



August 1, 2024

Dear Mayor and Council, Chair and Board, Chief Administrative Officers, Fire Chiefs and Fire Protection Managers,

Re: Fire Safety Act

I am pleased to share that on August 1, 2024, the Fire Safety Act (FSA) was brought into force, replacing the Fire Services Act.

The FSA, and the associated regulations, will be essential to protecting people and communities through regular fire safety inspections and effective enforcement that will help prevent fire-related tragedies, preserve human life, and reduce property and economic loss due to fires.

The FSA addresses significant advancements in fire protection technology and a deeper understanding of fire behavior since 1979. It was developed and implemented in response to recommendations from BC Coroner's reports and stakeholder feedback to enhance fire safety standards and enforcement.

This legislation is also being implemented after close collaboration with Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), the Fire Chiefs' Association of BC, regional districts and other key fire service partners. My sincere gratitude to all those who collaborated with the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) to get us to this point.

It is important to note that the FSA meets the B.C. government's commitment to achieve a single standard of fire safety in the province and will:

- enable local authorities to designate personnel to carry out fire inspections and fire investigations and enable local fire services to perform tactical evacuations.
- establish an administrative penalty enforcement model to address non-compliance issues in a more direct, timely and effective manner.
- implement a risk-based approach for fire safety compliance monitoring in municipalities.

During fall 2024 and winter 2025, the OFC will work closely with all partners to ensure a measured implementation of the FSA requirements. In the meantime, please visit [here](#) to review the Q&A on the FSA and other reference documents.

If you have any questions to add to the Q&A, or any other inquiries, please contact the OFC at: OFC@gov.bc.ca or your fire service advisor. Contact information for fire service advisors can be located [here](#).

Respectfully,

Brian Godlonton
Fire Commissioner
Office of the Fire Commissioner