



Staff Report

Report Title: Medical Response – Letter of Concern follow-up

Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief

Department: Fire & Emergency Services

Date: Oct. 17, 2022

Report Number: FIRE-2022-10-35

File Number: C11-FIRE-22

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Council hereby receives for information Report Number FIRE2022-10-35 prepared by Chris Cleave, Fire Chief.

Background:

Currently the Township of Huron-Kinloss has a Medical Tiered Response policy in place which was adopted by Council in 2020. This policy established a select set of medical response criteria as recommended by Bruce County EMS to be the most serious and that meets the “obvious threat to life” threshold and the most beneficial to have Fire assistance respond too.

There is no legislation in place that mandates we respond to a medical assistance call. What we do have is a simple agreement in place to assist EMS with their most serious calls as defined by the selected criteria.

Discussion:

When a call is received by the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) for an EMS response, each call is categorized. Once categorized the call is then compared to the selected criteria to determine if the Fire Department should be dispatched.

The Dispatcher can only make this assessment based on the information that is being given to them by a caller. If the dispatcher determines that the call does not meet the Fire Department response criteria, then fire will not be dispatched. This decision solely lands on the dispatcher taking the call and assessing the nature of the call itself.

The Fire Chief's inquiry of the incident on August 20, 2022, as detailed in the letter of concern submitted to council has resulted in the following as per Huron County EMS:

"Call was assigned a Code 4 but was returned a Code 3 and CTAS 3. The call report indicates that the crew was sent due to facial laceration secondary to a trip/fall. The lacerations were not active bleeding when the crew arrived. Her vitals were within normal limits for the entire time. Due to a previous medical condition, she was treated with Gravol for motion sickness but otherwise nothing to report off the Call Report. After reviewing the call report, I don't believe the tiered response criteria was met for Fire."

Additionally, Huron County EMS are currently still operating in a "Decreased Tiered Response mode" under their COVID-19 response protocols. This means that Huron County EMS will only dispatch fire to Motor Vehicle Collisions, Industrial/Farm Accidents and Vital Signs Absent calls. Huron County EMS will not dispatch fire for any other medical response criteria until such time as they release their COVID-19 response protocols. Huron County is the only EMS provider in the area that is still operating under the Decreased Tiered Response protocol.

Huron County EMS is the primary EMS provider for all medicals in Huron County and within the town proper of Lucknow. (As per Provincial EMS Catchment area designations). These are the reasons why Fire was not dispatched to the specific incident as detailed in the letter submitted.

At this time there is no set date as to when Huron EMS will be releasing their decreased tiered response protocols and returning to normal criteria.

In response to this the Fire Chief will be drafting and distributing a media release detailing the current decreased response protocols to allow residents to have a clear understanding of the current services levels and response expectations of the fire department.

Financial Impacts:

None

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having services and amenities nearby.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chris Cleave, Fire Chief

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer