



# CENTRAL YORK FIRE SERVICES

November 3, 2020

## **FIRE SERVICES REPORT JCC-2020-09**

To: Joint Council Committee

Origin: Central York Fire Services - Deputy Chief Rocco Volpe

Subject: By-Law Authorizing Participation in the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT Fire Services Report JCC-2020-09 be received for information.
2. AND THAT Council enact a By-Law to authorize the participation of Central York Fire Services in the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan.

## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this report is to provide information regarding the participation of Central York Fire Services in the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan on a reciprocal basis.

## **BACKGROUND**

"Mutual Aid" is a provision under the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997* that allows fire departments to share resources during a major emergency when one municipality has committed all of its fire protection resources and/or cannot control the situation with its own available resources.

Mutual Aid is provided on a reciprocal basis between municipalities, and no fees are charged to the fire department needing assistance. Mutual Aid is provided on a request basis only through the Regional Fire Coordinator appointed by the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management, and is not automatic.

Generally, the requirements for participation in a regional Mutual Aid plan stipulate that each municipality must own or operate a fire department that is adequate to meet its day-to-day fire protection obligations. Fire departments must be established by by-law or agreement, and must have by-laws or similar authorization permitting the fire departments to leave their jurisdiction to participate in the Mutual Aid plan.

Responding fire departments must meet the requirements of the Occupational Health and Safety Act and maintain a first priority to emergencies in their own municipality or jurisdiction, and a second priority to mutual aid calls. A Fire Chief may deny a request to provide assistance under a Mutual Aid plan if the requested resources are required in the home municipality.

Central York Fire Services has participated in the Mutual Aid Plan for many years. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management initiated a revision to the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan in 2018. As a result, a revised and updated York Region Mutual Aid Plan was released by the York Region Fire Coordinator to the local area municipalities.

As such, staff is seeking authorization from Council for Central York Fire Services to participate in the Mutual Aid Plan so that it may continue to leave the limits of the municipality, at the discretion of the Fire Chief or designate, to respond to requests for assistance from other municipal fire departments authorized to participate in the Mutual Aid Plan or another Regional or Municipal Mutual Aid System on a reciprocal basis.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

Mutual Aid is a reciprocal arrangement with no fees involved for providing or receiving assistance.

## **CONCLUSION**

Staff recommends that JCC approve the following By-Law 2020-XX be enacted.

## **CONSULTATION**

The Senior Fire Management Team consulted with the Town of Newmarket Legal Department.

## **IMPACT ON THE MASTER FIRE PLAN**

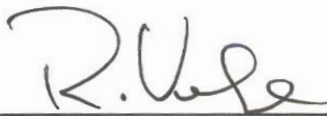
This report has no impact on the Master Fire Plan.

## CONTACT

For more information regarding this report contact Deputy Chief Rocco Volpe at [rvolpe@cyfs.ca](mailto:rvolpe@cyfs.ca)

## ATTACHMENTS

1. Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan, 2018 - 2022.
2. Draft By-Law (2020-XX) to authorize the participation of Central York Fire Services in the York Region Mutual Aid Plan which is part of the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Volpe', is written over a horizontal line.

Rocco Volpe, Deputy Chief  
Central York Fire Services