

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 Municipality of the District of Chester is not responsible for any errors, omissions or deficiencies in these drawings.

CVFD AREA 2021

CVFD AREA 1936

