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# HALDIMAND COUNTY

## Report EMS-04-2024 Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation For Consideration by Council in Committee on November 19, 2024

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### OBJECTIVE:

To provide Council with the results of the Superior Tanker Shuttle Service accreditation, which occurred on September 14, 2024, in various locations throughout the County.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

THAT Report EMS-04-2024 Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation be received.

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**Approved:** Cathy Case, Chief Administrative Officer

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Report EMS-04-2024 Superior Tanker Shuttle Service Accreditation has been prepared to update Council on the positive results of the recent testing completed by the Fire Underwriter Survey (FUS) in conjunction with Haldimand County Fire Department.

### BACKGROUND:

The Haldimand County Fire Department completed a Fire Department Water Tanker Accreditation ('accreditation') for most rural areas of Haldimand County in 2019. It was approved for a period of 5 years. 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. Being in an area without fire hydrant protection usually results in increased insurance rates. However, having a fire hydrant protected insurance rating—a result of the accreditation—has a dramatic impact on house insurance rates and can reduce rates by several hundred dollars per home.

The accreditation was valid for a five-year period and required re-certification in 2024. The re-certification work has been successfully completed and the results/benefits for County residents are laid out in this report (Attachment 1).

In terms of process, the accreditation is conducted by Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS). This organization conducts assessments of a fire department, and if successful, their accreditation is accepted by most insurance companies in Canada.

## ANALYSIS:

On September 14, 2024, FUS attended various sites within Haldimand County to complete the accreditation process. Those sites included:

- Jarvis (stations from Jarvis, Hagersville, Selkirk & Fisherville)
- Lowbanks (stations from Lowbanks, Dunnville, Canborough, & South Haldimand)
- Canfield (stations from Canfield, Cayuga, Caledonia, Canborough)

Certificates for all accredited stations are included at Attachment 3.

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 kilometres (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.

During the testing period, the presiding organization was very complimentary of the Fire Department's capabilities and skills of the firefighters. Haldimand County Fire Department was successful in meeting the requirements in all areas of the accreditation process.

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 an insurance rating of (6) (hydrant protection equivalent) for fire protection. This is similar to the 2019 certification.

With the re-certification and the classification achieved, residential 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 2029. The Emergency Services Division will be encouraging residents to contact their insurance companies for details regarding their specific policies and rates. A press release is planned to inform the public of the accreditation and encourage them to investigate with their provider how this could benefit them.

### **FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:**

Not applicable.

### **STAKEHOLDER IMPACTS:**

Not applicable.

### **REPORT IMPACTS:**

Agreement: No

By-law: No

Budget Amendment: No

Policy: No

### **ATTACHMENTS:**

1. Accreditation Letter of Recognition to Insurers.
2. Accreditation Letter to Fire Department Haldimand County.
3. Certificates of Accreditation Stations 1 – 13.