



Staff Report

Report To: Dan Best, Chief Administrative Officer
From: **Andrew Baird, Fire Chief**
Date: May 22 2018
Report: Fire 18.04
Subject: Mandatory Firefighter Certification, Community Risk Assessments and Public Reporting

Recommendations:

That; South Huron Council receives the report, for information only, from Andrew Baird, Emergency Services Manager, re: Mandatory Firefighter Certification, Community Risk Assessments and Public Reporting.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to notify Council of the new Mandatory Certifications, Community Risk Assessments and Public Reporting required for all Ontario Fire Departments starting July 1, 2019.

Background and Analysis:

The mandatory certification of firefighters, based on internationally recognized National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, is a key step forward in building safer communities.

Mandatory certification for four firefighter roles – including basic fire suppression – would only apply to new hires.

All existing suppression firefighters within the South Huron Fire Department will not need to certify to maintain their jobs in their current positions. To progress to more senior positions in the fire department, certification would be required.

Community Risk Assessments regulation requires that all municipalities undertake a standardized risk assessment that will be used to inform the development of municipal fire protection services. A full risk assessment must be conducted every five years, must be completed by July 1, 2024, with monitoring and reviewing conducted annually.

Public Reporting regulation will create consistent reporting, and will increase transparency and accountability by providing the public with a clear understanding of what they can expect from the fire department in terms of response times.

Operational Considerations:

No alternatives were considered.

South Huron's Strategic Plan:

Section 6.2.2 of the Municipality of South Huron 2015- 2019 Strategic Plan identifies key objectives that are reflective of the collective perspectives of the strategic planning process. The recommendations and actions outlined in this report are reflective of the following strategic objectives:

Administrative Efficiency and Fiscal Responsibility

Increased Communications and Municipal Leadership

Transparent, Accountable and Collaborative Governance

Dedicated Economic Development Effort

Financial Impact:

The training aspect for all Firefighters that want to proceed through the ranks to more senior leadership roles will need to increase their training levels and newly hired firefighters, as of July 1st, 2019 will require a more stricter training regime. These training initiatives will require an increase to the annual training budget in the future.

The Ontario Government has announced a funding initiative to ensure any challenges small or rural fire services may have adapting to the new requirements are mitigated. No criteria and or plan has been announced as of this date.

Legal Impact:

Changes to the Fire Protection and Prevention Act Regulations constitute legal implications for the Corporation resulting from the new regulations.

Staffing Impact:

There are no staffing implications at this time for the Corporation resulting from the proposed recommendation.

Policies/Legislation:

Fire Protection and Prevention Act Regulations

Consultation:

CAO Best

Related Documents:

None.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Baird, Fire Chief