

Dashwood Fire Hall Replacement Project Enters Next Phase

The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) is pleased to announce the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department (DVFD) Fire Hall Replacement project is entering its next phase. Demolition of the fire hall, located on Hobbs Road in Qualicum Beach, has begun. Following demolition, the site will be prepared for the construction of the new fire hall, which is anticipated to be completed in late 2024.

The new fire hall design is based on a collaboration between the RDN and DVFD to standardize the design of main and smaller satellite fire halls in the region. Dashwood will be the first to implement the new design which will meet current building and seismic standards while providing an improved layout for training and maintaining equipment. The new fire hall will feature:

- Two drive through bays for up to four pieces of apparatus
- A public entrance with an administration area
- Separate areas for radio communications, IT, mechanical, electrical, sprinklers, gear, storage, training, offices and laundry which did not exist in the current fire hall
- Two washrooms and gear/equipment decontamination areas
- A workshop for gear and equipment maintenance
- A room for self-contained breathing apparatus cleaning, maintenance and compressor refill

The health and wellness of the DVFD staff and volunteers was a primary consideration in the new design. It will meet WorkSafeBC requirements for gear storage, cleaning and the decontamination of members and fire fighting equipment as part of efforts to reduce the risk of job-related cancers. The design also considers future growth by allowing for an additional bay, creating a second floor that will support expanded growth, and constructing an engineered pad for a future hose drying tower and training needs.

Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department has two fire halls: Station #61 in Dashwood, and Station #62 in Meadowood. The department serves approximately 1,700 properties and 3,700 residents over more than 130 square kilometres. They also provide fire protection under their mutual aid agreements with seven other fire departments.

For more information on the Dashwood Fire Hall Replacement project, visit getinvolved.rdn.ca/dashwood. For information on the Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department, visit dashwoodvfd.com, and for fire services in the RDN, visit rdn.bc.ca/fire-services.

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Quotes

“The Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department serves a large area and it is essential that their valued members have a modern facility to better reduce the risk of job-related illness and to better respond to fire and other emergencies in their community. We greatly appreciate their contribution to emergency response services in our region and are pleased we have started this significant next phase of the fire hall replacement project.”

Vanessa Craig, RDN Chair.

“We are excited to start on this project but, at the same time, are nostalgic to see our old building coming down. The current fire station has served our community and our members with pride since its construction in 1984. However, we have drastically outgrown the old fire station over the years and are excited to start on the new one. We cannot thank our community, our members, and the Regional District of Nanaimo enough for their support and for making this project a reality.”

Nick Acciavatti, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief.

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