



Staff Report

Report Title: Emergency Management and Health and Safety December 2022 Summary

Prepared By: Mel Moulton, Emergency Services/ Health & Safety Coordinator

Department: Fire & Emergency Services

Date: Jan. 16, 2023

Report Number: FIRE-2023-01-1

File Number:

C11-FIRE-23

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number FIRE-2023-01-1, prepared by Mel Moulton, Emergency Services/ Health & Safety Coordinator.

Background:

This report provides an update of Emergency Management and Health and Safety activities.

Discussion:

Emergency Management

December 2022 Blizzard

On December 23, 2022, a blizzard moved into Ontario finally dissipating December 26. The Township of Huron-Kinloss experienced freezing rain, high winds, freezing temperatures, large accumulation of snow and power outages.

To ensure staff safety the Municipal Office, Ripley Huron Community Centre and Huron Landfill were closed.

Communication was continuous between the Mayor, Chief Administrative Officer, Director of Public Works & Fire Chief. Updates were shared on the Township of Huron-Kinloss Facebook page, website and emailed to subscribers of Huron-Kinloss alerts.

Public Works

The roads most affected by this event within the Township were located east of Highway 21. Township staff attempted to clear the worst affected areas on the afternoon of December 23rd and the morning of December 24th, but Staff decided to pull all plows on both days, due to safety concerns. Several plow trucks became stuck in severe drifts and many operations staff were unable to travel to Public Works facilities because of the poor road conditions and visibility. The primary focus of our operations shifted to ensuring emergency services were able to respond to calls involving life-threatening situations.

A widespread power outage due to downed trees along the southern Lakeshore persisted for up to 48 hours in some areas, which impacted both drinking water well sites in Zone 1 (Point Clark, Lurgan Beach and Blairs Grove areas). With the assistance of a local contractor, the Point Clark Pumphouse resumed operations via generator power on December 24th, which allowed the Lakeshore Standpipe to recover to its normal operating level and prevent a potential service disruption. The Huronville Pumphouse was offline during the storm, however, the northern Lakeshore area (Zone 2) was supplied from Murdoch Glen in the Heritage Heights area, which operated throughout the storm. On December 24th, Township staff were able to clear a path for Hydro One to access Point Clark to restore power to most of the affected areas and begin removing the downed trees from blocking our roads.

The support from local contractors and residents with tractor-mounted blowers was critical in clearing areas that experienced severe drifting which became denser as the storm progressed because of the consistent wind. The use of this equipment was the only method available to clear a path for emergency services from December 23rd until December 26th. We also benefited from the support provided by the Municipality of Kincardine, when Township staff needed help removing Township vehicles from snow drifts in the northwest area of the Township.

Fortunately, Township staff managed to avoid injuries and significant damage to Township equipment, by taking the appropriate precautions. Collaboration with the County of Bruce and the Municipality of Kincardine when discussing strategies to deal with this weather event was critical in preventing a serious situation from developing.

Emergency Services

The Fire Department (FD) operated under the limited-service clause that exists within the Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law. A Public notification was released

advising the public that a reduction in service and significant delays in our ability to respond during the blizzard event should be expected.

From Dec 23-26 the Fire Departments were dispatched to a total of 11 incidents. Five of those incidents were considered life threatening and warranted a response by the FD. The remaining calls for service were not classified as life threatening and they did not receive a response by the Fire Department but were mitigated through other means (phone calls etc.). The Fire Departments were fortunate enough to have access to heavy equipment and snow removal contractors to assist in reaching certain parts of the township while responding to calls.

Additionally, in the Community of Lucknow the Fire Department assisted with sheltering 12 stranded motorists and throughout the event and it is believed that a number of community members also assisted other stranded motorists at various locations within the township. There was one fatality during this event due to sudden medical distress.

Emergency Management 2022 Year in Review

- No emergencies declared
- Municipal Emergency Control Group received annual training on required topics
 - Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) and Critical Infrastructure (CI) List
 - Municipal Emergency Response Plan (MERP) including roles & responsibilities
 - Activation and operation procedures under MERP
 - Emergency Operations Centre Location & communications infrastructure
- Annual exercise completed
 - Natural Gas Explosion in Point Clark
 - In person exercise held at the Primary Emergency Operations Centre
 - Engaged more staff with two shifts including Mayor and Deputy Mayor
 - Live inputs from Ripley Huron District Fire Chief
- Community Emergency Management Program Committee (CEMPC) spring and fall meetings conducted
- Attended Spring and Fall Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) Bruce Sector Meetings
- HIRA & CI review completed
- Annual compliance documentation submitted to EMO
- 5 Special Event Permits Issued – (Point Clark Canada Day Fire Works, Bruce Beach Annual BBQ, Lucknow Music in the Fields, Lucknow Fall Fair, and Ripley Fall Fair)
- Celebrated Emergency Preparedness week with a 72-hour kit giveaway
- Public education displays at Ripley and Lucknow Fall Fairs
- Monthly public education posting on social media

- Newly appointment Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC), Mel Moulton, completed all required training including two additional courses Note Taking and Exercise Programs

Health and Safety

Training: Emergency Services/ Health and Safety Coordinator continues to meet with departments monthly completing Safety Tailgate training on internal policies, procedures, and applicable Safety Data Sheets (SDS).

Inspections: Regular monthly inspections were completed at Township facilities. Corrective actions have been discussed, action owners and due dates have been assigned with many items completed. A schedule of group Joint Health and Safety Committee (JHSC) inspections has been established for 2023.

Incident: There were no safety incidents in December.

Joint Health and Safety Committee: The Township of Huron-Kinloss committee cancelled the December meeting however remains compliant with one meeting every three months.

Policies and Procedures: No new health and safety policies or procedures were created in December.

Health and Safety 2022 Year in Review

- 5 Safety Incidents (Worker fainted, Patrol swerved for deer, Car struck plow, Threat of violence at fire call, Worker strained back)
- 24 Safe Operating Procedures created or updated. Notably a Respiratory Protection Program was created and implemented.
- Occupational Health and Safety Act required safety training and refreshers to 41 new and 57 existing staff was delivered
- Required staff attended additional training such as chainsaw, working at heights, and first aid
- Regular/Monthly safety tailgate meetings with Public Works, Community Services, Huron Landfill and Municipal Office covering workplace specific safety topics, SDSs, policies and procedures
- Monthly workplace inspections completed at 13 Township facilities which identified hazards to be corrected. 86% of corrective actions are completed and staff are aware of and completing the remainder.
- Quarterly JHSC meetings held with all three JHSCs. During meetings the committees discuss previous inspections, review Safe Operating Procedures/ Guidelines, and discuss any safety concerns raised to members

COVID-19

Two new Emergency Management Pandemic Procedures have been created combining many existing procedures.

Township staff continues to monitor COVID-19 and will make any necessary adjustments to services if and when required.

Ill staff use the provincial screening tool to determine self isolation requirements.

Mandatory masking is not required however Township of Huron-Kinloss buildings are mask friendly for anyone who chooses to wear one or is required to based on provincial screening guidance.

Grey Bruce Public health announced last week that they are sunsetting the COVID-19 vaccine task force. Chief Cleave received recognition for his participation on the task force.

The Grey Bruce Public Health Weekly vaccine schedule can be viewed here [Weekly Vaccine Schedule - Dec 19 - Feb 5 \(publichealthgreybruce.on.ca\)](#) Residents can also contact local pharmacies for vaccine availability and scheduling. Booster and bivalent vaccine eligibility is ever changing, for the latest information visit [COVID-19 vaccines | ontario.ca](#).

Financial Impacts:

To comply with the Occupational Health and Safety Act, as well as Regulations under the Act, and other Acts, and to keep workers safe on the job, health and safety is an ongoing expense included in the operating budget.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community by being open and transparent.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Mel Moulton, Emergency Services/ Health & Safety Coordinator

Report Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer