



Fire Department of North Huron

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Nancy Michie
Municipality of Morris-Turnberry
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Nancy,

Automatic Aid with Howick Fire Department

In 2015 the Fire Department of North Huron (FDNH) and the South Bruce Fire Department entered into an automatic aid agreement for working fires. We are now proposing a comparable program with the Howick Fire Department.

In order to conduct safe, modern firefighting, a minimum of two fire stations of personnel and equipment are required for most working fires. By automatically dispatching the two closest stations for these calls, automatic aid achieves this level of service in the fastest manner possible.

Under the mutual aid structure currently in place, fire departments cannot call for mutual aid from neighbouring departments until their own resources have been exhausted. In the case of the proposed additional automatic aid area, this means that until Blyth Station is committed to assist the Wingham Station, mutual aid from neighbouring Howick FD cannot be requested. However, when an automatic aid agreement is in place, it usurps the mutual aid agreement and this delay is eliminated.

The proposal we recommend would see Howick FD and FDNH providing automatic aid to each other at zero cost. We already work together on a delayed basis using the mutual aid method, so this automatic aid agreement will not generate additional costs for either department. Additionally, Owen Sound Dispatch can program the automatic aid addresses onto their system without requiring a 911 polygon change or other additional costs.

In order to enact an automatic aid agreement, bylaws and agreements similar to those passed for the South Bruce automatic aid agreement will need to be approved and passed by Howick, Morris-Turnberry and North Huron councils. It is my hope that this can occur before the end of 2016.

For your reference, a map of the proposed automatic aid area of Morris-Turnberry as well as the address list, is provided in the form of attachments, to this letter.

Sincerely,



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Cc: Sharon Chambers, Township of North Huron
Shawn Edwards, Howick Fire Department

