
HALDIMAND COUNTY

Report EMS-04-2022 Revised By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department in Haldimand County

For Consideration by Council in Committee on December 6, 2022



OBJECTIVE:

To provide an updated by-law to establish and regulate a Fire Department for Haldimand County that properly reflects the current department name, practices and service delivery levels.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Report EMS-04-2022 Revised By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department in Haldimand County be received;
2. AND THAT the revised By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department for Haldimand County as set out in Attachment 1 of Report EMS-04-2022, be presented for enactment.

Prepared by: Jason Gallagher, Manager of Emergency Services/Fire Chief

Respectfully submitted: Mike Evers, MCIP, RPP, BES, General Manager of Community & Development Services

Approved: Craig Manley, MCIP, RPP, Chief Administrative Officer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Fire Department staff recommends adopting the revised Haldimand County By-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department as required by Provincial legislation. The revised by-law focuses primarily on housekeeping matters, including changes to address grammatical errors, update relevant year of legislation or update practices and processes to current standards. There are no significant changes to the overarching intent of the by-law that would lead to any service level changes, funding implications or otherwise.

BACKGROUND:

The *Municipal Act* states “that Council may by by-law, establish and regulate a fire department”. The County has had a by-law in place since the last update in 2009. The by-law is required to establish the level of service that the County provides to its resident and covers areas including fire suppression, emergency medical services, rescue services and public assistance calls.

The *Fire Protection and Prevention Act* (FPPA) 1997, requires “each municipality to provide public education, fire prevention services and other services according to needs and circumstances”. Those are to be defined in a by-law such as that which is the subject of this report. It is then dependant on each municipal Council to decide upon the level of service that the municipality will provide. The level of service that Council has decided upon is reflected in the by-law attached and is not changing as a result of this update.

From time to time, by-laws (including that subject to this report) require updating to reflect current service levels, respond to/reference new legislation, and to properly reflect current titles/positions/etc. This collection of items captures the impetus for the changes being introduced by way of this report.

ANALYSIS:

Overall, the structure referenced in the by-law remains the same, however, some of the general operating principles require revision and more detail, in particular as it relates to titles, legislative references, effective dates and clarity on the level of service that is provided. Those are summarized as follows:

- Fire Prevention – the by-law better defines what this is and outlines what the County has and continues to provide in this service area;
- Fire Education – the by-law better defines what this is and outlines what the County has and continues to provide in this service area;
- More detailed response identification to specific emergencies and type of service identified, i.e. Interior Fire Fighting, Exterior Fire Fighting, Medical Calls, etc.; and
- Staffing – clarification on our staffing numbers in relation to the level of service provided.

In addition to above, recent legislative changes make it mandatory that every firefighter in the province of Ontario is certified to the NFPA Standard 1001, Level I and Level II Firefighter which includes Hazmat Operations NFPA 1072. These changes need to be reflected in the by-law in connection with what services are provided by the Haldimand County Fire Department to reduce potential risk of legal action taken against the municipality for fire suppression and prevention services provided. The attached by-law has been updated to reflect this.

Overall, revisions to the by-law are minor in nature and either reflect corrections to grammatical errors, update relevant year of legislation or update practices and processes to current standards. Changes to the by-law are bolded for easier reference when comparing the new proposed by-law to the existing by-law (see Attachment 1).

FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

Not applicable.

STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:

Not applicable.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: No

By-law: Yes

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

REFERENCES:

None.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Amended by-law to Establish and Regulate a Fire Department.