

Summary of recommended amendments to the proposed regulations (TFD)

The following proposed recommendations / amendments to the regulations are provided for council consideration in developing municipal comments and feedback to MCSCS on the proposed regulations prior to March 11, 2018. The list is developed based on local concerns & circumstances, and suggestions by the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs on amendments to the regulations that should be made before they become law, in order to improve understanding and compliance.

1. **Mandatory Training and Certification Draft Regulation:**

- It is anticipated the new training requirements will have an impact on volunteer firefighter Recruitment and Retention, especially for volunteers with employers that do not support or allow their staff time off to obtain firefighter training certification. The province should develop regulations requiring employers to provide, similar to mandatory vacation under the *Employment Standards Act, 2000*, time off work for volunteer firefighters to attend mandated certification training where such training is not available within the community/ outside normal work hours. This will be especially critical in smaller communities where the availability of potential volunteers is very limited.
- Auto collisions & vehicle extrication is the majority of responses the Municipality of Temagami fire departments respond to. The municipality recommends MCSCS reconsider the training that existing fire department / firefighters have in this discipline. Recommend item # 4(1) of the proposed legislation be expanded to include item # 10 of Table 1, specific to the technical rescue/auto extrication currently performed by the department / authorized by E&R bylaw.
- A number of fire fighters did not take advantage of the grandfathering in 2013/14 as firefighters saw no need to seek certification at that time. Recommend OFMEM allow fire departments who previously grandfathered personnel to grandfather any additional staff that did not qualify in 2013/14, once grandfathering is re-opened.
- Recommend specialized, ongoing funding must be provided to Municipalities to support implementation of the mandatory training regulations, including consideration for funding to support staffing for small rural municipalities impacted by the legislated requirements.
- That the Mandatory Training and Certification regulation not come into force until at least July 1, 2019, preferably January 1, 2020, to allow municipal councils and their fire services to make all the necessary training funding decisions.
- The provincial government to provide the necessary funding for training and liability indemnification 12 months prior to the regulations coming into force.
- That the OFMEM must ensure timely access to free, online testing for departments.
- That the Internship Program of 24 months be expanded to include all applicable areas and positions, such as fire inspectors and Fire Officer I & II, replacing the limiting language found in section 3(b). As it's currently written, the regulation only applies to new hires.
- That Table 1 be revised to include wording that ensures future updates to NFPA standards are implemented by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) as standards are updated, published, and testing/skills are made available. This will support and complete the certification process.
- Certification for some individual chapters within NFPA 1006 may not be available for the January 1, 2020 deadline. Therefore, additional wording should be added to the regulations, allowing the AHJ to manage the implementation of NFPA 1006 Technical Rescue as the standards are updated, published, and testing/skills are made available, in order to support and complete the certification process.

2. Community Risk Assessments (Schedule 1 Mandatory Profiles) Draft Regulation:

- That the reference to building stock and classifications should use MPAC data to classify building usage in regards to fire risk.
- That the line about reporting the “state of compliance within the fire code” in Section 2 be deleted, as this is directly dependent upon municipalities’ set level of service for fire prevention (e.g. fire inspections upon request or complains as permitted, under the FPPA).
- That Section 6 be removed. In a multi-tier government (e.g. lower-tier fire, upper-tier EMS and provincial police), the data required for a public safety response profile, as currently called for in the draft regulation, is not attainable.
- That the mandatory risk assessment for fire, under Section 7 of this regulation, be clarified in regards to content and formatting as a stand-alone document.
- That Section 9(2) be edited to remove the requirement to compare to other “like” municipalities, as this data is not readily available. Reporting against provincial trends would be more appropriate.
- The municipality does not have the resources (staff / training) to complete community risk assessments. Province must provide support (funding) and assistance from OFMEM staff, for small rural and northern municipalities in completing the Community Risk Assessments.