



2026 Business Plan South Cariboo Hwy Rescue Enhancement Contribution Service (1374)

Irene Israel, *Manager of Emergency Program Services*

Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District South Cariboo Highway Rescue Enhancement Contribution Service was established in 2015, by Bylaw No. 4963, by means of a referendum in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned in any one year, for the service provided, shall not exceed the greater of \$40,000 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0192/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The CRD South Cariboo Highway Rescue Contribution Bylaw will provide annual funding to the District of 100 Mile House Highway Rescue service to enhance the service this organization already provides within the contribution area.

Electoral Areas H, L, and most of G participate in this service and the Directors of the same electoral areas are responsible for the governance of this service.

Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

There are no measurable goals for this service in 2026.

Significant Issues & Trends

Volunteer recruitment and retention are an issue for all volunteer organizations.



2026 Business Plan Central Cariboo Search and Rescue (1375)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

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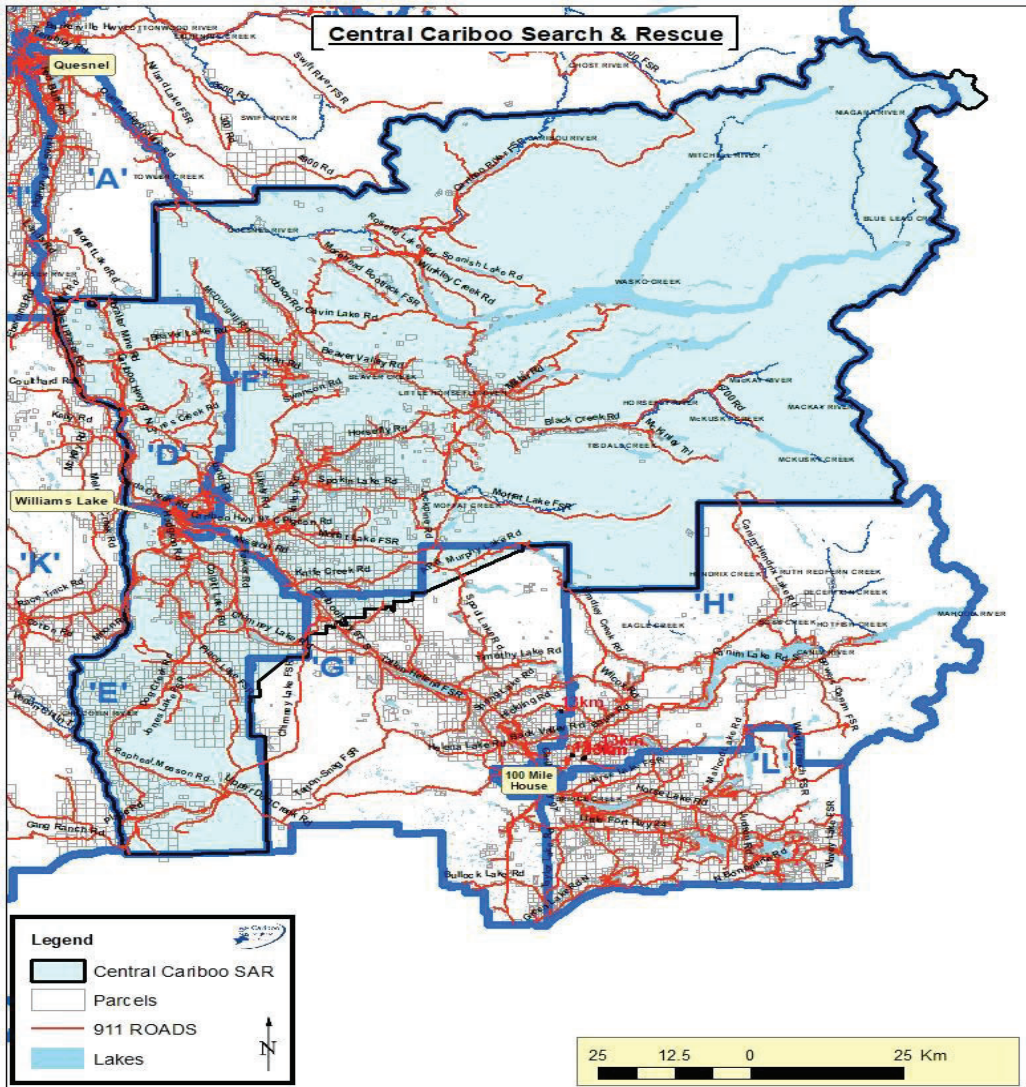
Department/Function Services



The Central Cariboo Search and Rescue (CCSAR) Unit, authorized by Bylaw No. 3228 (1996), was established as a function of the Cariboo Regional District in 1997 by means of a referendum assented to by the property owners within the local service area. CCSAR is funded by a taxation rate applied against the assessed value of land and improvements within the local service area. The maximum taxation rate that can be applied for this function is the greater of \$643,000 or \$0.14/\$1,000 of assessed value.

Central Cariboo Search and Rescue provides land, air and river searches, adventure smart programming and other public education public-safety campaigns. They are trained and equipped to provide swift water and flatwater rescues, avalanche search and rescues, steep embankment rescues, highway rescue and auto extrications. The Central Cariboo Search and Rescue organization is a group of dedicated volunteers that perform their activities at the request of the RCMP or BC Ambulance.

The Directors for Electoral Areas D, E, F and G are responsible for the governance of this service.



2026 Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

- Goal:** To fund skills development training for Ground SAR (GSAR) service functions.
Rationale: Training is required for volunteer health and safety
Strategy: Allocate up to \$15,000 for training for GSAR service functions.
- Goal:** To fund communications equipment and infrastructure upgrades and repairs.
Rationale: Communication systems need upgrades and replacements to enhance response capabilities, extend their lifespan, and ensure responder health and safety.
Strategy: Allocate up to \$28,000 for communication system repairs, and maintenance.
- Goal:** To add and replace personal protective equipment approaching the end of its lifespan.

Rationale: Required for volunteer health and safety and effective delivery of services.

Strategy: Use up to \$40,000 for personal protective equipment and gear.

4. **Goal:** Strengthen onboarding, process documentation, and personnel policies to support consistency, safety, and volunteer retention within CCSAR.

Rationale: Clear onboarding and documented procedures ensure all volunteers understand expectations, operate safely, and feel supported.

Strategy: Dedicate resources to review existing policies to ensure they remain current and aligned with organizational standards.

Significant Issues & Trends

Central Cariboo Search and Rescue has been highly successful in recruiting and retaining volunteers, with nearly 60 members.

The **Auto Extrication Team** responds to nearly 200 calls annually and is trained in vehicle extrication, embankment rescues, rope rescue, and electric vehicle (EV) response procedures.

The **Land Search and Rescue Team** responds to 35–40 calls per year, including searches for missing individuals, injured subjects in the backcountry, and river rescues on the Fraser River. The team is equipped and trained for jet boat and lake rescues across the region, as well as operations involving ATVs, UTVs, and snowmobiles. They also perform ice rescues, high-angle rope rescues, wildfire and flood evacuations, and downed aircraft responses.

Measuring Previous Years Performance

2025 Goals

Goal: To acquire a new auto extrication truck to replace the 2001 truck.

- Complete

Goal: To fund communications equipment and infrastructure upgrades and repairs.

- Complete for 2025; ongoing for 2026

Goal: To fund skills development training for Ground SAR (GSAR) service functions.

- Complete for 2025; ongoing for 2026

Goal: To add and replace personal protective equipment approaching the end of its lifespan.

- Complete for 2025; ongoing for 2026



2026 Business Plan Quesnel and District Hwy Rescue Contribution Service (1376)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District Quesnel and District Highway Rescue Contribution Service was established in 2007, by Bylaw No. 4297, by means of an alternative approval process in accordance with Section 801.3 of the *Local Government Act*. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned in any one year, for the service provided, shall not exceed the greater of \$12,250 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0144/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The Quesnel Highway Rescue organization is a group of dedicated volunteers that perform their activities at the request of the RCMP or BC Ambulance.

Electoral Areas A, B, C, and I participate in this service and the Directors of the same electoral areas are responsible for the governance of this service.

Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

There are no measurable goals for this service in 2026.

Significant Issues & Trends

Volunteer recruitment and retention are an issue for all volunteer organizations.



building communities together

2026 Business Plan Quesnel Search and Rescue Contribution Service (1377)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

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Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District Quesnel Search and Rescue contribution service was established in 2007, by Bylaw No. 4296, by means of an alternative approval process in accordance with Section 801.3 of the *Local Government Act*. Taxation is based on land and improvements. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned in any one year, for the service provided, shall not exceed the greater of \$12,250 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0144/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The Quesnel Search and Rescue organization is a group of dedicated volunteers that perform their activities at the request of the RCMP.

Electoral Areas A, B, C, and I participate in this service and the Directors of the same electoral areas are responsible for the governance of this contribution service.

Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

There are no measurable goals for this service in 2026.

Significant Issues & Trends

Recruitment and retention are the most significant issues for search and rescue volunteer groups throughout the Province.



2026 Business Plan South Cariboo Search and Rescue Contribution Service (1378)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

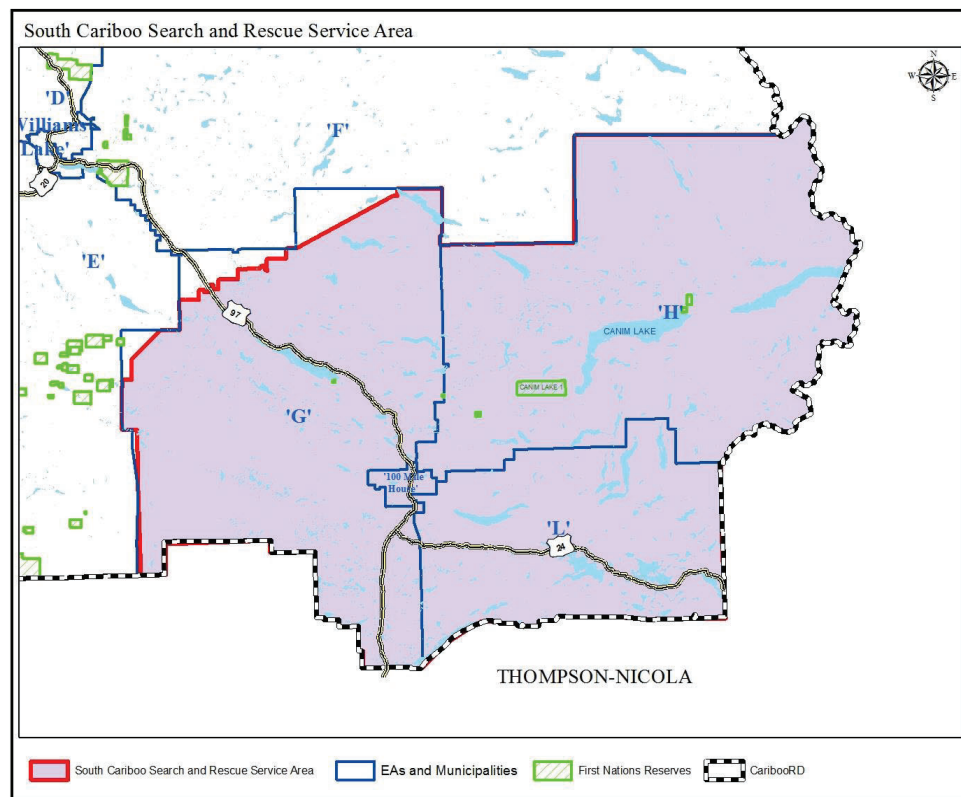
Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District South Cariboo Search and Rescue contribution service provides search and rescue services in the District of 100 Mile House, Electoral Areas H, L, and a portion of G, and was established in 2013, by Bylaw No. 4825, by means of a referendum approval process in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. Taxation is based on land and improvements. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned in any one year, for the service provided, shall not exceed the greater of \$30,000 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0124/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The South Cariboo Search and Rescue organization is a group of dedicated volunteers that perform their activities at the request of the RCMP.

Electoral Areas H, L, a portion of G, and the District of 100 Mile House participate equally in this contribution service and the Directors of the same areas are responsible for the governance of this service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

There are no measurable goals for this service in 2026.

Significant Issues & Trends

Recruitment and retention are the most significant issues for search and rescue volunteer groups throughout the Province.



2026 Business Plan West Chilcotin Search and Rescue Contribution Service (1379)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

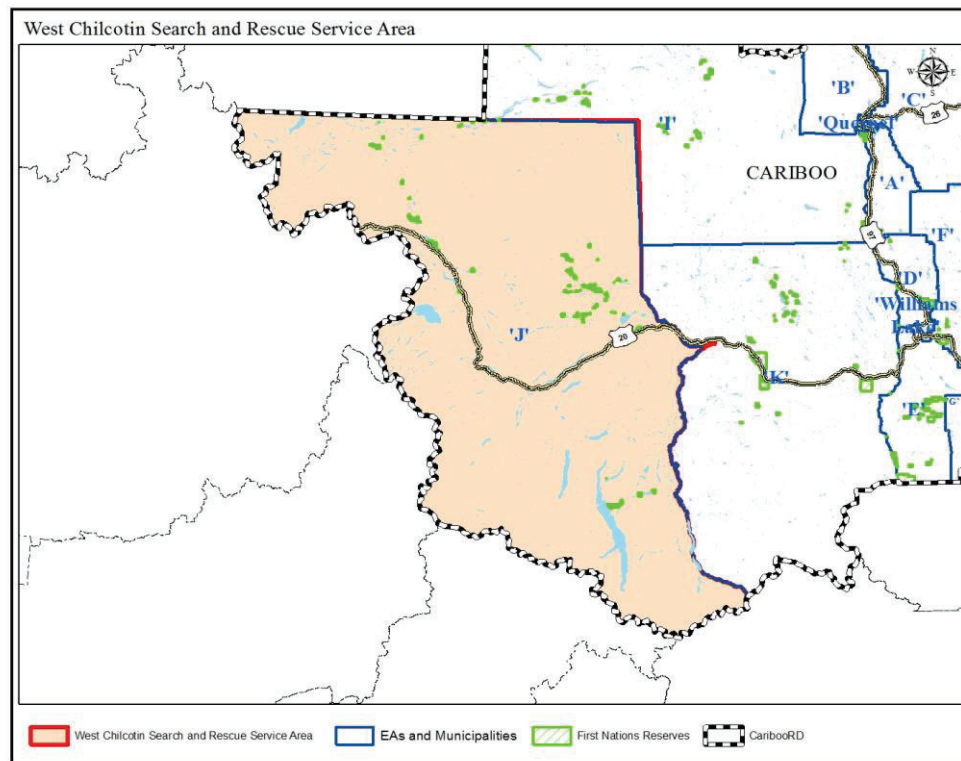
Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District West Chilcotin Search and Rescue Contribution Service was established in 2013, by Bylaw No. 4822, by means of a referendum approval process in accordance with the *Local Government Act*. Taxation is based on the value of land and improvements. The maximum amount of money that may be requisitioned in any one year, for the service provided, shall not exceed the greater of \$6,000 or an amount raised by applying a tax rate of \$0.0446/\$1,000 to the net taxable value of land and improvements in the service area.

The West Chilcotin Search and Rescue organization is a group of dedicated volunteers that perform their activities at the request of the RCMP within the boundaries of CRD Electoral Area J.

As the Electoral Area J Director is the only stakeholder, and the *Local Government Act* requires more than one vote, the entire Board is responsible for the governance of this contribution service.



Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies

There are no measurable goals for this service in 2026.

Significant Issues & Trends

Recruitment and retention are the most significant issues for search and rescue volunteer groups throughout the Province.



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2026 Business Plan Emergency Program Service All Electoral Areas (1385)

Irene Israel, Manager of Emergency Program Services

Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.

Department/Function Services

The Cariboo Regional District Emergency Program Service was created as a result of provincial legislation requiring that Regional Districts develop an emergency management organization and prepare an emergency plan for their jurisdiction.

The CRD Emergency Program was established in 2004, authorized by Bylaw No. 3934. All electoral areas participate in this service and taxation is based on the assessed value of land and improvements. There is no requisition limit.

All Electoral Area Directors, representing Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K and L, are responsible for the governance of this service.

2026 Business Plan Goals, Rationales & Strategies

1. **Goal:** To continue to enhance the CRD's Emergency Program Services functions and plans in alignment with the substantial changes mandated by the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) and its forthcoming regulations.

Rationale: The Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) modernizes local government emergency management, expanding responsibilities across preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery. The accompanying regulations are expected to be released in 2027.

Strategy: Update CRD Emergency management plans, policies, and processes in alignment with the EDMA and forthcoming regulations.

2. **Goal:** Strengthen partnerships with First Nations in the Cariboo Regional District through agreements and ongoing engagement.
Rationale: The Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA), requires engagement, relationship-building, and the inclusion of Indigenous knowledge in emergency practices.
Strategy: Dedicate staff time and grant funding to supporting co-developed planning, and ongoing engagement with First Nations governments.

3. **Goal:** To strategically use available grant funding to enhance CRD Emergency Program Services in alignment with provincial legislation.
Rationale: UBCM grants support local government emergency program service functions such as Emergency Operations Centre Training and Equipment, Evacuation Route Planning, Cultural Safety, Emergency Support Services, etc.
Strategy:
 - (i) Apply for UBCM or other grants to support emergency program service functions in line with planned and emerging priorities.
 - (ii) Continue to work with Williams Lake First Nation and the City of Williams Lake to build an evacuation route plan with the approved \$89,850 UBCM CEPF Grant.

4. **Goal:** Restructure the Emergency Program Services to ensure the program remains agile and responsive to increasing demands from severe weather events.
Rationale: Implement a departmental restructuring outlined in the Emergency Programs Strategic Plan to enhance collaboration with response volunteers, expand community preparedness initiatives, support First Nation engagement, and improve EOC activation readiness.
Strategy: Restructure the Emergency Program Services department from one manager, two coordinators, and two admin assistants to one manager, two coordinators, one officer and one administrative assistant improving workload balance **with no change in total staff numbers.**

5. **Goal:** Expand collaboration with agricultural producers and industry to improve sector-specific emergency readiness.
Rationale: The agriculture sector is critical to the region's economy and is vulnerable to wildfire, drought, and flood impacts. The Agricultural Area Plan recommends sector-specific emergency engagements and planning.
Strategy: Staff to attend and organize agriculture-based events to promote emergency preparedness, and coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and local producers on livestock evacuation planning and feed supply during emergencies. Develop contracts to better support animals during evacuations.

Significant Issues & Trends

- Regulations under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) are pending, creating uncertainty around implementation and coordination.
- Decreased grant availability and reduced funding opportunities across emergency management programs.
- Increased provincial and public expectations despite limited guidance and funding.
- Expanding requirements for Indigenous engagement and relationship-building.
- Ongoing capacity and resource challenges for local governments and First Nations.
- Growing frequency and complexity of climate-related emergencies.
- Additional coordination with the Planning department is needed for hazard mapping and hazard mitigation, as EDMA now expands our role to include mitigation.

Measuring Previous Years Performance

Goal: To adapt and adjust the CRD's Emergency Program Service functions and plans to meet the significant changes required under new legislation as per the modernized Emergency and Disaster Management Act.

Status: Ongoing and carried over - regulations are in development.

Goal: To use appropriate grant funding to continue to augment CRD Emergency Program Service operations and planning functions in line with provincial legislation.

Status: Complete - Emergency Operations Centre Training and Equipment, Emergency Support Services.

Goal: To further develop the FireSmart program throughout the CRD and ensure that the CRD has access to future funding through the UBCM Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program FireSmart Community Funding and Supports grant.

Status: Complete; 6 CWRP's have been developed and the next phase of the FireSmart program is transitioned to Protective Services.

Goal: To improve resource identification and situational awareness in the EOC, establishing and training a pool of contractors from the local communities.

Status: Complete; The Operations Community Liaison Program was reintroduced and successfully implemented during the 2025 EOC activations.

Goal: Conduct a region wide test of the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System.

Status: Completed successfully.