



Okanagan Indian Band

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OKIB Fire Service Future Expansion

As you may be aware, the Okanagan Indian Band's Fire Department is moving towards achieving full certification status. This will provide our community with a greater amount of protection and cheaper insurance rates within the surrounding certified area. The application has been submitted to the BC underwriters and we expect to have the certification in the next month or so.

In March of 2021 the Okanagan Indian Band Fire Department signed a supplementary aid agreement with the Armstrong Spallumcheen Fire Department, which ensures a greater level of protection in case of a major fire event whereby the ASFD will respond on OKIB lands when they are needed.

Currently, we are actively working towards a second fire hall being constructed on band near the eagle rock aggregates entrance. This will allow for a faster and higher level of fire protection for the Head of the Lake and surrounding communities. We are aiming for a completion date of Spring 2023 for a new fire hall with full certification status which will drastically reduce insurance rates for the surrounding area.

The Okanagan Fire Department is also committed to up keeping a rigorous training regimen, which is focused on expanding the capabilities of our fire fighters through class based and weekly training guided by our very own accredited training officer to provide top level training to our Firefighting team. Currently, Our Fire fighting team is going through the NFPA 1001 training which is the professional grade training used by accredited fire departments. We are also hoping to add even more new recruits in the upcoming year ahead.

Lastly, we were able to upgrade our Fire Apparatus, Engine 1's 500 GPM pump with a more modern and powerful 750 GPM pump which makes it eligible for certification status, a nearly \$45,000 cost made possible through funding our Fire Department through Fire Service Agreements. These funds allow us to introduce better equipment and training which allows better safety for our entire community.

Sincerely,

Michael Fotheringham, MPA
Executive Director (Interim)
Okanagan Indian Band