
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Memorandum EMS-M03-2019 Haldimand County Fire Department Water Tanker Shuttle Accreditation Recertification



For Consideration by Council in Committee on November 19, 2019

To: Mayor Hewitt and Members of Council

From: Jason Gallagher

The Haldimand County Fire Department completed a Fire Department Water Tanker Shuttle Accreditation ('accreditation') for most rural areas of Haldimand County in 2014. The purpose of the accreditation is to provide residents with the fire hydrant protected insurance ratings even if they live in areas not protected by fire hydrants. Having a fire hydrant protected insurance rating has a dramatic impact on house insurance rates. Conversely, being in an area without fire hydrant protection usually results in increased insurance rates, often by as much as several hundred dollars per home.

The accreditation was good for a five-year period and required re-certification in 2019. The re-certification work has been successfully completed and the results/benefits for County residents are laid out in this memo (Attachment 1).

In terms of process, the accreditation is conducted by an independent organization called Fire Protection Survey Services. This organization conducts assessments of a fire department, and if successful, their accreditation is accepted by almost every insurance company in Canada.

The requirements for accreditation are as follows:

- This is a physical test, which must be performed in the presence of qualified personnel.
- The dumping location, "Fire Site" must be a minimum of 5 kilometers (3 miles), by road, from the fill site and within 8 kilometres (5 miles), by road of a fire station.
- From arrival of the first pumper at the "Fire Site", the Department must be flowing a minimum of 900 litres/minute, (200 IGPM) within 5 minutes and must maintain flow rates for the entire two (2) hours duration of the test.
- The water supply must be from a recognized water source: hydrant, dry hydrant or cistern of minimum 114,000 litres (25,000 IG), municipally installed and maintained as per National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), 1142.
- The water source must be available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year.
- The tanker shuttle is to be conducted using modern fire-fighting techniques, including portable tanks.
- Water from the pumper, at the "Fire Site", will be supplied to a deluge gun (appliances for, used to deliver a lot of water at one time to extinguish a fire), delivering large flows of water on pumpers with appropriate tips, to allow for measurement with a pitot gauge.
- Sufficient apparatus must be available to cover the area, in the event of a second fire call.

In order to meet the above requirements, the Haldimand County Fire Department has to ensure that they have:

- Enough functioning tanker trucks;
- Enough functioning portable pumps and associated equipment;
- Dispatch-run assignments that dispatched a minimum of 22,000 litres of water upon the report of a structure fire;

- Standard Operating Guidelines, (SOG's), that outline water supply tactics and the dispatching on a minimum of one additional tanker truck when a structure fire is confirmed; and
- Training programs in place to ensure that all firefighters are capable of establishing and maintaining the water supply requirements.

The Haldimand County Fire Department arranged for re-certification attempt in August and passed with little to no issues. Testing was completed in the following locations which cover the County as a whole:

- Stromness (stations from Canboro, Lowbanks, Dunnville & South Cayuga)
- York (stations from Caledonia, Hagersville, Cayuga, and Canfield)
- Canfield (stations from Caledonia, Cayuga, Canfield, Canboro)
- Selkirk (stations from Jarvis, South Cayuga, Fisherville, Selkirk)

During the testing period, the presiding organization was very complimentary of the Fire Department's capabilities and skills of the firefighters.

The results of this year's accreditation qualified the County for residential properties that are within an eight (8) kilometre radius of a fire station, with a insurance rating of (6) (hydrant protection equivalent) for fire protection. This is similar to the 2014 certification. In addition, this year's accreditation also qualified the County for commercial ratings (not including industrial properties) which the 2014 certification did not. This means that commercial businesses that are in a rural setting should qualify to have insurance rates lowered because of the ability of the fire department to supply flow rates as per standards. This is the first time that Haldimand County has been able to achieve this classification.

With the re-certification and the classification achieved, residential and commercial property owners should be eligible (depending on their individual insurance companies) for a rate reduction in the fire portion of their insurance. This re-certification is to remain in place for another 5 years period until 2024. The Emergency Services Division will be encouraging residents to contact their insurance companies for details regarding their specific policies and rates. In the coming weeks this information will be added to the Haldimand County website and disseminated through the media.