Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Fire & Emergency Services Committee

AGENDA

Wednesday, September 11, 2019

10:00 a.m.

Council Chambers
2nd Floor, City Hall
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS

Committee Members:    Deputy Mayor Ivan Doncaster, Chair
                        Councillor Eldon MacDonald
                        Councillor Amanda McDougall
                        Councillor Bruckschwaiger, Vice-Chair
                        Councillor Kendra Coombes
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Wednesday, September 11, 2019
10:00 a.m.

AGENDA

Roll Call

1. Approval of Minutes: June 18, 2019 (Previously Distributed)

2. Approval of Agenda: (Motion Required)

3. Business Arising:
   3.1 Fire & Emergency Services Committee Meeting – June 18, 2019:
      a) Medical First Responder Calls:
         Gilbert MacIntyre, Deputy Fire Chief (See page 3)

4. REPORTS:
   4.1 Operations: Gilbert MacIntyre, Deputy Fire Chief (See page 11)
   4.2 Volunteer Coordinator/Manager Fleet, Training & Prevention Report: Chris March, Deputy Fire Chief (See page 14)
   4.3 EMO Committees and Working Group Activities: John Dilny, Manager of Emergency Management (See page 18)
   4.4 Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs’ Association Report:
      Mr. Jim Prince (See page 20)

Adjournment
Medical First Responder Calls:

Mr. Gilbert MacIntyre, Deputy Fire Chief, advised that starting in January of 1998, 125 out of the 271 fire departments across Nova Scotia participated in a pilot project responding to Medical First Responder (MFR) emergencies. This program was initiated by Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia (EHSNS). By September of 1998, EHSNS was ready for a full implementation of the MFR program across Nova Scotia. At that time the Protective Services Committee of CBRM passed a motion that without provincial funding to cover the municipality’s possible costs connected to the program, CBRM would neither become involved with the MFR program nor encourage any volunteer departments to be involved.

The Deputy Fire Chief advised that an issue paper presented by Fire Chief Jack Neary at that time drew attention to five concerns that should be addressed before engaging in MFR calls which are outlined in the Staff Issue Paper dated June 18, 2019.

Deputy Chief Macintyre advised that there are currently 15 departments in CBRM that offer MFR and discussed the following:

- Liability insurance
- Cost to supply First Aid
- MFR training
- Administrative order from Halifax
- #Code Critical Campaign

After the presentation, some of the discussion included:

- Provincial code critical and responsibility of the Province for EHS
- Liability insurance
- Career Fire Service and level of response
- MFR calls and the process in the Fire Service
- Union and Chiefs to provide their recommendations
- Current process for MFR calls with the Sydney Fire Station

Next Steps:

The Chair advised that the Issue Paper is being introduced today and it will be brought back to the next meeting of the Committee to consider the recommendations.
ISSUE PAPER

TO: Fire & Emergency Services Committee

DATE: June 18, 2019

ISSUE:

Medical First Responder Service by CBRM Fire & Emergency Services

BACKGROUND:

Starting in January of 1998, 125 out of the 271 fire departments across Nova Scotia, participated in a pilot project, responding to Medical First Responder (MFR) emergencies. This program was initiated by Emergency Health Services Nova Scotia (EHSNS). By September of 1998, EHSNS was ready for a full implementation of the MFR program across Nova Scotia.

At this time the Protective Services Committee of CBRM passed a motion that without provincial funding to cover the municipality’s possible costs connected to the program, CBRM would neither become involved with the MFR program nor encourage any volunteer departments to be involved.

An issue paper presented by Fire Chief Jack Neary at that time drew attention to five concerns that should be addressed before engaging in MFR calls.

1. There has to be a willingness in the Fire Department to provide the service;
2. Skill levels must be increased to meet the First Responder need;
3. Liability insurance is a definite requirement;
4. The medical service organization requires, in addition to provincial guidelines, rules of governance within their department a separate constitution and by-laws;
5. The medical or First responder service should be incorporated as a separate entity to provide a degree of protection to the Fire Service personnel who are not part of the delivery of medical services.

The paper went further to recommend a fee structure:

a) $100.00 per vehicle rolling
b) A minimum of 2 personnel per vehicle at provincial base rate of salary. Each call out guarantees a minimum of two hours per person.
c) A base rate of $5.00 per kilometer to and from the incident.
d) Replacement of all equipment and material used or damaged.
CURRENT PRACTICES:

Today, some 20 years later there are 15 fire departments in the CBRM that offer MFR service, three more intend to by the end of 2019 (see attached). In the province of Nova Scotia 229 of the 271 fire departments offer MFR service. An additional 10 agencies, other than fire departments, offer the MFR program in N.S.

There are a variety of levels a department can choose to offer, once they have been trained to the MFR standard. The levels are as follows:

LEVEL 1...........................Do Not Notify my department/agency for medical calls.

LEVEL 2...........................Only notify my department/agency if requested by the responding paramedics.

LEVEL 3...........................Notify my department/agency for “Time Critical” emergency calls only, as determined by EHS communications Officer.

LEVEL 4...........................Notify my department/agency for all emergency calls in our community.

LEVEL 5...........................Notify my department for cardiac arrests, motor vehicle collisions and lift assists only.

LEVEL 6...........................Notify my department/agency if requested by the responding paramedics and for all cardiac arrests and motor vehicle collisions.

A fire department/agency can choose whichever level they wish to offer. This level can be changed to any other level at any time the department/agency wishes to.

Addressing the five concerns mentioned in the issue paper of 1998:

1. No department without the willingness to be involved in the MFR program should be asked to, however those who show the willingness should be supported.
2. Skill levels of the First Responder, in the departments currently involved, and in those departments wishing to get involved, are and must meet the certification training and protocol requirement of EHSNS. This is a prerequisite of becoming a department offering MFR. These qualifications must be recertified every three years.

3. Liability insurance is addressed through EHS insurance, both for the individual and the department (see attached). Also Section 300 of the MGA reads:

*No liability*

*300* A municipality, a village, a fire protection district, an employee of a municipality, village or fire protection district, a member of the fire department of a municipality, village or fire protection district, a registered fire department, a member of a registered fire department, a registered emergency services provider and a member of a registered emergency services provider are not liable for an act or omission in providing, or failing to provide, an emergency service, unless they are grossly negligent. 1998, c. 18, s. 300.

The MGA came into effect in April of 1999, thus it would not have been a resource for the issue paper of 1998.

4. Concerns 4 & 5 aren’t an issue with any of the 229 fire departments in Nova Scotia currently offering MFR services.

As for the fee schedule that was suggested in the paper of 1998, this seems to be excessive in so much as, we as a municipality, don’t offer this to the departments that provide us with volunteer fire services. However, in the fee schedule it is suggested equipment be replaced, EHS does offer supplies under the MFR program.

Speaking to the expense of training staff to an MFR level, we currently must keep our fire fighters up to date with their First Aid certification. This is a cost of $38 a person. The MFR training, which is more in depth training, will cost $95 per staff member, this is with qualified in-house trainers. Also the books needed for the training are $100 a book. These books have been purchased by two departments in CBRM that are willing to lend them out further reducing the cost to future departments training. EHSNS offers up to $1500 in training for departments in the first year of becoming MFR responders and up to $300 for recertification. We have already delivered this training to the career members, irrespective of whether we offer MFR services, this offers better protection of our employees.

EHSNS will supply an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), a fully stocked oxygen tank, spinal immobilization gear, consumable medical supplies such as masks, splints, rubber gloves etc. Any of this gear that must be replaced can be done so by accessing EHSNS online and ordering the depleted supplies at no cost.
The following is an excerpt from the Halifax Administrative Order for Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency in the Halifax Regional Municipality:

2.0 "Medical Emergencies” means an acute injury or illness that poses an immediate risk to a person’s life or long-term health. Response to medical emergencies by first responders includes first aid, CPR skills and techniques for sustaining life, preventing further injuries, and caring for illnesses and injuries until the next level of medical care arrives.

"Advanced Medical First Responder Program” means advanced training in first aid, CPR, and the use of Automated External Defibrillation (AED). Such training provides professional first responders with the training and skills they need to respond to medical emergencies. Advanced Medical First Responder Program is the minimum level of medical response that will be provided by HRFE firefighters.

C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service volunteer fire departments who provide MFR responses within their communities and respond with an apparatus maintained by the C.B. Regional Fire Fleet Maintenance Division, that MFR service is almost entirely funded by EHS and CB Regional Fire.

EHS will supply all materials, supplies and equipment necessary for medical emergency responses as well as a cash provision toward firefighter MFR certification fees. The C.B. Regional Fire Service provides for all maintenance and repairs and a fuel allowance in volunteer department budgets and grants.

C.B. Regional volunteer fire departments that use a separate vehicle not maintained by C.B. Regional Fire Fleet are responsible for that vehicles maintenance and repairs, however C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service assists monetarily with maintenance and repairs when the request is made by the affected volunteer department(s).

The resulting additional financial impact on the volunteer or career fire service in providing Medical First Responses is minimal. When weighted against service provision, this is certainly a service that should be re-evaluated and considered for our CBRM citizens, especially given our aged and widespread demographic and the current level of EHSNS limitations that we are witnessing throughout Nova Scotia.

Recommendation:

Acknowledging the MGA was not a resource in 1998 nor was the EHSNS Insurance Coverage for MFRs. Also the #code critical campaign has drawn attention to the fact of there being a crisis in emergency health care.
Also acknowledging that a majority of fire departments in Nova Scotia are offering MFR without negative impact to their departments, and providing a
positive impact on their citizens. By the end of 2019 a majority of CBRM fire
departments will offer MFR as well.

With the training left for the individual fire departments to finance out of their
current budget, and EHSNS supplying and replenishing needed materials, it would
appear the financial impact on CBRM would be minimal and the benefit to the
citizens could be substantial.

There is an increasing age demographic in our community and a decrease in the
ability for trained personnel to respond to medical emergencies. We may not like
where we are, but we ignore it at our own peril. Present day realities require
present day solutions.

The recommendation would be to reconsider the motion of the Protective Services
Committee of twenty years ago and support the decision of any CBRM volunteer
department to offer the MFR program. Further, to take steps to have MFR offered
by the career fire service immediately.

Attached is a detailed list of which departments in CBRM are offering Medical First
Responders, as well as information on the insurance coverage for MFRs offered by
EHSNS.

Deputy Chief Gilbert MacIntyre, ECFO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FIRE DEPARTMENT</th>
<th>MFR RESPONDER</th>
<th>PROCESS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Albert Bridge</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>IN THE PROCESS OF RECERTIFYING AND REOFFERING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Batenstein</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Big Pond</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Birch Grove</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boisdale</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas Island</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coxsheath</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominion</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donkin</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Bay</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Florence</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>CONTACTED EHSNS MFR AND WERE ADDED TO THE LIST</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frenchvale Road</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gabarud</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>George’s River</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Glace Bay</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Lake Road</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haz Mat</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howie Centre</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Louisbourg</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>THEY DO RESPOND TO HELP THE VOLUNTEER MFR AMBULANCE SERVICE IN TOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marion Bridge</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mila Road</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Victoria</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Waterford</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>PLANS ON OFFERING BY FALL OF 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Sydney</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northside East Bay</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>INTERESTED IN OBTAINING TRAINING</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Mornen</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reserve Mines</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotchtown</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Bay</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southside Boularderie</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney (Station # 1)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney (Station # 2)</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney Mines</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sydney River</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO SEPARATE SOCIETY, RUNNING UNDER THE FIRE DEPARTMENT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tower Road</td>
<td>YES?</td>
<td>Trained submitted paperwork to EHSNS awaiting approval</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Westmount</td>
<td>NO</td>
<td>Plans on offering by fall of 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Insurance Coverage for Medical First Responders (MFRs)

As a Medical First Responder (MFR), you volunteer with an MFR agency that is sponsored by EHS to provide medical assistance. You have completed the necessary training to register with EHS MFR Services and continue to meet registration requirements through competency maintenance processes. EHS has arranged for liability insurance coverage to protect registered MFRs when they act at the direction, and with the authorization, of EHS.

**ACTING AS AN MFR**

You may be called upon to put your MFR skills and training to use when:

- Your Agency is notified by EHS Medical Communications Centre of an emergency requiring medical assistance in your community. You, as an MFR, provide that assistance until an ambulance and paramedics arrive.
- Your Agency is asked to provide support for a community event, such as a sporting or cultural event, by having MFRs on site in case of a medical emergency. Your Agency requests and receives approval from EHS to provide MFRs.

Any time that you provide assistance to an injured person, there is a possibility that they might allege that you have caused them harm and make a claim against you for compensation. In some circumstances you are protected by the liability insurance provided through EHS that will respond on your behalf to a claim for compensation.

**WHEN DOES INSURANCE PROTECT YOU?**

You are only protected by this insurance when:

- You act within the Scope of Practice; and
- Your Agency is notified by EHS Medical Communications Centre of an emergency in your community and your Agency responds to the emergency in order to provide MFR assistance; or
- Your Agency has received prior approval from EHS to provide MFR support for a community event.

No matter what the circumstances, this insurance coverage only protects you when you are performing tasks and duties within the Scope of Practice of an MFR. You will have no insurance coverage if you exceed that Scope of Practice.

**WHEN DOESN’T INSURANCE PROTECT YOU?**

If you come upon a person in need of first aid and you choose to provide first aid, you have limited protection under the insurance provided by EHS. You should call 911 and administer only basic first aid until EHS personnel arrive. Also, Nova Scotia’s Volunteer Services Act (“Good Samaritan” Act) may provide you with some protection against legal liability in these circumstances. The insurance protection provided through EHS does not apply in any other circumstances.

This Bulletin is intended for general information only. Insurance coverage is always subject to all terms, conditions and limitations of the insurance policy. Should you have any questions about this insurance coverage, or any potential claim, please contact mfrservices@emci.ca
INFORMATION PAPER

TO: FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE
FROM: DEPUTY CHIEF GILBERT MACINTYRE, ECFO
DATE: Sept. 11, 2019
RE: OPERATIONS

Labour Management/OHS:

Since our last meeting in June, stemming from a traditional union request, committee meetings ceased for the months of July and August. The result being little change from my last report, from both the Occupational Health and Safety committee and the Labour Management committee.

Regional Hospital Panel upgrade:

In that time we have been monitoring and following closely the major upgrade of the alarm system at the regional hospital. We have met with those involved from the regional hospital and they continue to keep us informed allowing us to adjust our response to best suit the current stage of the upgrade.

Stake Holders Meeting:

On July 10th a meeting took place at Membertou Convention Centre between the primary stake holders in the Fire Service. This meeting included executive members of the Regional Fire Chief’s Association, executive members of the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2779, administration members of Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Services, as well as senior CBRM administration. Although a first meeting between the various interests, all involved felt it was a positive and productive first step.
Station Ventilation:

There have been meetings with experts in the field of ventilation researching what is needed and what it would take to achieve what is needed, in dealing with the issue of proper ventilation in fire halls. This is ongoing and I will allow Manager of Occupational Health & Safety to speak to the issue.

Psychological Wellness Survey:

Fire Administration as well as representatives from International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 2779 have met with Dr. Mary Ann Campbell concerning Dr. Campbell’s Psychological Wellness Survey. Dr. Campbell also met with as many as possible staff who would be offered the opportunity to fill out the survey. The survey has subsequently been launched and has an initial positive response, in as far as the number of participants.

New Station:

Following the announcement by Premier MacNeil on Aug. 2nd, we have started the process of identifying the best location for a new fire station. While there are a few possible sites, response times will have to be mapped out and compared before one will be chosen. We have engaged the fire fighters for feedback on possible design features as well as needs in a modern fire station.

Fire Services Boat:

The Fire Rescue boat that will cover the central region of CBRM has been painted, decaled and made ready for use. It was launched on Sept. 4th for a training run, all went well. The boat handled great and the personal on board showed enthusiasm and ability when operating the vessel. On sept 11th the boat will be part of Deputy Minister’s swim of Sydney Harbour, along with the police boat and the fire rescue boat from New Waterford. These boats will transport swimmers from the “big fiddle” to the Dobson Yacht Club and accompany them as they swim back.

This boat will give us a fire rescue boat in the central division of CBRM, adding to ones we already have in East and North Divisions.
Management Course:

I will be commencing a management course on Sept. 10th. This course is offered through the Nova Scotia Community College and is designed for CBRM participants.

FireFit Challenge:

Our FireFit Challenge team continues to work hard to compete in the challenge as well as to be able to perform their jobs better and safer. Our team competed in Truro and had good results in individual runs as well as team runs. We had one fire fighter crack the top ten, another crack the top twenty and another take second in his division. These fire fighters train extremely hard to compete at this level and CBRM reaps the benefit by having some of the fittest fire fighters around.

Aboriginal Fire Fighter Challenge:

On Aug. 17th, I and three career fire fighters attended the National Aboriginal Fire Fighter Challenge as judges. The event was held in Eskasoni this year. The day was a long blistering hot experience that showed the competitive spirit and fraternity of fire fighters. We were thrilled to be asked to attend and impressed by Eskasoni as the host department.
CAPE BRETON REGIONAL FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR/MANAGER FLEET, TRAINING & PREVENTION REPORT

To: Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Date: September 11, 2019

Volunteer Coordinator

• A 25-question survey on some of the issues and ideas that were discussed during last year’s volunteer station visits has been developed and been distributed or is available online for all volunteer fire service members. Some have been returned but there are not enough numbers to report on yet. Numbers and feedback should be available for the next scheduled Fire & Emergency Services committee meeting.

• We have received word from Nova Scotia Power’s property manager that they have agreed to provide the CB Regional Fire & Emergency Service with a three (3) year lease for our fire fleet maintenance facility at 297 Townsend Street, Sydney. We expect to have the final lease document the week of September 9-13.

• As per Mayor Clarke’s request, the Cape Breton Regional Fire Service administration met with the CB Regional Fire Chiefs’ Executive members and representatives from the Career Fire Service’s IAFF Local 2779. Also in attendance were the CBRM CAO and Deputy CAO. It was productive meeting where the following topics were discussed;

  Recruitment & retention   Mutual aid
  Data Collection           Hazard Plan
  Fire service authority    Fleet
  Communications            Accountability
  Procedure/Protocol

A second meeting will be held in early to mid-October.
• One of the options to aid in increased communications for volunteer firefighters is now in place and is being utilized by several departments.

Many CBRM volunteer fire departments have signed on for one of the two (2) communications options and FireQ is now linked with the C.B. Regional Communications Center which provides for a much more efficient, effective and expedited service delivery.

Training

• The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service Training Division’s fifth Hybrid Certified Firefighter Level 1 is completed. Student participation was not perfect this year with a loss of 6 students due to injury or illness. We started with 32 students enrolled and finished with 26 students completed. Eight (8) of these are fishers who we anticipate returning to finish later this month. This will be a 80% completion rate.

This number is down from a completion rate of 95% last year, and therefore warrants further investigation and discussions.

Our success rate is not good this year and we have held discussions with our Training Division members, students and volunteer fire chiefs. We will take these discussions forward and develop a strategy, in collaboration with the CB Regional Fire Chiefs’ Association, to address this situation.

• With the fall approaching and the cooler evening temperatures the CB Regional Fire Mobile Burn Unit is being booked for department training at a rapid pace. Departments are encouraged to contact myself or Steve Maclean to schedule a training session before that unit is closed for the winter season.
Prevention

- Our Fire Prevention Officers continue to conduct day to day operations, Inspections, Public Education and reporting. They have been very busy with continuing education and professional development.
- They will be attending the 2019 FIANS conference in late September where they will enroll in further courses and will acquire FIANS Fire Inspector Level 1.

This year’s Fire Prevention Week, October 6-12, theme is, “Not every hero wears a cape, plan & practice your escape”.

Our Fire Prevention Officers are busy scheduling, a flag raising ceremony, school visits, public education presentations, PSA’s, media coverage along with awareness print in local publications.

Fleet

- Last year’s agreed fleet plan included three (3) 1500-gallon, single cab single axle tankers. There was one each for Boisdale, Big Pond and South Side Boularderie Volunteer Fire Departments. There was also an RFP for a Hazardous Materials Response Unit.

All apparatus from the 2018-2019 Fleet purchases have been delivered and are now in service. The department feedback has been excellent and the departments who received the four apparatus are very pleased with their new trucks.
• Meetings with the three (3) volunteer fire departments scheduled for new fire apparatus, Westmount, Florence and Marion Bridge Volunteer Fire Departments were held to complete specifications on options for the required emergency apparatus. Westmount & Florence require 1500-gallon single axle single cab tankers and Marion Bridge requires a 1000-gallon four (4) door commercial cab pumper/engine. Meetings were held with members of each of the listed departments and agreements on required options were achieved.

• The Fire Fleet Purchase Plan for 2019-2020 had been posted and a Request for Proposals (RFPs) has been awarded.

• Delivery for the three (3) apparatus is March 2020.

This concludes the C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Deputy Chief’s Volunteer Coordinator’s Report to the C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Services Committee.

DC C. March

Original signed by:

Chris March BBA, C.Mgr., CFO, AlFireE
Deputy Fire Chief
Volunteer Coordinator/Manager Fleet, Training & Prevention
Public Information Officer
Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service
INFORMATION PAPER

TO: Fire and Emergency Services Committee
FROM: John Dilny, Manager of Emergency Management
DATE: September 3, 2019
RE: Committees and Working Group Activities

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Fire and Emergency Services Committee on the activities undertaken by the CBRM Emergency Management Division Committee’s working groups and Manager of Emergency Management and the various committees he chairs or serves on.

1) CBRM EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE:

A. Training – The team received training in Emergency Coordination Center.

B. Exercise – Met with the following Emergency Coordination Center positions to develop checklists and discuss upcoming exercises. Liaison Officer, Agency Representative, Emergency Information Officer, Safety Officer, Risk Management Officer, Finance/Administration Section Chief and Fire and Emergency Service Branch.

2) EASTERN ZONE EMC COMMITTEE:

A. Discussed zone realignment of EMO NS – Eastern Zone and Central Zone will combine their zone meetings and meet quarterly; discussions were held re: exercises and training, Mutual Aid agreements, WebEOC, Annual EMC Workshop and municipal evaluation.

3) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS/ACTIVATION/RESPONSE:

Alerting: Used for incident awareness information only. It is the procedure of making emergency management organization members and municipal officials aware of an emergency or hazard that may require resources.

The following alerts were issued by the Emergency Management Division:

A. Tropical Depression #6 – August 27, 2019
B. Major Hurricane Dorian – September 3, 2019

4) Manager of Emergency Management

A. Attended Fire Service Stakeholders Meeting held July 10, 2019 at Membertou.

B. Attended Imperial Marine Spill Response Exercise held on July 16, 2019 at Government Wharf.

C. Had several meetings or discussions with individuals to prepare for an upcoming exercise to be held in the fall.

Original Signed By

John Dilny,
Manager of Emergency Management
Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs’ Association
Fire & Emergency Service’s Committee
Report: Wednesday Sept 11/2019

- The CBRFCA membership has had, and is currently ongoing, with discussions on mutual aid agreements between neighboring departments. This is already happening but is becoming more prevalent in all our C.B. Regional Fire Service communities. This is seen as a very proactive, progressive and a truly united towards a Regional Fire Service.

- The Chiefs’ Association members have currently put the plan to acquire Heavy Rescue Training on hold till the spring and hope to have further update is the new year.

- The CBRCA Data Communications 24 stations are using Fire Q but are still waiting for the system to go live from the CAD system. My understanding this will happen in the next few days or may have all ready happened.

- C.B. Regional Fire Station numbering and the idea of perhaps instituting station numbers throughout the 34 C.B. Regional Fire Departments and the Hazmat Team. Are still under discussion and hope to move forward in the coming year.

- Fire Services Stakeholders Meeting was attended by Chief Lloyd MacIntosh, Chief Bill MacLeod and myself Chief Jim Prince, A good discussion was had with regards to Recruitment & Retention, Data Collection, Mutual Aid between the border departments, and Authority, the credentials for fire officers and who enforces the issue, the MGA (Municipal Government Act) and how fire departments are recognized. It was agreed that the issue needs more review as to how we get to where we need to be regarding authority, creating policy and enforcing that policy with buy in from the individual departments without infringing on their authority.

- The one item that keeps coming up among the departments and the members is the need for specialty services funding.
In closing the Regional Chiefs and Executive would like to thank the members Emergency Services Committee that attended our final meeting of this season in June where the Association held a barbecue for our members. And to Mayor Clarke, and CAO Marie Walsh for the comments before our meeting started.

Sincerely,

Howie centre Volunteer Fire Chief,
Executive Chair, Jim Prince
Cape Breton Regional Fire Chiefs' Association