

Mayne Island Improvement District (MIID) is maintaining its usual high standard of fire protection services following the implementation of a Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Policy that includes all elected officials, employees, paid on-call firefighters and volunteers.

As a result, Mayne Island Fire Rescue may see some of its firefighters opt for a leave of absence rather than provide proof of vaccination.

MIID respects the firefighters' right to make their own decisions about vaccination but as an organization, we need to be committed to the safety of our teams and the public. This policy was put in place by the Board because vaccines are among the best methods of protecting the health and safety of you, and those around you, from the risks of COVID-19.

Despite the potential loss of some members, MIID assures the public that high-quality fire services will be maintained. Firefighters become like a family and we do not want to lose anyone. However, if we do lose some firefighters, should circumstances change we hope to be welcoming them back.

If the fire department had its membership drop below the Fire Underwriters Survey's recommended 15 members, this does not mean residents would suddenly lose their fire insurance or see premiums rise dramatically.

The Fire Underwriters Survey wants to see that we have a plan for how to address the situation. They are very aware from departments around the country that there can be an ebb and flow with recruitment.

As always, additional support is available through existing mutual aid agreements with other fire departments. Mayne Island Fire Rescue is looking to welcome new, fully vaccinated recruits to the program.

Anyone interested in becoming a firefighter in their community can find out more information at MIFR's website or can email [mifd@mayneid.ca](mailto:mifd@mayneid.ca)

Board of Trustees,  
Mayne Island Improvement District

