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# Council Policy

## Off-Airport Responses by Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services (ARFF)

APPROVED July 8, 1991

RESOLUTION: R375/10/04/26  
 REPLACING: R762/07/08/07; R651/00/07/24; S1089/1991/07/08  
 DATE OF LAST REVIEW: April 2010

### A. PURPOSE

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To detail the essential guidelines for providing optimum response to off-airport aviation accidents.

### B. POLICY

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Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services (ARFF) will respond to off-airport aviation accidents, as outlined herein.

### C. RESPONSE GUIDELINES

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#### 1. Critical Firefighting Access Area (CFAA)

Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services will automatically respond to all aviation related accidents off-airport within that rectangular area surrounding the runway extending 150 m (approximately 500 ft.) on each side of the centerline and 1,000 m (approximately 3,300 ft.) beyond each threshold, which Transport Canada has designated as the Critical Firefighting Access Area.

#### 2. Outside CFAA - Within 3.2km of Airport

Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services will respond to aviation related accidents in this area based on the following factors:

1. Timeliness of access from the airport;
2. Can a useful service be rendered;
3. The status of airport operations.

In readily accessible situations close to the airport all manpower and equipment would respond. In situations at the periphery of this area, a minimum of one aircraft fire fighting vehicle and one firefighter should remain on the airport. The 3.2km response area is shown on the attached area map.

#### 3. Beyond 3.2km from the Airport

Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services will only respond outside 3.2km with the approval of the Airport Director and normally only at the request of the appropriate municipal agency such as Kelowna Fire Department or the R.C.M.P. Outside normal business hours, authorization will be obtained via the published call-out procedure.

4. In situations where Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services responds under paragraph 3.2 and is the initial agency at the scene of an aviation accident, Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services will initiate fire suppression and rescue and assume incident command until formally relieved by a senior official of the municipal fire service having jurisdiction.

**D. APPLICATION**

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1. This policy will only apply to the hours of operation of the Airport's Rescue & Firefighting Services as published in the Canada Flight Supplement and amended from time to time by NOTAM (Notice to Airmen).
2. This policy will not apply to water rescue accidents which will be the sole responsibility of the appropriate municipal fire service.
3. This policy will only apply to those jurisdictions that are party to the Central Okanagan Regional District Mutual Aid Agreement dated December 30th, 1988.

**E. REDUCED AIRPORT EMERGENCY SERVICES CAPABILITY**

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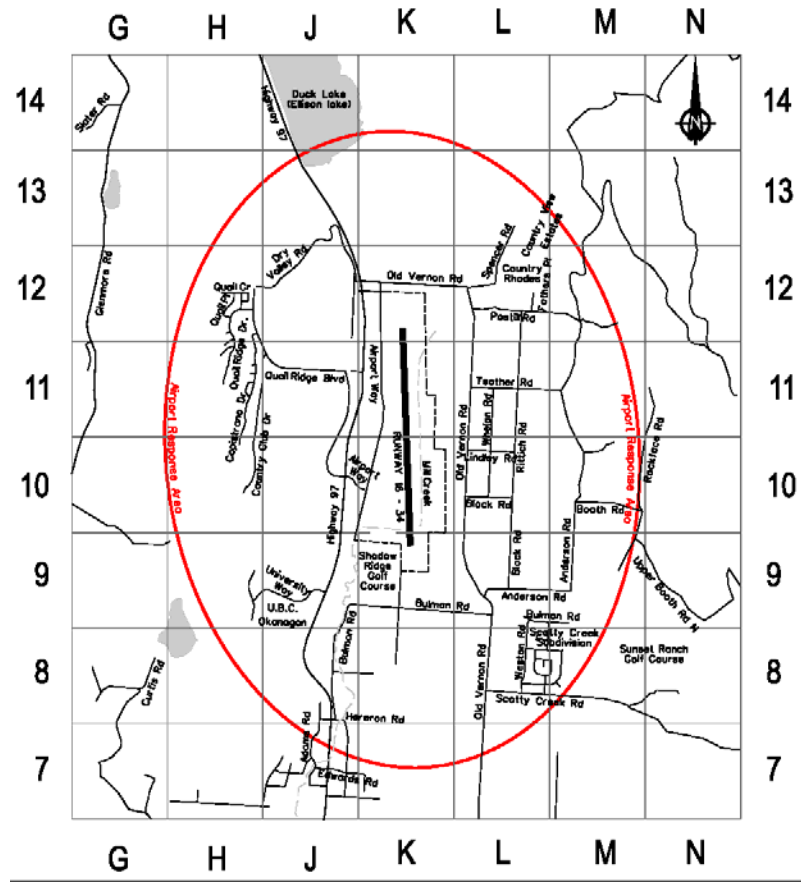
1. The Air Traffic Control Tower will be kept advised of the status of Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services capability at all times. Appropriate NOTAMS should be issued as required.
2. As soon as an off-airport accident has been brought under control, Airport Rescue & Firefighting Services personnel and equipment are to return to the airport expeditiously.

**F. OFF-AIRPORT NON-AVIATION RESPONSES**

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Responses will be made to non-aviation related incidents only on the request of a responsible public authority for humanitarian reasons (life threatening) and/or to prevent a disaster. Such a response will depend on the accessibility of the scene and whether or not a useful service can be rendered. In case of conflict between a declared airport emergency (i.e. incoming flight) and a non-aviation, off-airport emergency, the aircraft emergency shall take precedence.

Responses to off-airport non-aviation incidents will only be made with the approval of the Airport Director. In most cases, responses will be limited to dispatching one aircraft fire fighting vehicle and leaving at least one aircraft fire fighting vehicle on airport to maintain a crash/rescue response for ongoing air operations.



**REASON FOR POLICY**

To establish the most efficient deployment of City airport and municipal firefighting resources.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Council Resolution.

**PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

As outlined in the policy.