

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE JANUARY 20, 2003

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM

Recommendation

The Fire Chief recommends THAT:

1. Clause #5: "Emergency Management Reform", Report #10 of the Regional Finance and Administration Committee, as approved by Council of the Regional Municipality of York on December 19, 2002, BE RECEIVED;
2. The Fire Chief, as Vaughan's designated Community Emergency Management Coordinator, be authorized to participate with the Region and other Local Municipalities in the development of a joint action plan to address emergency management reform;
3. The Fire Chief undertakes review of appropriate emergency management program(s), plan(s), by-law(s) and policy(ies); and
4. The Fire Chief submits a report to Council at the earliest opportunity regarding the implications of Emergency Management Reform.

Purpose

The purpose of this Item is to initiate actions for the implementation of the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act* in cooperation with the Region of York and other Local Municipalities.

Background - Analysis and Options

On December 6, 2001 the Ontario Government introduced Bill 148 (*Emergency Readiness Act*) to amend the existing *Emergency Plans Act*. The Bill received Royal Assent November 19, 2002.

Bill 148 changes the name of the *Emergency Plans Act* to the *Emergency Management Act*. The revised Act will mandate provincial ministries, municipalities and local boards to be prepared for major emergency situations. Mandatory provincial and municipal emergency management programs would come into effect one year from the date of the proclamation of the Emergency Management Act.

To address the increasing public safety risks in Ontario, each municipality must have a Community Emergency Management Program. Mandatory changes at the municipal level include:

- Council adoption of a by-law for an emergency management program and emergency plan.
- Emergency management program based on risks to the community.
- Municipal critical infrastructure identified and measures to protect it developed.
- Training and exercise program for municipal employees and others responsible for emergency services.
- Public education on risks in the community and on preparedness for emergencies.
- Establishment of municipal emergency management committees as part of the Provincial Emergency Management Advisory Council/Committee Structure.

Essential Program

The Essential level requirements are:

- Designation of a community emergency management coordinator.
- Hazard identification and risk assessment process.

- Establishment of a community emergency management program committee.
- Publication of an approved community emergency plan.
- Development of an appropriate community emergency operations centre.
- Development of an appropriate community emergency response capability.
- Conduct of annual training for the emergency control group and emergency operations centre staff.
- Conduct of an annual exercise to evaluate the community emergency plan.
- Identification of individuals to act as community emergency information staff.
- Development and implementation of a community emergency management public awareness program.
- Conduct of an annual review of the community emergency management program.

Enhanced Program

The Enhanced level requirements are:

- Publication of an enhanced community emergency plan to include supporting plans for high risks (e.g. floods, transportation accidents).
- Publication of a supporting plan for the dissemination of emergency information including the designation and arrangements for a local information centre.
- Development of an enhanced community emergency operations centre to include detailed operating procedures, arrangements, and provision for appropriate specialist and auxiliary staff during an emergency.
- Development and implementation of an annual community emergency management exercise program involving appropriate staff, volunteer organizations, auxiliary staff and emergency services.
- Development and implementation of a community public education program based on identified high risks.
- Development and implementation of an annual self-assessment process to determine the quality and effectiveness of the community emergency management program.

Comprehensive Program

The comprehensive level requirements are:

- Development of mutual aid and assistance agreements with neighbouring communities and organizations.
- Development of a community mitigation strategy and plan for identified high risks.
- Publication of a community recovery plan for identified high risks.
- Implementation of guidelines for risk-based land use planning.
- Designation of community dangerous goods routes.
- Development and implementation of a detailed risk-based public education program.
- Development of a comprehensive community evacuation plan.
- Designation of a community emergency management week to publicize the emergency management program and recognize the contribution of all partners.
- Development and implementation of an external assessment process to determine the quality and effectiveness of the community emergency management program.

Conclusion

Municipalities will be expected to have the **Essential** Program level in place within one year of the Emergency Management Act being proclaimed. EMO had advised that each municipality should seek to progressively develop its program until the **Comprehensive** Program level is reached. Municipalities will be expected to reach this level within the three years after the Act is proclaimed.

The provincial government has introduced legislation that will contribute to safe disaster resilient communities in Ontario. Accordingly, corresponding changes to appropriate By-law(s) and Policy(ies) are required to meet the new provincial mandate.

The Region suggests it "...can play a key role as a service provider and a partner to the local municipalities by assisting them to increase their emergency management capacity through a joint emergency management process."

The Fire Chief believes there are opportunities with respect to jointly conducting risk assessments, training and exercises and public education activities, with the Region and other Local Municipalities, and will report back accordingly.

Attachment

1. Clause #5 "Emergency Management Reform" Report #10, Region of York Council December 19, 2002.

Respectfully submitted,

John B. Sutton
Fire Chief

York Region

Clause No. 5 embodied in Report No. 10 of the Finance and Administration Committee was adopted, without amendment, by the Council of The Regional Municipality of York at its meeting on December 19, 2002.

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EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT REFORM

The Finance and Administration Committee recommends the adoption of the recommendations contained in the following report, November 13, 2002, from the Chief Administrative Officer subject to being amended by adding at the end of Recommendation 1 the words "in principle"; and directed the report be circulated to area municipalities for their input:

1. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that:

1. The Regional Emergency Management Program Policy, dated December 5, 2002, be approved (*See Attachment 1*).
2. The Regional Solicitor be directed to prepare the necessary By-law to comply with the new Emergency Management Act.
3. Senior management staff of the Region, local municipalities, York Regional Police and the other local boards, which require emergency management programs, jointly develop an action plan to address the Provincial Emergency Management Program reform measures.
4. The Report be referred to the local municipalities and York Regional Police Services Board for their consideration regarding the development of a joint action plan to address emergency management reform.

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of the report is to implement the requirements of the Emergency Management Act, the intent of which is to provide safe, disaster resilient communities in York Region.

3. BACKGROUND

After the events of September 11th 2001, the provincial government announced, in October 2001, it would invest 20 million dollars to enhance the province's counter-terrorism and emergency management capabilities. The new funding included doubling Emergency Measures Ontario's budget to three million, one million to establish volunteer community emergency response teams and \$200,000 to establish an alternate provincial emergency operations centre. On December 6, 2001 the Ontario Government introduced Bill 148 (*Emergency Readiness Act*) to amend the existing Emergency Plans Act. The Bill received Royal Assent November 19, 2002.