



## Community Update: Seton Fire Protection Service

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**December 13, 2024**

This update is to provide the community with the latest status on this evolving situation.

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) continues to work toward finalizing arrangements that will provide long-term fire protection services to residents in the Seton/Shalalth fire protection service area. These arrangements consist of a long-term agreement with Tsal'alh for the delivery of fire protection services, together with an associated lease of the SLRD-owned Seton Firehall facility.

Tsal'alh has provided fire protection service to the Seton fire protection service area since September, 2019 through a series of successive short-term agreements. Finalizing a long-term agreement and associated lease between Tsal'alh and SLRD will ensure the future of the service, and maintain the most favourable Fire Underwriters' Survey (FUS) grading, resulting in the most affordable insurance rates for homeowners. The lease of the Seton Firehall to Tsal'alh is integral to this process because it enables Tsal'alh to move their equipment, apparatus and personnel into the Seton Firehall, enabling prompt and responsive fire service in the community.

Up until September 2019, Seton Valley Volunteer Firefighters' Society (the "Society") was the SLRD's fire protection service provider. The SLRD stood down the Society as the SLRD's fire protection services provider in September 2019 due to the Society not being able to meet the requirements of the Officer of the Fire Commissioner for a compliant fire department. Despite being stood down, the SLRD allowed the Society's apparatus and equipment to remain in the Seton Firehall, most recently in support of an arrangement between the Society and Tsal'alh. This arrangement between the Society and Tsal'alh came to an end a few months ago and the SLRD was exploring options for moving forward.

On November 7, 2024, an unacceptable incident involving local community members at the Seton Firehall led to facility tenant BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) temporarily withdrawing its operations from the Seton Firehall. The temporary relocation from the Seton Firehall to the Lillooet area had the unfortunate impact of causing additional BCEHS response time to local communities for a full week. This service disruption caused anxiety and alarm amongst residents until normal BCEHS operations from the Seton Firehall could resume by November 15, 2024.

On November 13, 2024, the SLRD terminated the Society's use of the Seton Firehall and directed that the Society remove its apparatus and equipment from the facility by December 1, 2024.

Unfortunately, despite the SLRD's offer of assistance, the Society has refused to remove its assets, including a fire truck that is occupying the bay area needed for Tsal'alh's apparatus. Therefore, the SLRD has developed a solution for temporarily relocating the Society's assets which will make the bay area of the Seton Firehall available for use by Tsal'alh. This solution will pave the way for accomplishing the SLRD's goal of finalizing the long-term fire protection services agreement and associated lease with Tsal'alh.

Reducing fire protection response time and preserving affordable homeowner fire insurance due to maintaining the community's current FUS grading are in the best interests of the community. The most recent communication between the SLRD and the Society is available on the Seton Fire Service project page on the SLRD website: <https://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/current-projects-initiatives/seton-fire-protection-service>

The SLRD would like to thank Tsal'alh for its continuing commitment to and expertise in delivering fire protection services and looks forward to initiating a long-term relationship for the benefit of all residents in the Seton/Shalalth fire protection service area.

The SLRD will provide another update to the community once the long-term fire protection and lease agreements are finalized.

Residents with questions about the Seton Fire Protection Service can contact:

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