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**Technical Information  
Document**

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# **FIRE PROTECTION**

RPS for INAC  
TID-FP-01  
October 2000

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## **Foreword**

This technical information document (TID) is written for First Nation (FN) community leaders, DIAND managers and funding officers responsible for negotiating and managing fire protection funding agreements. It is intended to give the reader a basic understanding of what is involved in provision of fire protection services.

## **Policy and Standards**

Policy and standards related to fire protection services in First Nation communities are addressed in the DIAND Corporate Manuals System (CMS) policy document “Capital Facilities and Maintenance - Fire Protection Services.” The Levels of Service Standard established for community fire protection services are included in the CMS policy document.

## **Scope**

This document focuses on a typical self-contained community with 400 to 1000 inhabitants; single and multi-family housing; usually, but not always, a piped water supply; and community buildings such as schools, offices, seniors residences, and recreational facilities. Note: Currently, many off-reserve community fire departments are combining fire protection with other community emergency services (e.g. hazardous material response, rescue, ambulance). This document refers only to the fire protection component of this type of combined service.

## **Responsibilities**

The document is meant to inform and reflect good practice. It is not a policy document, nor does it establish any obligations on the part of individuals, organizations, departments, or First Nation communities.

# Part 1: Fire Protection

## 1.1 General

Fire protection involves a service comprised of fire suppression (fire fighting) and related activities (education, prevention, engineering and inspection) designed to keep fires from starting.

Fire suppression is a necessary and important component of fire protection in every community. Suppression involves fighting (e.g. putting out) and controlling fires. Almost all FN community fire deaths are the result of fires in the home. There are a number of contributing factors to explain why fires are usually well advanced before the fire department responds. These factors include:

- fires are usually well advanced before they are reported;
- fire departments are staffed with volunteers, making response time dependent on fire fighters who must be available and must respond from the local area;
- fire fighters must pick up fire apparatus and accessory equipment from the fire hall before travelling to the fire site; and
- many communities have homes dispersed over a wide area.

The most effective way to lower the number of deaths caused by fires is to prevent fires from taking place in the home. In addition to saving lives, the prevention of fires reduces property losses and reduces insurance costs. Therefore, it is important that a community's overall strategy for fire protection includes, along with fire suppression, provision and emphasis on fire prevention, education, engineering and inspection. There is a requirement for a balanced fire protection program, and it is recommended that funding agreements with First Nations reflect this need.

## **Part 2: Fire Prevention**

### **2.1 Smoke Detectors**

The single most effective way to reduce fire deaths in First Nation communities is to use smoke detectors. Smoke detectors have been proven extremely effective in warning of fires. They are inexpensive and easy to install. The latest edition of the *Canadian Building Code* requires that smoke detectors be wired directly into a house's electrical wiring system. Older homes must use battery systems. Community leaders should: encourage the use of smoke detectors in all homes and encourage the regular replacement of batteries in battery-operated units.

### **2.2 Residential Sprinklers**

Residential sprinklers (a sprinkler system built directly into the house), used in conjunction with smoke detectors, are very effective not only for saving lives but also in reducing the extent of property loss. A number of cities and municipalities in the USA and Canada have adopted the mandatory use of residential sprinklers in their building codes. However, residential sprinklers are costly and must be properly maintained once they are installed.

### **2.3 General Fire Prevention**

Examples of fire prevention activities which can be supported at the community level include: participation in National Fire Prevention Week, promotion of the use of smoke detectors and fire extinguishers in the home, training and/or provision of information on the safe installation and use of heating apparatus' (e.g. wood stoves and chimney sweeping), placing community fire prevention messages in newspapers and TV, spring cleanup campaigns, and distributing fire prevention information in homes, schools, and shopping centres.

## Part 3: Fire Education

### 3.1 Teachers

Along with parents, teachers have a great influence on students. In particular, teachers can provide formal fire education. As an example, the *Learn Not To Burn Curriculum* is an internationally acclaimed course which can be directly integrated into other subjects to avoid straining available teaching time. As well as the *Learn Not To Burn Curriculum*, there are other good courses and materials teachers may use. Teachers can invite fire professionals to talk to the students, participate in fire protection promotional activities -- such as the National Fire Protection Poster Contest -- and set a good example by following fire prevention practices in the daily school operation and activities. There are many documented cases where children who have received training have reacted properly when confronted with real fire situations.

# Part 4: Engineering and Inspection

## 4.1 Fire Inspection

Fire inspections can be considered to be of three types or levels of complexity.

The first type of inspection should be carried out periodically in schools and major First Nation buildings by a trained building fire inspector. This inspector will provide a thorough inspection of the building's fire detection and suppression systems, check for building code violations including fire-safe construction and materials, identify fire hazards which may exist, check that escape routes are not locked or blocked, etc. Under an existing agreement and upon the invitation of the First Nation, Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) will provide these inspections in schools on a two-and-a-half year cycle and in major band buildings every five years. There is no direct charge to the First Nation for this service.

The second type of inspection, less comprehensive than the first, is carried out by a person with suitable training in fire inspection (often the fire chief will have one or two of his or her volunteer fire fighters trained). These inspectors can do excellent work including annual inspections in schools and in the larger buildings where they can follow up on the observations made by HRDC and identify any new fire hazards or conditions which may have developed since the HRDC inspection. As well, these inspectors can ensure that bylaws involving safe building operations (in rinks, recreational centres, etc.) are being followed. Communities can also make their inspectors available to go into homes to identify fire hazards and educate the residents on fire protection.

The third level of fire inspection is done by the individual responsible for a building and by the home occupant. These inspections are done periodically (spring, fall, winter) and consist of general cleanup, getting rid of improperly stored hazardous materials, and ensuring heating systems are safe. An important part of the process involves checking smoke detectors. Along with practising day-to-day fire prevention, these inspections will eliminate many fire hazards and help save lives.

Community leaders should ensure that necessary follow-ups on fire inspections are done. Without follow-up, fire inspections lose effectiveness.

## 4.2 Fire Engineering

Fire engineering is a concern when a First Nation is constructing a new school or a major building. There is a need to ensure that the design consultant and builders are following all the applicable fire-related codes, using approved fire-resistant materials, and building a fire-safe structure. The verification needed should be provided by an engineering specialist, and in the best interests of a good quality assurance program, it should be done by an independent third party. As part of the existing agreement with HRDC, professional engineers from that department will examine building drawings during their preparation, visit the construction site, and participate in inspecting the building before it is taken over from the contractor (this is particularly useful in checking water volumes and pressure, smoke detection, sprinkler, and water connection systems). In order to insure that the work is done effectively, HRDC should be aware of the project early in the project planning phase. Similar to the inspection service provided by HRDC, there is no charge to the First Nation, however the service must be requested on a project-by-project basis.

# Part 5: Fire Suppression

## 5.1 Leadership

Knowledge and experience in fire suppression are important qualifications for the fire chief to possess. While this background is important, community leaders should be aware that a person with good leadership skills and qualifications can be trained, and can gain experience as time goes on.

The fire chief or a delegated trained fire officer provides leadership and direction at the scene of a fire. Along with this basic and important responsibility, the fire chief should carry out the following:

- Recruit volunteers (e.g fire fighters);
- Ensure fire fighters receive as a minimum a course for entry level fire fighters;
- Schedule on going training for all fire fighters (personnel development, specialized courses, weekly training sessions in the fire hall);
- Lead by example, motivate fire fighters and build morale so as to decrease turn-over rates.

## 5.2 Training

Fire suppression is dangerous, difficult work that can result in serious injury or death. Exposure to heat, smoke, chemicals, falls, building collapses, and psychological stress are among the threats that fire fighters are faced with on a regular basis.

Training is one of the key items which should be of concern to the fire chief. Community leaders can, to a great extent, gauge the health of their fire department by the support for and participation in training activities.

All fire fighters must receive a basic fire fighter course. Different provinces, cities, national and international organizations set somewhat different standards for this training. Aside from the fact that this training should reflect the needs and conditions the fire fighters may face, it is important that a standard be adopted and maintained.

In addition to basic fire fighter training, there are numerous other courses available such as specialized courses on fire fighting equipment and materials, fire fighting techniques, fire prevention, fire inspection, and fire education, as well as courses for fire chiefs, fire officers, and fire safety officers.

Weekly sessions conducted at the fire hall are a very important element of the training program. These sessions are designed to familiarize fire fighters with equipment and techniques. Through practice, fire fighters learn to be proficient and quick. As well, the fire chief and his or her crew use this time to learn to act as a team, exchange information, and repair and keep equipment in top functional order.

### **5.3 Municipal Type Agreements**

Fire suppression vehicles and related equipment or training can be expensive to buy and maintain. Small communities may not have the resources to purchase all these items. Even a well equipped community cannot be sure there are sufficient vehicles, equipment, or trained personnel to handle every possible emergency. It may be necessary to look for other ways to add to or provide fire suppression.

The fire fighting capability that exists in neighbouring communities can be a very important part of the First Nation's fire protection program. A First Nation can enter into a contractual arrangement with another community to receive fire suppression services (municipal type agreements). These agreements can be reached based on what is needed, what is reasonable, and what can be agreed to by the parties involved. The formal agreement can involve simple prearranged payment for services provided, or it can involve various degrees of sharing or other cooperative arrangements.

In addition to formal agreements, many neighbouring communities assist each other through Mutual Aid Agreements. Municipal type agreements and related forms of cooperation among communities are often referred to in the fire protection community as "mutual aid". These can include fire suppression, but can also involve areas such as specialized training and the use of special equipment. Good working relationships among the fire chiefs is a key part of fostering inter-community cooperation. Cooperation among local governments is beneficial for all citizens.

### **5.4 Water Supply and Equipment**

It is an important part of the fire chief's planning and training to identify suitable and adequate sources of water for fire suppression. These sources of water can be a tank on a fire pumper or a water delivery truck, a piped water distribution system, a direct access to a lake or river, cistern, etc. Maintenance and repair of the water supply system as well as equipment, vehicles, tools, hoses, structures, and delivery systems are essential.

The fire chief should cooperate with the person responsible for maintaining the water distribution system to make sure that the system equipment is operational and can deliver water when needed. The main components of a piped distribution system for fire protection are the hydrant, the emergency fire pump at the water treatment facility and the water reservoir. An important factor in fire fighting is the minimum water pressure in the distribution system.

## **5.5 Hydrant Maintenance**

Fire hydrants need periodic maintenance. Maintenance work consists of checks on the equipment (to ensure valves work, etc.), and ensuring the hydrants are empty of water to prevent freeze up in winter. During the winter, hydrants can be filled with non-toxic anti-freeze specifically formulated for hydrant protection. It is important that the proper antifreeze be used to prevent the risk of contaminating the water distribution system. Also, hydrants should not be left buried under snow.

Emergency fire pumps need regular maintenance according to the manufacturer's recommended schedule. This normally includes periodic running of the equipment. The water reservoir should have sufficient capacity to store a volume of water adequate for fire suppression.

## **Part 6: Level of Service**

### **6.1 Objective**

As noted in the Levels of Service Standard, DIAND's intent is to fund levels of service which are comparable to the levels of fire protection services available in similar neighbouring communities.

### **6.2 Fire Suppression Equipment**

Different communities have different fire suppression needs. A number of factors such as the community (i.e. leaders and members) commitment to fire suppression, the overall proficiency and availability of fire suppression services, fire loads, availability of a reliable source of water, condition of roads and bridges, severity and extremes in climate, the distances between buildings, and the existence and types of fire hazards, all go into determining what equipment the community reasonably needs to provide fire protection.

Due to the range of differences among communities (e.g. what is needed and practical) a fire protection specialist should study the situation and define what is required. In the majority of cases, the level of service described in Appendix A of the Levels of Service Standard can be expected to apply. A minority of the First Nation communities (e.g. the very largest, those adjoining other communities or having unusual geographic features) will require careful analysis before decisions can be made. Judgement on what is reasonable in terms of need and funding support must be based on knowledgeable and unbiased advice.

# Part 7: Fire Loss Reporting

## 7.1 Policy and Authorities

Treasury Board (TB) Policy and the associated investigation and reporting requirements regarding the management of fire loss risk are stated in the TB publication *Management of Risk (Risk Management)*, Chapter 2-5: *Policy on Fire Protection, Investigation and Reporting*.

*Note: This Treasury Board publication is no longer available in print but is on the Internet. The uniform resource locator (address) is:*

[http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs\\_pol/dcgpubs/RiskManagement/CHAP2-5\\_e.html](http://www.tbs-sct.gc.ca/pubs_pol/dcgpubs/RiskManagement/CHAP2-5_e.html)

*A print out from the Internet may be obtained from DIAND or RPS for INAC regional offices.*

## 7.2 Reporting Requirements

DIAND is responsible for preparing an *Annual National Fire Loss Report* from the information provided by First Nations. The level of accuracy of the report is based on the information received from FN which includes fire fatalities, fire injuries, property losses, and details of major fire incidents. The *Annual National Fire Loss Report* satisfies TB reporting requirements and provides data to support management decision making.

## **Part 8: Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC)**

### **8.1 Responsibilities and Reporting**

TB has delegated to HRDC (formerly referred to as Labour Canada) responsibility and authority to regulate and manage fire protection related activity on behalf of the Federal Government. Details regarding this delegation are contained in the TB publication *Management of Risk (Risk Management)*, Chapter 2-5: *Policy on Fire Protection, Investigation and Reporting*. For further details see section 7.1 *Policy and Authorities*. Consequently, DIAND submits the *Annual National Fire Loss Report* to HRDC and deals with them on fire protection related issues.

### **8.2 Major First Nation Public Buildings**

Most major First Nation public buildings have been turned over to First Nations, and the department considers responsibility for the management and operation of these structures as resting with First Nations. Since these structures are not considered “federal buildings”, they are not eligible for services provided by HRDC (*Note: See Sections 4.1 Fire Inspection and 4.2 Fire Engineering services*). However, to address this situation, in August, 1990, TB approved a three-party agreement (i.e. between TB, DIAND, and HRDC) for HRDC to provide fire protection engineering and inspection services for these types of buildings. These services are provided upon the request of the First Nation and are subject to availability of HRDC staff. There are no charges to First Nations for these services.

### **8.3 Fire Inspection**

As noted in Section 4.1, HRDC will provide fire protection inspection services for major public First Nation buildings. This inspection provides a thorough inspection of the building's fire detection and suppression systems, checks for building code violations including fire-safe construction and materials, identification of fire hazards which may exist, checks to determine if escape routes are locked or blocked, etc. This service provides for the inspections to be repeated on a two-and-one-half year cycle for schools and a five year cycle for other major First Nation public buildings.

A well run community fire protection program needs additional inspections to supplement those carried out by HRDC. Those inspections should include annual inspections to follow up on HRDC observations and special inspections involving high risk situations. Additionally, an inspection program for individual homes should be integrated into the community's fire protection program.

It is recommended that funding agreements with First Nations address the need for regular fire inspections and the necessary follow up corrective action.

## 8.4 Fire Engineering

Similar to fire protection inspection services, HRDC will, when requested by First Nations, provide fire protection engineering services for major First Nation public buildings. This service involves the construction of a new school or other major public First Nation building. Prior to tendering, HRDC will review the drawings and specifications of the building to ensure that the design consultant has followed all the applicable fire related codes, specified approved fire resistant materials, etc. As well, arrangements can be made with HRDC staff to visit the site during construction and participate in commissioning of the building (e.g. a process which involves checking smoke detection and sprinkler systems, water volumes and pressures etc. before the building is accepted from the contractor). HRDC should be contacted early to ensure services are provided on a timely basis.

Similar to fire protection inspections, it is recommended the requirement for fire protection engineering be addressed in applicable funding agreements.

## 8.5 HRDC Contacts

Noting that HRDC regions may overlap provincial and territorial boundaries in the provision of their services, HRDC may be contacted as follows:

- Atlantic Regional Director's office (902) 426-7157
- Quebec Regional Director's office (614) 283-1385
- Ontario Regional Director's office (416) 954-2877
- Manitoba Regional Director's office (204) 983-7249
- Alberta Regional Director's office (403) 495-2999
- BC Regional Director's office (604) 666-2344

## Part 9: Resources

### 9.1 DIAND Funding

Funding to assist in the delivery of fire protection programs is made available by DIAND. DIAND Headquarters makes capital and O&M funding for fire protection available to the DIAND regions through the following arrangements:

- (a) An O&M allocation is made to fund fire protection activities and programs. This allotment is based on the total number of First Nation houses which exist in a region;
- (b) Based on funding factors contained in the Capital Facilities and Maintenance, Operation and Maintenance Policy, or any subsequent revision, an O&M funding allocation is made for buildings and water distribution systems which may include components designed to provide fire protection based on the recognized hazards in the latest edition of the building code (e.g. fire warning systems, detection systems, sprinkler systems, emergency lights, booster pumps, hydrants, emergency power generators);
- (c) An O&M funding allocation is made for the O&M of buildings and vehicles specifically related to fire protection services (i.e. fire halls, fire trucks). This allocation is based on CAIS information and applicable funding factors;
- (d) An O&M funding allocation is made available for approved municipal type agreements (MTAs) for fire suppression services. MTAs are normally used where it is practical and economical to use this approach. *Note: these agreements are usually for less than a complete fire protection service as they often pertain to fire suppression only;*
- (e) Capital funding is provided for the initial purchase or construction of fire trucks, fire fighting equipment, and fire halls;
- (f) DIAND Headquarters and regions may also set aside funding for fire protection promotional activities (e.g. fire fighter competition and children's poster contest) and other activities aimed at supporting First Nation fire protection development or organizational activities. This funding is identified on a year-to-year or case-by-case basis.

In general, DIAND regional funding arrangements with First Nations or First Nation organizations reflect the funding criteria used by Headquarters. Individual regions choose a differing formula to distribute fire protection funding to reflect local needs and conditions. The majority of the larger capital purchases (e.g. fire trucks, fire halls) cost less than \$500,000 and fall within most regional definitions of minor capital. Therefore, in many cases, First Nations are expected to set priorities and fund projects that they consider appropriate. Some regions may choose to operate on a cost sharing basis with a First Nation -- this is particularly so in situations where the communities are small and the discretionary capital available to them is limited.

## 9.2 Organizations and Associations

There is one national and several regional aboriginal fire protection organizations across Canada. A number of the regional groups are very active and provide a wide range of services including fire fighter training, fire investigation, and liaison with other fire protection organizations. These organizations are dedicated to reducing fire losses in First Nation communities, and as such, community leaders should support and look to them for assistance and advice.

In addition to First Nation organizations, there are other regional, national, and international organizations and associations which support and promote fire protection. These groups provide excellent support in the form of information, lobbying, resource sharing, acting as a sounding board for ideas, and provision of moral support and encouragement. Community leaders should support and encourage those actively involved in fire protection (e.g. fire chief, fire fighters, teachers who provide fire education) to participate in those organizations and groups. There are also other organized groups, who directly or indirectly contribute to fire prevention (e.g. those who promote the safe and efficient use of wood or natural gas as heating sources, those who promote the application of building related codes).

The following are a few examples of fire protection organizations which could be of interest to First Nation communities:

- Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) (See Section 8)
- First Nations Emergency Services Society, British Columbia - (604) 669-7305
- Manitoba Association of Native Fire Fighters Inc. - (204) 949-9061
- Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation - (416) 651-1443
- Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society - (807) 274 9679
- Aboriginal Firefighters Association of Canada - (514) 632 2010
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), NFPA Headquarters - (617) 770-3000
- International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA), may be contacted through Fire Protection Publications, Oklahoma State University - (405) 945-9154

## 9.3 Bylaws

First Nation communities are not automatically subject to the same codes, standards and regulatory requirements as other communities within a province. To protect the health and safety of persons and property, First Nation community leaders must ensure that this gap is filled. One of the ways to accomplish this is with the adoption of bylaws.

One of the first considerations for bylaws should be the compulsory application of the *National Building Code* and *National Fire Code*. This will go a long way in ensuring building and housing construction and operation are carried out in a manner which conforms to safe fire protection practices. Along with these two codes, or alternative code adopted, regulatory requirements and practices specifically designed for the community can be adopted. Specific advice should be obtained on what bylaws are needed. ?????

Bylaws are of no use unless they have consistent and adequate enforcement by the First Nation administration.

## 9.4 Fire Insurance

A key consideration is that the Federal Government does not insure buildings or other assets that it has funded in whole or in part. Fire insurance as it relates to the replacement of community owned buildings and homes should be considered as part of the community's overall fire protection strategy since fire losses can mean long delays in obtaining adequate replacements.

## 9.5 Other Sources

In addition to the funding and resources referred to above, there are other sources of support which communities can draw upon. These include such things as:

- Occasionally commercial organizations like Canadian Tire or Canada Trust have promotions whereby they provide support to communities for fire prevention and education (the *Learn Not to Burn Curriculum*);
- Many cities, larger towns, and provincial fire marshal/commissioners have fire protection training materials or programs that they are willing to share free of charge or at cost; and
- Community oriented groups will, from time to time, take on a fire protection activity or provide some level of financial support.

# Part 10: Community Responsibilities

## 10.1 Community Leaders

More than anyone, community leaders must understand the vital role played by the different groups and individuals in the community. Community leaders have many demands on their time and energy. There are also many demands on the financial resources available to the community. It is important that what is done to support fire protection is efficient, resourceful, and practical.

Every community's needs are site specific. It is important to tailor the overall community fire protection program to reflect reality. Volunteers and community commitment are essential. Effective education, prevention, inspection, and engineering programs can be run at relatively low cost.

The following are activities community leaders can do to support fire protection:

- Provide the fire protection program with reasonable funding. Take the position that fire protection is an essential community service;
- Promote fire protection as an important part of community life and provide encouragement and a public "thank you" to those involved. Do not forget teachers, elders, and youth groups. In particular recognize that fire fighters have a dangerous, difficult, and often thankless job;
- Choose and develop good fire chiefs;
- Ensure fire protection bylaws are in place and enforced;
- Ensure arrangements are put in place to keep apparatus, equipment and systems such as trucks, fire halls, emergency power generators, water mains, fire booster pumps, hydrants, and emergency lighting well maintained and in operational condition;
- Ensure the community utilizes fire inspection and engineering services available from Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC);
- Ensure community members are reminded on a regular basis that as individuals and groups they have a responsibility for the fire safety of themselves, their families, and the community as a whole;
- Recognize fire protection as a cooperative effort which is local, provincial, national, and international in scope. Network with other community leaders on matters related to fire protection, and encourage the fire chief to participate in fire protection associations and groups; and
- Promote the idea that while fire suppression requires a level of physical ability, equally important fire prevention, education, and inspection services can be provided by a wide group of people.

## 10.2 Fire Chief

In choosing a fire chief it is important to select someone who is motivated to provide community service. Along with self-motivation, it is important that the fire chief has the respect of those in the community, and that he or she can motivate others and keep them interested. Community leaders should ensure that their fire chief places emphasis on fire prevention and education. The fire chief must have a vision of what he or she wants the community fire protection service to be. The duties of a fire chief can involve periods of extreme activity, danger, and stress. However, the on-going week-to-week routine requires a person who can also carry out the very important but less glamorous work.

Along with responsibility for fire suppression (covered in Section 5 -Fire Suppression), the fire chief administers and manages fire department activities (e.g. reporting, budgeting, inventory control). As well, the fire chief should be involved with, and coordinate, any fire investigation which may be needed as a result of a fire. Many fire chiefs provide leadership and input into community fire prevention, education, and inspection programs. It is important that a fire chief be able to delegate and develop expertise in others.

## 10.3 Elders

Elders can pass on an attitude and expectation that fire protection is everyone's responsibility. They can advise that the loss of life and property due to preventable fires is unacceptable.

## 10.4 Youth

The youth are the largest group in most communities, and they are the most receptive to new and better ways of doing things. They can have a very positive influence on their peers and parents. They are the adults of tomorrow who must be exposed to the attitudes and information needed to live in fire safe communities.

## 10.5 Adults and Parents

Adults and parents have a number of fire protection responsibilities. These include:

- Always ensuring small children are supervised. Providing a good example and encouraging older children to develop a fire-safe lifestyle;
- Keeping homes fire-safe by eliminating fire hazards and practising fire prevention; and
- Being involved in the community (taking a direct leadership role in fire protection, volunteering as a fire fighter, fund raising, and volunteering to assist in fire education, prevention or inspection).

# Part 11: Assistance and Advice

## 11.1 First Nations

First Nations must deal with specific operational or technical questions which may arise as they manage and deliver fire protection services to their communities. To provide the needed assistance and in addition to the financial assistance specifically referred to in this TID, First Nations have the following resources available:

- First Nation communities, like the majority of similarly sized communities, must depend on individual community volunteers who contribute and take an interest and leadership role in community fire protection;
- National and international agencies and associations are available and anxious to have individuals or groups join, participate in their activities, and make use of their services. Examples of these organizations include provincial fire marshal/commissioner and fire chiefs organizations, the Canadian Fire Chief and Fire Marshal Associations, the National Fire Protection Association (commonly referred to as the NFPA), and the International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA);
- Each province has consultants and suppliers which specialize in various fire protection services;
- First Nations have organized their own fire protection associations and groups. These include the Aboriginal Fire Fighters Association of Canada and a number of provincially based groups.

At the time this TID was being prepared the following were active organizations:

- First Nations Emergency Services Society, British Columbia (604) 669-7305;
- Manitoba Association of Native Fire Fighters Inc (204) 949-9061;
- Ontario First Nations Technical Services Corporation (416) 651-1443;
- Ontario Native Fire Fighters Society (807) 274 9679

*Note: DIAND managers and funding officers can provide First Nations with advice on matters related to funding arrangements. Under the DIAND capacity building initiative, briefings and/or courses can be organized for community leaders. Information is available from the local RPS for INAC unit on how this may be arranged.*

## 11.2 DIAND

DIAND managers and funding officers are required to manage funding agreements with First Nations and provide them with advice and assistance regarding funding criteria. To fulfil this responsibility, it is desirable to have a fundamental understanding of the issues involved and to have the knowledge needed to address situations which may arise. In addition to the Fire Directive, and this TID, the following resources can be utilized for this purpose:

- briefings and courses on fire protection which are specifically designed for First Nation community leaders and DIAND managers and/or funding officers. The information contained in these packages is designed to give the manager and funding officers a fundamental understanding of what is involved in fire protection; and
- RPS for INAC can provide service or advice. This is done through in-house Public Works Government Services Canada (PWGSC) expertise, use of consultants, or liaison with other government or First Nation organizations.

## **Part 12: National Inventory**

### **12.1 CAIS and ACRS**

DIAND maintains a complete inventory of funded fire protection apparatus and buildings (e.g. fire trucks and fire halls) on CAIS. Information relating to the quantities and locations of this material can be obtained from this data system.

As well as quantitative information, the ACRS provides data on the condition (e.g. level of maintenance) of funded fire protection apparatus and buildings.

The Housing and Infrastructure file in CAMS provides information on fire loads and the adequacy of fire suppression capability at the community level.

## Summary

Fire protection consists of fire prevention, education, inspection, engineering and suppression. A balanced and comprehensive community fire protection program is important. This should be reflected in funding arrangements with First Nations.

DIAND provides First Nations with capital, O&M, and special project funding in support of on-reserve fire protection services. Inventories and the condition of fire apparatus and fire halls are recorded in the CAIS and ACRS.

TB sets fire protection related policy, and this central agency has delegated to HRDC the responsibility to regulate fire protection on behalf of the Federal Government. Subject to this direction, DIAND is required to make annual and major fire incident reports to HRDC. As well, HRDC, under a special agreement, provides First Nations with fire inspection and engineering services.

Advice and assistance for First Nations is available from a number of associations, organizations, and consultants who specialize in fire protection. As well, RPS for INAC can arrange courses and briefings on fire protection which are designed for the needs of First Nation community leaders and DIAND managers.

# Glossary

<b>Capital Asset Inventory System (CAIS)</b>	The information contained in CAIS is designed to accept, aggregate and report base level information regarding on-reserve capital assets.
<b>Capital Asset Management System (CAMS)</b>	The electronic database management system used by DIAND to store, retrieve, and manipulate information related to First Nation infrastructure, buildings, and housing.
<b>Community Leaders</b>	Community leaders are those who provide a First Nation with leadership, management, and direction. This group includes such elected or hired persons as the chief, the councillors, the band manager and the fire chief.
<b>Fire Education</b>	Fire education includes training programs specifically designed to inform community members, typically children and seniors, on fire protection matters.
<b>Fire Inspection</b>	The periodic examination of buildings to determine if construction, maintenance and operation conform to applicable fire safety codes, standards and regulatory requirements.
<b>Fire Load</b>	The amount of existing combustible material and the potential rate at which combustion may take place.
<b>Fire Loss</b>	A general term which includes deaths, injuries, and property damage or destruction due to fire.
<b>Fire Prevention</b>	Activities which are purposely carried out to prevent fires from occurring.
<b>Fire Protection</b>	The protection of life and safety of persons and properties from fire.
<b>Fire Suppression (fire fighting)</b>	The extinguishing and controlling of fire, commonly referred to as fire fighting.
<b>Funding Factor</b>	A ratio or percentage, varying from 20 to 100 percent applied to the Gross Funding Requirement (GFR) for calculating the Net Funding Requirement (NFR). <i>See also GFR.</i>
<b>Gross Funding Requirement (GFR)</b>	The average annual cost required to operate and maintain a capital asset to generally accepted standards. <i>See also NFR.</i>
<b>Levels of Service Standard (LOSS)</b>	Levels of service standard are defined in terms of organization, training, programs, buildings, vehicles, infrastructure and equipment for which DIAND may provide financial support.
<b>Maintenance (M)</b>	The regular or periodic work performed on an asset to preserve it in as near to its original condition as is practical.
<b>Major Fire Incidents</b>	As defined by the Treasury Board, these are individual fires where the property loss includes damage or destruction valued at \$250,000 or more.
<b>Major First Nation Public Buildings</b>	First Nation operated buildings accessible and/or used by the public. These include, schools, First Nation offices, and community buildings.

<b>Municipal Type Agreement (MTA)</b>	An agreement usually between DIAND or the First Nation and another federal department, provincial/municipal/city/town government, private contractor; individual, or other official organization.
<b>Net Funding Requirement (NFR)</b>	The amount of money, subject to availability, varying between 20 and 100% of the GFR, that DIAND provides to First Nations as a subsidy for the O&M funding of a capital asset.
<b>Operation (O)</b>	The performance of work or services and the provision of materials and energy to ensure the day-to-day proper functioning of an asset.
<b>Qualified Professional or Specialist</b>	An individual who has the required specialized training and/or professional qualifications in various aspects of fire protection services.