



## Report to Council

Department: Community Services  
Division: Fire and Rescue Services  
Date: May 3, 2021  
Prepared by: Rick Arnel, Fire Chief  
Report Number: Fire and Rescue Services-2021-05  
Subject: Establishing and Regulating Fire Services Updated By-Law  
Number of Pages: 31

### Recommendation(s)

That report 2021-05 entitled Establishing and Regulating By-Law prepared by Rick Arnel dated May 3, 2021 be received, and

That By-Law 1870 be repealed and be replaced with By-Law 2012 Establish and Regulate Fire Services.

### Purpose

All municipalities are responsible to set the level of for Fire Protection Services for their residents. All municipalities must also establish a public education program with respect to fire safety as well as certain components of fire prevention, and provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with **each municipality's** needs and circumstances.

## Part II

### Responsibility for Fire Protection Services

As per the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4 the Municipal responsibilities are:

2 (1) Every Municipality shall,

- (a) Establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and
- (b) Provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

## Background and Discussion

The Establishing and Regulating Fire Services By-Law is a document approved by Council that provides the authority to Essex Fire and Rescue Services to operate and the bylaw sets out how service will be provided within the municipality. This bylaw provides the legal protection for the Essex Fire and Rescue Service to operate. The services to be provided are listed in the By-Law such that Council is aware of what will be provided, and enacting this By-Law provides the authority of the Fire Chief and the Fire Service Department to deliver those services. Services include fire suppression, along with rescue services; fire prevention activities, including code compliance and public education, technical rescue operations, including ice-water rescue; motor vehicle collisions response; hazardous material response; confined space rescue; high angle rescue; emergency medical services; plus the training required for staff to provide this service.

On February 8th, Fire Chief John Quennell (Fire Chief of Kingsville Fire Department) provided Kingsville Council an update on their Establishing and Regulating By-Law. Kingsville Fire has updated their technical rescue capabilities and advised the County via email that they have downgraded their response level regarding High-Angle rope rescue to awareness level, and

will continue to provide low-angle rope rescue service to the County upon request. The reason Kingsville Fire is no longer providing this service to the County is that the ability to retain certified trained personnel has been difficult as the annual commitment is an additional 40 hours of training over and above any other training. Furthermore, it takes approximately 5 years for any member of this team to become fully competent in this technical rescue.

Essex Fire and Rescue personnel are trained to NFPA 1001 Level II which provides awareness level training for this technical rescue. When Essex Fire and Rescue is called to any incident that may be high Risk and/or a low frequency, personnel determine the capabilities, barriers, and challenges of the incident and then determine what capabilities staff have to address this **type of incident. This process will formulate key “trigger points” for activation of additional** staff, or physical assets needed to support the operation. The description of training required for technical Rope rescue is classified by the following definitions:

- 0-15 degree slope is a flat terrain
- 15-29 degrees is considered low angle
- 30-50 degrees is steep angle
- Anything above 50 degrees is high angle

review of over 7,500 incidents in which Essex Fire and Rescue has responded to since 1999 there has never been an incident requiring this technical training. If the Town requires the need of such a service, Essex Fire and Rescue would notify the Provincial Emergency Operation Centre (PEOC) to have a technical team respond for assistance.

The Town of Kingsville Fire Department has amended their Establishing and Regulating Fire Services By-Law and have reduced the service they provide to their community and the County regarding Rope Rescue. Due to Kingsville amending their additional services offered to the County, the Town of Essex must amend its bylaw to reflect that this service previously offered by Kingsville Fire Services to Essex residents will no longer be available.

The revised By-Law 2012 provides the most up to date services that will be provided by Essex Fire and Rescue.

## Financial Impact

All costs associated with providing fire services as per By-Law 2012 are incorporated into the annual operating and capital budgets as approved by Council.

## Consultations

Kingsville Fire Department

## Link to Strategic Priorities

- ☒ Manage, invest and plan for sustainable municipal infrastructure which meets current and future needs of the municipality and its citizens.
- ☒ Create a safe, friendly and inclusive community which encourages healthy, active living for people of all ages and abilities.
- ☐ Provide a fiscal stewardship and value for tax dollars to ensure long-term financial health to the municipality.
- ☐ Manage responsible and viable growth while preserving and enhancing the unique rural and small town character of the community.
- ☐ Improve the experiences of individuals, as both citizens and customers, in their interactions with the Town of Essex.
- ☐ **Improve the Town's capacity to meet the ongoing and future service needs of its citizens** while ensuring the corporation is resilient in the face of unanticipated changes or disruptions.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Establishing and Regulating By-Law - Fire and Rescue Services-2021-05.docx
Attachments:	- Essex Fire E and R By-law.doc
Final Approval Date:	Apr 27, 2021

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Sweet", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Doug Sweet, Director, Community Services/Deputy CAO - Apr 20, 2021 - 2:40 PM**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Nepszy", with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Chris Nepszy, Chief Administrative Officer - Apr 27, 2021 - 10:19 AM**