



OUTLOOK-RUDY FIRE AND RESCUE (ORFR)

**STRONGER
TOGETHER**

NEW FIREHALL, SAFER COMMUNITY

A Regional Hub

When asking the question of why choose one place in which to live over another, quality of life becomes very important. We all want to live life to the fullest and to flourish and thrive in our community. Our well-being is shaped by the conditions in which we grow, live, learn, work and age in. The Town of Outlook, the Villages of Broderick and Glenside, and the surrounding Rural Municipality of Rudy are places people have chosen to make as their home because of its offerings and the knowledge that they can live safe and secure.

As the “Irrigation Capital of Saskatchewan” the community is growing and changing. As the central hub to the surrounding area, Outlook offers crucial services of schools K-12, health and medical, retail, and many recreational amenities such as Riverview Golf Club, Jim Kook RecPlex, and Van Raay and Community Swimming Pool, to name a few. Visitors and the approximate 3,500 area residents need look no further to find arts and cultural happenings on any given week at places like the Outlook Community Library, a branch of the Wheatland Regional Library, Heritage Museum and the Bounty Theatre.

Access to nature abounds with the South Saskatchewan River and Danielson Provincial Park only a hop, skip and a jump away. On summer weekends Diefenbaker Lake is jam packed with visitors from Saskatoon and surrounding areas. With winter comes ice fishing and other fresh air fun including use of the Co-op Community Rink, an outdoor facility.

The area is also crucial to heavy hauling truck routes with Highway 15, which links Kenaston (Highway 11) to Rosetown (Highway 4), crossing the RM from east to west and Highway 219, (which links Saskatoon to the Gardiner Dam) and going through the RM from north to south. The intersection of these highways and heavy haul usage is increasingly becoming a safety issue.

With regional growth and an upsurge in emergency calls comes an increasing need to update some of the areas’ ageing and insufficient infrastructure.

The time is NOW to begin to address this.

“When asked how I feel about being a responder, proud is number 1. It’s like nothing that I have ever been a part of before. Chances are when you get called out it might be someone you know. It’s a lot worse when it’s a person you know. Worse than that is when it’s a kid. A lot worse when it’s a kid you know.”

—Luke Lockhart,
Deputy Chief



A Community Partnership

After Outlook became a town in 1909, the first volunteer fire brigade was organized, and two fire trucks arrived a short time later. It was none too soon, for the following spring disaster struck when the entire block on the north side of town burned down. Throughout the 114 years since then the community has grown and the department's ability to keep the community out of harm's way has grown with it.

As part of a strategic planning process in October, 2021, the RM of Rudy and Town of Outlook formed a partnership agreement to provide a valuable level of fire and protection service to the region up to 2030 and beyond. All municipal partners are involved in planning and are invested in the project. This agreement serves the Rural Municipality, the Town and the Villages of Broderick and Glenside, and is united under the name of **Outlook-Rudy Fire and Rescue (ORFR)**.

Outlook-Rudy Fire and Rescue continues to have "mutual aid agreements" with other departments in the region. "Mutual aid" is when another jurisdiction is above their capacity and needs more help. Going forward the plan for ORFR is to have more collegial events with other teams in the area to each brigade's mutual benefit.

These partnerships are beacons of hope that will have a ripple effect on how the RM of Rudy and the Town of Outlook may work together in future community planning.

"As a business owner if I had an employee hurt I would want the fire and rescue to be there as soon as possible. With limited resources it makes sense for the RM of Rudy and Outlook to join forces to support fire services."

—Bree Campbell,
RM of Rudy councillor
and business owner



Today's Firehall, "Bursting at the Seams"

With the joining of resources in the partnership there is a plan to gradually replace an ageing fleet of rescue vehicles and equipment, but there is no central place to store all of them together.

Saskatchewan is a winter climate for many months of the year and fire and rescue vehicles cannot be stored outside. **There is not room to keep the whole fleet in one place, therefore, fire and rescue vehicles are stored amongst four different buildings around the existing firehall.** At present, the hall and surrounding buildings house 2 pumper trucks (1978 & 1998), a ladder truck, an ice rescue craft, a rescue boat with engine, a rescue van, a wildland and command vehicle, and other crucial equipment such as "Jaws of Life", air compressors, kits, etc. Noticeably missing from the fleet right now is a tanker truck that can hold greater amounts of water for fighting fires out in the field rather than relying on local farmers to help.

Updating of equipment is necessary and the owner municipalities ensure it happens on a regular basis. The "Jaws of Life", for example, must be upgraded every five years. If turnout gear (protective clothing) gets burnt or goggles and masks are damaged in any way, they need to be replaced. Those fighting fires are at risk through breathing in or ingesting toxins released in fires, or through absorption through the skin. Keeping their health is important.

Tomorrow's New Firehall

With the RM of Rudy and Town of Outlook's partnership agreement to provide a valuable level of fire and protection service to the region, there came a commitment to build a **purposeful, affordable and sustainable firehall.** The new firehall will have function over beauty. It will house the entire ageing fleet and be ready for replacement vehicles when the time comes. Most important, it will provide a safe and practical environment for the responders in which to train and prepare for emergency callouts.

The existing firehall will still be utilized and will be repurposed to house office space for other organizations to rent.

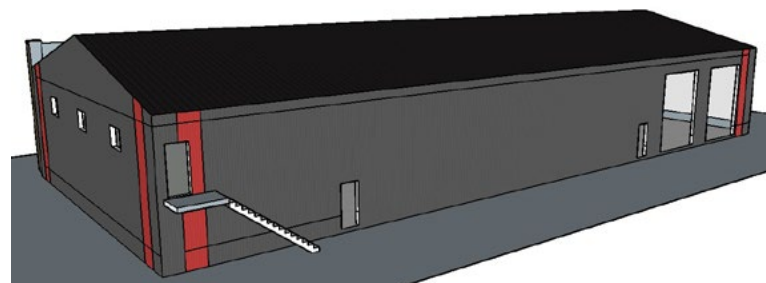
The new firehall will include:

- 6 bays to house all vehicles
- A tool/supply room
- An area to hang hoses and clean gear
- A compressor room
- A bathroom with showers for after calls
- A decontamination area for gear cleaning
- A mezzanine for in-house training, practice and de-compressing after incidents
- A kitchenette for food storage and meal preparation for after training and incidents.

Most important, an indoor central storage place for vehicles and equipment is critical for reducing incident response time.



Concept design for the new firehall



A Day in the Life of a Volunteer Fire and Rescue Member

In protection services there are two types of people — those who call for help and those who ARE the help. An emergency may come, any time, day or night and when they do, volunteer members stand always at the ready.

The following is an example of typical callout procedure.

A call comes from central 911 dispatch located in Prince Albert and a scene survey from dispatch is sent to all 21 volunteer firefighters. This includes a Chief, Deputy Chief, 2 Captains, 2 Lieutenants and 17 Firefighters. A “heads up” will come from the Chief or Deputy Chief. Those that are able reply yes to a text, then proceed to the hall, and suit up with their gear. Depending on what is required, then they have to run to get the appropriate vehicle. For example, if it’s a grass fire, they grab the wildlands truck and roll out.

In a rural area the volunteer department is responsible for much more than fire protection. Foremost, the department answers to all forms of fire emergencies: grass fires, house fires, vehicle fires, commercial building fires, and farmyard fires.

So too, they are on the front line for rescue calls, in particular, water rescues regardless of the season.

They are often first responders to motor vehicle accidents, providing traffic control, vehicle extrication and first responder services, etc. They aid EMS (Emergency Medical Services) with lift assists. They help with search and rescue for missing persons and even animals on occasion. They respond to carbon monoxide calls and have assisted the RCMP with attempted suicides.

Equally important is their assistance with hospital-to-hospital transfers at the landing zone for STARS, or when STARS must land in a field if an accident takes place outside of town. **They answer the call day or night.**

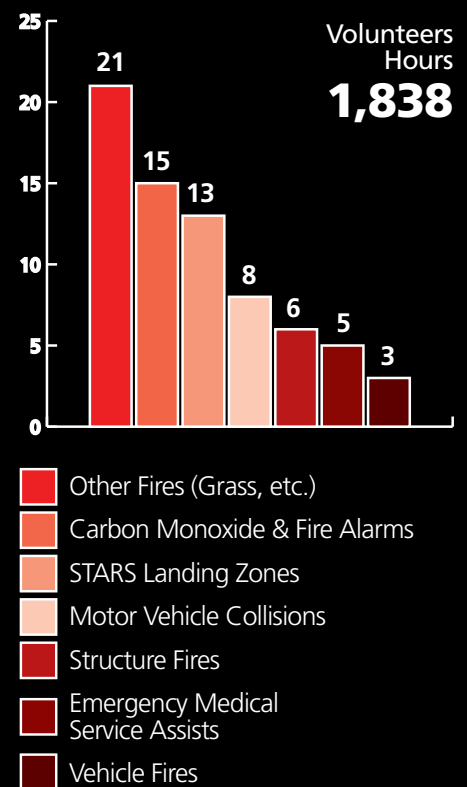
In 2022, there were a total of 1145 volunteer hours committed. From January to the end of June 2023 there are already 693 volunteer hours put in. On average 20% of callouts are in the Town of Outlook, 75% in the RM of Rudy and 5% are outside of the RM of Rudy providing mutual aid assistance.

“When a call comes in we are in an immediate time crunch. We are to be to the hall in 5-6 minutes and respond in 9. Our fleet is ageing. We are bursting at the seams. Our response vehicles are stored in 4 different buildings that we have to get to quickly. Most importantly, lost time can mean a life.”

—Dalas King,
Fire Chief

Number of ORFR Incidents & Volunteers Hours

January 2022 – June 2023



Fire and Rescue Families

Behind every fire and rescue family is a path filled with hard work, lost holiday time, and late nights.

Outlook-Rudy Fire and Rescue members all have full-time jobs besides being volunteer members. They step up to do this job selflessly in service to the community.

Being a member not only affects the frontline person, it affects the entire “fire and rescue family”. Long after the smoke clears, so-to-speak, members are left with the lingering images and experience of the incidents. Going back to the hall after a callout is a time to de-compress and to strengthen the bonds of trust and caring between them. Going home to family is another place of support. But making the transition between being on call and returning home after is not easy. It is often fraught with worry for the family whose family member has gone into a dangerous situation and put themselves in harm’s way.

“There is a passion and dedication to service for the community. As a family I know that the department comes first, 100% of the time. So, when someone is potentially drowning and a call comes in to get the rescue boat, it’s important to give them every second of time to get there as quickly as possible.”

—Rachel Sillers,
spouse of a volunteer member

“In the midst of dishing up dinner or the middle of meal, if a call comes in, they will drop everything and go. He may be called to go in the middle of the night on a 10-15-hour fire call. He doesn’t stop to think about it, he just goes. It’s instinct. As a mom I can’t fall apart because my kids need me. They understand that dad is out there helping someone in need. That makes them proud and worried at the same time. When my husband comes home after a call, he takes the time he needs and shares what he is feeling. It’s a mentally tough role for these men!”

—Wendy Ball,
spouse of a volunteer member



“Looking Out” to a Secure Future

The Town of Outlook and Rural Municipality of Rudy made the decision in the spring of 2023 to embark on a capital campaign. The primary goal of the capital campaign is to build the new firehall with replacing equipment as a secondary goal.

A steering committee and campaign fundraising team is in place. Fundraising began with the purchase of a new rescue vehicle that is equipped with a SCBA equipment and personal SCBA gear (Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus) and houses the “Jaws of Life” and radios.

A site plan and location for the new firehall has been chosen. The building’s design renderings are in place. The timeline for raising funds is taking place during 2023 and 2024. Upon reaching the fundraising goal the build is slated to be complete by late 2025, or early 2026.

The fundraising goal is \$2.5M. This will cover the approximate build costs of the new Firehall at \$1.6–1.8M and a new pumper truck at \$600,000–700,000.

All donations will go directly to support the capital campaign. There is no support from provincial or federal governments. There will be no property tax increase to ratepayers because the department can run operationally without an increase.

All funds will be raised in the community through gifts of cash or in-kind donations from individuals, companies, and foundations.

You are invited to invest in a safe and secure future for the community and surrounding area through your personal contribution.

Every gift matters.



“It was January 2015, a -35 degree day. It’s thought that an electric malfunction may have caused the fire. When dispatch got the call from my house, they (fire fighters) didn’t know whose place they were going to. They had been to my house in the past. I’d been to their weddings. They know my kids. Although it was a total loss fire, I am grateful that no one got hurt. The community, and especially those boys went above and beyond to care for me and my 4 kids. Months later the guys would hunt me down to check that I was doing ok.”

—Stacy Seltenrich,
homeowner and grateful
beneficiary of fire service

"It was late afternoon May 29, 2023. My son Tate pulled out from the intersection of Highway 219 and Highway 15 when a semi-trailer hauling soybean meal hit his car and rolled into the ditch. The accident could have been so bad. STARS and the first responders fire truck were dispatched to the accident. Other than being in shock, luckily Tate, his friend Faith and the semi driver were eventually checked out and were ok. When I got to the scene, aside from everyone feeling really shaken up, it was a blessing to see a familiar face in the first responders from town."

—Jolie Vermette,
a grateful parent



TOWN OF

Outlook



IRRIGATION CAPITAL OF SASKATCHEWAN

RURAL MUNICIPALITY OF
RUDY
No. 284

The Town of Outlook is recognized as a qualified donee by Canada Revenue Agency and may issue official charitable tax deductible donation receipts.

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