

1. Alberta Agriculture and Forestry, Forestry Division (formerly Alberta ESRD) (please note that this name is subject to change at any time):
 - a) First Call to Alberta Environment Call Centre at 1-800-222-6514;
 - b) Second Call to James Pokorski direct at 1-780-415-9371;
 - c) Third Call to Whitecourt Forest Area Office at 1-780-778-7272, or Duty Officer at 780-778-7265;
 - d) Alternate contact to Spruce Grove Office at 1-780-960-8600, or to Bruce Lang direct at 1-780-960-8621.
2. Alberta Transportation – **IF THE CONTROLLED BURN IS LOCATED WITHIN ½ MILE OF A PRIMARY OR SECONDARY HIGHWAY:**
 - a) 1-888-255-5554 (24 hour).

Fire Training Evolutions and/or Live Fire Burns must demonstrate tangible training value. To demonstrate tangible training value, consideration to conduct a Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn must be objective-based, and the property or structure must conform to pre-requisites for satisfying safe and competent completion of job performance requirements as outlined in the current edition of NFPA 1001 – Standard for Firefighter Professional Qualifications. For a Live Fire Burn, the structure must also be reasonably sound to complete interior operations, and not constitute any danger to public safety, while the Live Fire Burn is in progress.

All Live Fire Burn training in acquired structures must conform to the current edition of NFPA 1403 – Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions, and all conditions of this Standard must be adhered to.

As part of conformance to NFPA 1403, a Permission and Acknowledgement Form must be in place prior to any Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn being performed. This form gives permission to the Fire Station, and indemnifies and save harmless Lac Ste. Anne County and the Fire Services Fire Station(s) performing the Live Fire Burn. The form also defines and assigns the responsibility of site clean-up to the land owner / occupant. The Permission and Acknowledgement Form is attached as part of this Policy.

In addition to the Permission and Acknowledgement Form for the property in question, a Permission and Acknowledgement Form for the Adjacent Property(s) may be required to be in place prior to any Live Fire Burn being performed. The Permission and Acknowledgement for Adjacent Property Form is attached as part of this Policy.

Where necessary, the property(ies) will be added as an Additional Insured (AI) to the County's insurance policy for the duration of the Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn for insurance purposes. This will be done through the Permission and Acknowledgement Forms that form part of this policy.

Further to the requirement of the above-noted forms, a Live Fire Burn Plan Check List form, along with a Pre-Burn Plan must be in place prior to any Live Fire Burn being performed.

The conducting of Wildland, grass or brush Live Fire Burn training must be done in accordance with NFPA 1051 – Standard for Wildland Firefighter Professional Qualifications. As Lac Ste. Anne County shares its western border with the Whitecourt Wildfire Management Area, in addition to other Crown Land within the boundaries, notification to Alberta Environment and Alberta Agriculture and Forestry – Forestry Division is required prior to commencement of any Live Fire Burn training in these areas.

When a Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn is requested by Lac Ste. Anne County, regular remuneration of Firefighters will be paid for actual time on scene as per the current incident response policy.

When a Fire Training Evolution and/or Live Fire Burn is conducted for training requirements, as part of an accredited, certified or approved training

program, remuneration of Firefighters will be as per current training and remuneration policies.

Live Fire Burning is subject to Fire Bans, Fire Advisories (either County or Provincial imposed), and Forest Closures.

Lac Ste. Anne County Fire Services Department conducted Live Fire Burns are not subject to Fire Permitting.