



Corporation of the Municipality of Temagami

Report No.
2018-M-008

File No.

Subject:	Proposed MCSCS Regulations on Mandatory Certification and Training, and Community Risk Assessments
Agenda Date:	February 13, 2018
Attachments:	1- Briefing note on proposed regulations under the Fire Protection & Protection Act (FPPA) 2 -Summary of recommended amendments to the proposed regulations (TFD)

RECOMMENDATION

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Report 2018-M-008 from Temagami Fire Chief Jim Sanderson, regarding proposed regulations on Mandatory Firefighter Certification and Training and Community Risk Assessments, be received;

AND FURTHER THAT: Council direct staff to prepare the necessary documents to provide comments and feedback to MCSCS on the proposed regulations prior to March 11, 2018.;

AND FURTHER THAT: municipal fire services respond to the upcoming MCSCS survey, highlighting funding requirements to support implementation of the regulations; clearly identify how achievable the mandatory certification will be, and the additional training costs that will be necessary.

BACKGROUND

On January 25, the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS) released two proposed regulations under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA) related to new requirements for:

1. Mandatory training and certification for firefighters; and
2. Community risk assessments to inform the delivery of fire protection services.

The MCSCS is seeking public feedback on both regulations. Comments are due March 11, 2018.

OVERVIEW

Draft Regulation 1 – Mandatory Certification

The MCSCS is proposing to establish mandatory certification requirements set out by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) for all new firefighters employed or appointed to a fire department for the following positions: suppression firefighters, pump operators, technical rescue, fire officers and fire educators.

These requirements are proposed to come into force January 1, 2019, with the exception of technical rescue, which would come into force January 1, 2020.

In addition, The MCSCS is proposing that mandatory certification requirements also set out by the NFPA apply to existing firefighters currently employed or appointed in fire departments across Ontario, including fire inspectors, fire investigators, fire instructors, hazardous materials personnel and fire dispatchers.

It is proposed that these mandatory certification requirements apply to existing firefighters, given these positions are exposed to increased risk, including risk to the individuals performing these roles. These requirements are proposed to come into force January 1, 2020 to give fire departments additional time to train and certify their staff.

Draft Regulation 2 – Mandatory Community Risk Assessments

The MCSCS is proposing that municipalities be required to conduct a standard risk assessment every five years focusing on key profiles in their communities (e.g. demographics, geography, past fire loss and event history, critical infrastructure, building stock profile within the community, etc.). Municipalities would be responsible for reviewing their risk assessment annually to ensure that any significant changes in the mandatory profiles are identified. If there are any significant changes (e.g. addition of retirement homes or care facilities), the municipality will be responsible for updating their assessment. This information will be used to inform decisions about fire protection services in their community. This requirement is proposed to come into force January 1, 2019. More information can be found here on the Ontario Regulatory Registry.

ANALYSIS

The Ministry received input on how to modernize fire service delivery in the province from a group of fire service experts, known as the provincial Fire Safety Technical Table (the Table), which was established in January 2017. As a member of the provincial table, the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (O AFC) has intimate knowledge of the development of the regulations; and has provided O AFC members with a detailed analysis of the proposed regulations. The highlights of their analysis, along with potential impacts to the Temagami Fire Department is in the attached staff briefing note.

The O AFC indicates the MCSCS is scheduled to send a survey to all fire departments (release date to be determined) in order to understand the needs and potential gaps in the current training, certification, risk assessment and public reporting within Ontario’s fire services, as well as to identify fire services’ challenges in meeting the new fire services regulations requirements. They indicate MCSCS will consider provincial funding to support implementation of this regulation, once final; however, no decisions or commitments have been made.

FINANCIAL/STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

This item has been approved in the current budget: Yes No N/A

This item is within the approved budgeted amount: Yes No N/A

As indicated in the Ontario Association of Fire Chief (O AFC) analysis there will be (future) financial implications associated with both to the regulations.

The extent of the implications with *Draft Regulation 1 – Mandatory Certification* will vary depending on where individual fire departments and firefighters are relative to training certification identified in the proposed legislation (Table 1). While the initial impact to existing firefighters is not immediate, the need to obtain certification will arise when firefighters seek promotion within the department (i.e. pre-requisites for officer’s training require both Firefighter I & firefighter II certification).

The extent of the implications with *Draft Regulation 2 – Mandatory Community Risk Assessments* will depend on the level of support and assistance OFMEM will provide for small rural and northern municipalities in completing the Community Risk Assessments

ALTERNATIVES

The alternative to not provide comment on the proposed regulations is not recommended. The proposed legislation will have an impact on the Municipality (financial & staffing); failing to provide comment would indicate the Municipality supported the draft legislation as proposed.

Prepared By:

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Reviewed and submitted by:

**Name
Position**

Accepted for Council consideration by:

**Name
Position**