



TOWNSHIP OF NORTH HURON

REPORT

Item No.

REPORT TO: Reeve Vincent and Members of Council
PREPARED BY: Marty Bedard, Fire Chief
DATE: 03/07/2018
SUBJECT: Update on New Fire Regulations
ATTACHMENTS: None

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Council of the Township of North Huron hereby accepts the report from the Fire Chief of North Huron, dated July 9, 2018 regarding new fire regulations for information purposes.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services has approved 3 regulations that will come into force over the next two years under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA)

In early March Deputy Chief Matt Townsend submitted a report notifying Council of the 3 regulations and comments were submitted on behalf of the Township. Over 400 comments from Fire Departments and Municipalities were received.

The 3 new regulations are:

- 1) Mandatory Certification and Training for Firefighters
- 2) Community Risk Assessments to form the delivery of fire protection services
- 3) Public Reporting on Fire Department Response Times

DISCUSSION

On May 8, 2018, the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services announced that the three new regulations under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act (FPPA) have been filed and will come into force over the next two years.

The final versions of these regulations had a few changes to them based on the comments received. One comment that everyone asked for was funding and no commitment was made by the government sitting at the time of this announcement.

Below is an overview of these regulations:

Mandatory Training and Certification for firefighters

- Grandfathering was reopened and applications are due to the OFMEM on September 30, 2018. All the same rules and regulations that applied in 2014 will apply in 2018.
- July 1, 2019 is the date that certification of new hires for Public Educators, Suppression Firefighters and Pump Operators is required (original date proposed was Jan. 1, 2019).
- January 1, 2020 is the date that certification is required for Fire Inspectors, Officers, Instructors, Dispatchers, Investigators and HazMat personnel. (No change from draft regs)
- January 1, 2021 is the date for mandatory certification for Technical Rescuers (confined space, ice, rope, water, trench and vehicle). This date was moved back 1 year from original date proposed.

Community Risk Assessments

- The implementation date was moved from Jan. 1, 2019 to July 1, 2019.
- This regulation requires all municipalities to undertake a standardized risk assessment that will be used to form the development of municipal fire protection services.
- A full risk assessment must be completed every 5 years, with monitoring and reviewing conducted annually.
- While this regulation comes into force on July 1, 2019, municipalities have 5 years from that date to complete a community risk assessment.
- Guidelines, templates and support will be provided to municipalities by the OFMEM.
- The clause about knowing if all buildings in the municipality are compliant with the fire code was changed. The Building Stock profile will include the types of buildings in the community, the uses of the buildings in the community, the number of each type, the number of buildings of each use and any building related risks known to the fire department.

Public Reporting on Fire Department Response Times

- The implementation date did not change for this regulation and remains January 1, 2020.
- The Standard Incident Reporting System will be reviewed before the regulation comes into force. The SIR review will also include work to define "Fire Department Unit" as referenced in the regulation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

The Mandatory Certification Regulation will have most of the financial impact on the FDNH budget. Some extra training will be required for current positions within the department and moving forward new recruits will be required to be certified within 2 years of joining. The two other regulations will have very little financial impact but will increase the administrative work load.

FUTURE CONSIDERATIONS

FDNH personnel will be grandfathered to the proper level of certification under the current rules set out in this process.

One comment repeated many times by the fire departments and municipalities was the need for financial assistance from the government. No commitment was made from the government that approved these changes. The local Fire Chiefs and the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs will continue to lobby the new provincial government for financial assistance.

Deputy Chief Kregar and Training Officer Hodgkinson will be working towards an in-house training program that will possibly ease some financial impacts on the budget.

RELATIONSHIP TO STRATEGIC PLAN

Goal 3 – Ensure our community is healthy and safe.

Goal 4 – Our administration is fiscally responsible and strives for operational excellence.



Marty Bedard, Fire Chief



Dwayne Evans, CAO