

## Firehall FAQs

### Why do we need a new firehall?

- The current hall is 60 years old. That, by itself, does not warrant a new hall but there are other considerations such as safety and fiscal prudence.
- The building does not provide any health and safety protection for the firefighters through the separation of zones: red (contaminated/apparatus bay), yellow (partially decontaminated/locker room), and green (clean/offices), each with separate HVAC systems utilizing positive and negative pressure to prevent cross-contamination from one zone to another.
- The bay doors are not wide enough or high enough to accommodate today's apparatus. Instead, all heavy vehicle apparatus must be purchased with a custom chassis, at a premium ranging between \$100,000 to \$200,000.
- Historically, firefighting apparatus has been replaced every 20 years (NFPA suggested protocol) on a 5-year rotational basis. Currently there are four trucks requiring custom chassis. Being able to purchase stock trucks will save \$400,000 to \$800,000 over a 20-year period.
- The list of building deficiencies is extensive: inadequate storage space for hoses, other equipment, rescue boats; inadequate space to work on or wash apparatus in the building; location of communications room does not provide view of entire apparatus floor; compressor room poorly located with no exhaust; apparatus must be moved out of building before hoses can be washed; inadequate hose drying area; inadequate HVAC system; HVAC system does not meet requirements for four seasons; etc.
- The new building will include space for the Village office and meeting room, eliminating the need to pay rent to another party.

### The Commission already has the property on Central Street. Why not build there?

- 85 years ago, when the fire station was first built, the Central Street location was perfect: the fire service area was the Village; the firefighters were Villagers; and the location was in the middle of the fire service area - halfway between North Street and South Street, halfway between the east harbour and the west harbour.
- 60 years ago, after the hall burned down, Central Street was still considered an appropriate location.
- Today, the fire and emergency services area is no longer just the Village but extends from Middle River in the west to Little East River in the east and N and NE along Highway 14 to the West Hants/HRM border. (See attached map)
- Time is THE Number One criterion when responding to any fire or emergency.
- Most of the CVFD firefighters today live and work outside the Village. These responders must use additional time, and care, travelling through a residential zone to reach the hall in the middle of the Village, and again in many cases, to get back to North Street, their main east-west artery, while having to negotiate two potentially dangerous intersections on the way out.
- In the spring, summer and fall, the 20-foot+/- paved surface of Central Street is narrowed by grounds maintenance vehicles and parking. In the winter, the prohibited use of road salt makes for a snow-packed/icy road surface and, therefore, hazardous driving conditions.

# MUNICIPALITY OF CHESTER FIRE DISTRICTS

- Legend**
- Chester Municipal Fire Districts
  - Blandford Volunteer Fire Department
  - Chester Area Fire Department
  - Chester Basin Volunteer Fire Department
  - Hubbards Central Fire Department
  - Martins River Volunteer Fire Department
  - New Ross Volunteer Fire Department
  - Western Shore & District Fire Department
  - Municipal Boundaries
  - Water
  - Major Highways
  - Roads
  - Fire Stations



Sources:  
Digital BaseMap Data from Service  
Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations

Prepared by Chester Municipality of  
the District of Chester

Coordinate System/Datum:  
UTM NAD83 CSRS ZONE 20N

Map Disclaimer:  
Information shown on these drawings  
is compiled from numerous sources and  
may not be complete or accurate. The  
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or deficiencies in these drawings.



Scale: 1:250,000

**CVFD AREA 2021**  
**CVFD AREA 1936**

