



The Corporation of the Township of Huron-Kinloss

Staff Report

Report Title: Ontario Regulation 343/22 Firefighter Certification

Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief

Department: Fire & Emergency Services

Date: May. 2, 2022

Report Number: FIRE-2022-05-15

File Number: C11-FIRE-22

Attachments: Ministry of the Solicitor General - Firefighter Certification Correspondence

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number FIRE-2022-05-15 prepared by Chris Cleave, Fire Chief / CEMC.

Background:

Ontario Regulation 379/18: Firefighter Certification, which established mandatory National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) certification requirements for firefighters in ten specific roles, was previously introduced and subsequently revoked in 2018 prior to coming into force.

On January 19, 2022, Ontario Regulation 343/22: Firefighter Certification was reintroduced by the Office of the Fire Marshal. Amendments were made to the former proposed regulation, and it was at this time that the comment period was opened for organizations to address any potential issues with the regulation. This period remained open through to February 28, 2022.

The Office of the Fire Marshal and the Ontario Fire Chiefs Association conducted several Virtual information sessions for Fire Chiefs and Municipal Officials to attend, which the Fire Chief participated in.

Discussion:

On April 14, 2022, O. Reg. 343/22: Firefighter Certification has been filed and is now an in-force regulation under the Act.

This regulation does not require our firefighters train to higher levels than they already are. Certification is a process of verification, ensuring that a firefighter is trained to the standard they are already required to perform, as set out in the levels of service determined by a council through our current Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law (E&R).

Currently our Levels of Service within the E&R By-law are set to provide "full service" fire suppression which means all the certification requirements within the new regulation apply to us. Additionally, we provide Vehicle Rescue Services (Auto Extrication) at the Technician level, so the Technical Rescue certification components of the new regulation apply to us as well.

Some key compliance dates are as follows:

For full Fire Suppression Services all members will be required to be certified by July 01, 2026. This Certification would be the NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 and 2 including hazardous materials operations level certification.

For Vehicle Rescue Technician we must comply by July 01, 2028

For any Fire Department Member performing the roles of Fire Officer, Fire Service Instructor, Fire inspector, Fire Investigator, Incident Safety Officer, and Pump Operator the individuals will additionally be required to be certified to the appropriate NFPA levels identified with the regulation. The July 01, 2026, compliance date applies to these levels.

Our Current certification status is as follows:

Ripley-Huron Station:

- All Firefighters are currently NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 & 2 Certified
- All Firefighters are currently NFPA 1006 Vehicle Rescue Technician Level 1 certified
- 3 Auxiliary Recruit Firefighters are enrolled in and working on completion of their NFPA 1001 Firefighter Certification anticipated to completed in December of 2022. Vehicle Rescue Technician certification is scheduled for May of 2023
- 6 of 8 Fire Officers have completed and currently are NFPA Certified to the Fire Officer Level 1, Fire Service Instructor Level 1 and Incident Safety Officer Levels. 1 Officer qualifies for legacy certification (employed before 2019) under the regulation and the other one will be required to certify prior to the compliance date.

Lucknow & District Station:

- 10 of 22 Firefighters are currently NFPA 1001 Firefighter Level 1 & 2 Certified
- 12 Firefighters will be required to be certified under this new regulation prior to the compliance date. This will occur sooner than the compliance date as we have been working on covering off the job performance requirements of certification since we took over management of this station. It is our goal to have these legacy members certify at the same time as the new recruits.

- 4 Auxiliary Recruit Firefighters are enrolled in and working on completion of their NFPA 1001 Firefighter Certification anticipated to completed in December of 2022. Vehicle Rescue Technician certification is scheduled for May of 2023.
- 6 of 8 Fire Officers have completed and currently are NFPA Certified to the Fire Officer Level 1, Fire Service Instructor Level 1 and Incident Safety Officer Levels. 2 Officer qualifies for legacy certification (employed before 2019) under the regulation.

Legacy Certification means any Firefighter that was employed prior to 2019 is eligible to receive certification through attestation that they have received training under the old Ontario Curriculum or through in house training and other courses. This applies to the Fire Officer and Pump Operations components of the regulation only. It does not apply to Firefighter Certification.

The Township of Huron-Kinloss has been following the NFPA Curriculum training models since the hiring of a full time Fire Chief in 2015. Overall, we are in a great position with regards to compliance with this regulation. When the initial regulation was introduced in 2018 the Council at that time updated our E&R By-law to reflect the requirements of the regulation and these requirements are consistent with this new regulation and remain in effect today.

Financial Impacts:

Reflected annual in the Fire Departments Operating budgets

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

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer