



OAKVILLE

## REPORT

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MEETING DATE: JUNE 17, 2019

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**FROM:** Fire Department

**DATE:** May 13, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Oakville Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law 2019-071

**LOCATION:**

**WARD:**

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Page 1

### RECOMMENDATION:

That By-law 2019- 071, a by-law establishing and regulating the Oakville Fire Department, as attached in Appendix A to the report from the Oakville Fire Department, dated May 13, 2019, be approved.

### KEY FACTS:

The following are key points for consideration with respect to this report:

- The Fire Department has recently adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard as the Town of Oakville's new benchmark for training and certification of our personnel in the delivery of critical services to the community.
- This standard is recognized internationally as the best approach to deliver fire services in the safest possible manner for our team.
- The new certifications and testing for special response disciplines will be conducted through accredited agencies.
- In order to enable this program, the establishing and regulating by-law, most recently updated in 2011, must be amended to reflect current terminology with respect to the levels of service.
- This by-law establishes the services that will be delivered to the community by the Fire Department.

### BACKGROUND:

The *Municipal Act, 2001*, S.O., 2001, c.25 as amended and the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997*, S.O. 1997, C.4 as amended, permits the council of a

From: Fire Department  
Date: May 13, 2019  
Subject: Oakville Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law 2019-071

municipality to establish, maintain and operate a fire department. The establishing and regulating by-law approved by Council prescribes the types and levels of services that the Fire Department is currently authorized to provide to the citizens of Oakville.

The current by-law was last updated in 2011. Since that time, there has been changes to terminology used to describe some of the levels of response for “special response levels” as outlined in Appendix A of the by-law. In addition, the Fire Department has recently adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard as the benchmark to train and certify our personnel in the delivery of the services to the community. This direction will provide staff with training and certification that is recognized worldwide to deliver the services in the safest possible manner for our staff.

Certification to NFPA for staff is a key component as the fire department moves forward. In 2017 the Provincial Government proposed Regulation 379/18 which would require mandatory certification of fire fighters to perform the services they provide. This was a significant step forward to ensure that fire fighters who are required to perform the services outlined in their establishing and regulation by-law, are actually trained to an identified standard in NFPA and certified by an accredited agency to perform the discipline. Fire administration reviewed the requirements of the regulation and prepared a three-year training plan to implement the required training and certification based on the regulation and a risk matrix which identifies four risk/ occurrence silos: high risk/low occurrence, low risk/ low occurrence, high risk/ high occurrence and low risk/ high occurrence. The previous regulation was revoked by the current government and is currently under review. It is the expectation of the industry that the regulation will be brought back in some form before the end of this government’s term of office. Fire Administration is proceeding with the three-year training plan to train and certify our staff to better serve our community and in anticipation of this decision.

It is important to ensure the levels of services identified in the by-law accurately reflect the current NFPA standards. The department will establish procedures and training programs to certify our staff that is in compliance with the updated establishing and regulating by-law.

#### **COMMENT/OPTIONS:**

A revised by-law has been prepared by staff to properly regulate the delivery of the fire department’s services within the Town of Oakville in accordance with current Provincial legislation and NFPA standards.

From: Fire Department  
Date: May 13, 2019  
Subject: Oakville Fire Department Establishing and Regulating By-law 2019-071

The revised by-law details the types and levels of services being delivered to ensure that the citizens of Oakville are fully aware of the fire protection and prevention services available to them.

The training and certification of the department to the service levels identified in the by-law will be achieved through the existing department budget.

Therefore, staff are recommending that the draft by-law as per Appendix A to this report be approved and that the current By-law 2011-119 be rescinded.

### **CONSIDERATIONS:**

#### **(A) PUBLIC**

The proposed by-law will replace and update the existing establishing and regulating by-law for Oakville Fire Department which is consistent with the requirements for the services provided to the citizens of Oakville as required by "*The Fire Protection and Prevention Act 1997*".

#### **(B) FINANCIAL**

There are no financial impacts related to this by-law.

#### **(C) IMPACT ON OTHER DEPARTMENTS & USERS**

There are no impacts on other departments.

#### **(D) CORPORATE AND/OR DEPARTMENT STRATEGIC GOALS**

This report addresses the corporate strategic goal to:

- continuously improve our programs and services

#### **(E) COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY**

This report is in line with the Town's Strategic Plan and addresses the safety of the citizens and staff.

### **APPENDICES:**

Appendix A – Draft By-law 2019-071 A By-law Establishing and Regulating the Oakville Fire Department  
Appendix B – Current By-law 2011-119 A By-law Establishing and Regulating the Oakville Fire Department

Prepared and Submitted by:

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