

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Fire & Emergency Services Committee**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.**

**Council Chambers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Civic Centre  
320 Esplanade, Sydney, NS**

**Committee Members:**

Deputy Mayor George MacDonald - Chair  
Mayor Cecil P. Clarke  
Councillor Clarence Prince  
Councillor Ivan Doncaster  
Councillor Kevin Saccary – Vice Chair  
Councillor Lowell Cormier

# Cape Breton Regional Municipality

## Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

10:00 a.m.

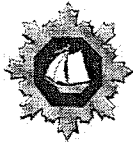
### **AGENDA**

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#### **Roll Call**

1. **Approval of Minutes: (Previously Distributed)**
  - Fire & Emergency Services Committee – February 24, 2015
  - Fire & Emergency Services Committee – March 4, 2015
2. **EMO Committees and Working Group Activities:** John Dilny, Manager of Emergency Management (See page 3)
3. **BUSINESS ARISING:**
  - 3.1 **Regular Council Meeting – March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2015:**
    - i. **Fire Services Review - Update:** Bernie MacKinnon, Director of Fire Services (See page 5)
4. **Overview Sydney Fire & Emergency Services Station:** Bernie MacKinnon, Director of Fire Services (See page 7)
5. **Fire Department Apparatus Funding and Purchasing:** Chris March, Deputy Chief, Volunteer Support (See page 12)
6. **REPORTS:**
  - i. **Sydney General Report:** Gilbert MacIntyre, Deputy Chief, Operations (See page 18)
  - ii. **Volunteer Support Report:** Chris March, Deputy Chief, Volunteer Support (See page 20)

#### **Adjournment**



# CBRM

*A Community of Communities*

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**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

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John Dilny, Chair  
Emergency Management Advisory Committee  
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## **MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 20, 2015

**TO:** Fire and Emergency Services Committee

**FROM:** John Dilny,  
Manager of Emergency Management

**RE:** Committees and Working Group Activities

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The purpose of this memo is to present the EMO Committee's and working groups activities to the Fire and Emergency Services Committee for information.

### **Provincial EMC Executive Committee:**

- 1) **Training Update** – Discuss putting Basic Emergency Management Course online.
- 2) **EMO/Red Cross Forum** – EMO NS and Canadian Red Cross to maintain partnership for this years' forum to be held November 24-26.
- 3) **Municipal Self-Evaluation** – document format to change and template should be ready for fall evaluation.
- 4) **Municipal Emergency Plan Template** – New template is be developed and should be ready by summer.

### **CBRM ECC Sub-Committee:**

Workshop held to start developing the Emergency Coordination Center operational guidelines. Pre-event checklist, information gathering and situational awareness discussed.

**CBRM Support Facility Working Group:**

Working group is preparing to make a presentation to Emergency Management Advisory Committee.

**CBRM Support Mobile Command Post Working Group:**

Worked with the Finance Department to prepare and send out the Request for Proposal.

**CBRM Emergency First Response Committee:**

Committee met and is developing a term of reference.

**Provincial TM2 Working Group:**

To work with the NS Public Safety and Field Communications to develop a fleet map for CBRM Fire Service and EMO.

**Alerted:**

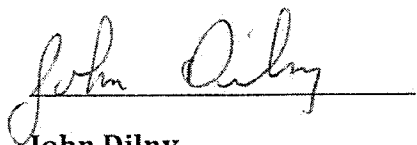
Mayor and Council and members of ECC Management Team were alerted to the following winter storms and were asked to monitor same.

ECC members were also requested to attend briefings held by EMO NS and Environment Canada. The Manager of Emergency Management participated in daily briefings with EMO NS and Environment Canada during these events.

March 15, 2015  
March 18, 2015  
March 26-28, 2015  
April 3-4, 2015  
April 21-22, 2015

**Manager of Emergency Management**

- 1) Assisted with instructions on ICS-200 course
- 2) Completed training on ICS-400



**John Dilny,**  
Manager of Emergency Management



# Memorandum

**CBRM FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES**

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Email: bgmackinnon@cbrm.ns.ca

**To:** Fire Service Committee  
**From:** Bernie MacKinnon  
**Date:** 21 May 2015  
**Reference:** FIRE SERVICE REVIEW  
**Copy:** File

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Information update regarding a Request for Proposals for the Fire Service Review.  
RFP for the Fire Service Review has been issued. Closing date for proposals is 11 June 2015.

Bernie MacKinnon  
Chief/Director CBRMFS  
/mpp

**Terms of Reference for Request for Proposal – Fire Services Review:**

Deputy Mayor George MacDonald advised that the Fire and Emergency Services Committee is recommending that Council approve the draft terms of reference for the Request for Proposal of Fire Services Organizational Review as presented.

It was noted that this is the starting point for the Review, and once the consultant is hired, they will be expected to provide a report in 30 day intervals to the Fire and Emergency Services Committee .

**Motion:**

Moved by Deputy Mayor George MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Saccary, approval of the Draft Terms of Reference for the Cape Breton Regional Municipality Fire Services Organization Review, with the removal of the reference to residential sprinkler systems.

**Motion Carried.**



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## INFORMATION PAPER

To: Fire and Emergency Services Committee  
Subject: OVERVIEW SYDNEY FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES STATION  
Date: May 19, 2015  
Distribution: File, Michael Merritt, CAO; Marie Walsh, CFO; Wayne MacDonald, Dir. EPW

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The decision to build a new community fire station sets a course for fifty years and provides an opportunity to deal with past deficiencies and to plan for future needs. In this endeavour, the CBRM Fire and Emergency Service (FES) continues to seek out innovative risk management solutions to meet the challenges of our evolving environment.

Occupational Health and Safety (OSH) plays an important role in our decision-making on the fire ground and in station. Safety plays a leading role in professional development, training and certification, and creates an environment that better protects our volunteer and career FES personnel. It is with this culture in mind that the principles of OSH form part of our new station.

The CBRM has engaged CBCL for the design and project management of the new fire station. Entering into this arrangement the CBRM FES will provide a rendering of a concept with a number of strategic and tactical objectives to meet CBRM operational requirements, risk management and goals of OHS.

The collaboration with CBCL will center on ensuring the station will meet current and future needs of the Community of Sydney and those of the Region. There are a number of items that will impact on the station design. Consideration will be given to Leadership in Energy Environmental Design (LEED), Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety requirements including the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1500 Standard on Fire Department Occupational Safety and Health Program, fire ground rehabilitation, wellness and fitness, changes in operational readiness equipment and apparatus, gender functionality, staff in-station rehabilitation, station equipment maintenance, decontamination facilities, storage and the inclusion of emergency management functionality. CBCL will take these requirements and apply industry standards and code requirements to create an efficient and effective design.

There are a number of advantages of incorporating the principles of LEED and ISO 50001:2011 into the design and use of the fire station. This exercise will assist us in determining a sustainable design that explores the reduction of costs related to the consumption of energy through new technologies and energy conservation practices. We will also explore the Federation of Canadian Municipalities', "Green Municipal Fund" for opportunities for green funding.

The Incident Command System (ICS) is a part of our OHS practices. The ICS directs that "an Incident Commander (IC) shall ensure that a rehabilitation group is established..." it further states "the IC shall consider the circumstances of each incident and make adequate provisions early in the incident for the rest and rehabilitation of all members operating at the scene" (National Fire Protection Association 1584). Incorporated in our design is the housing for a mobile rehabilitation unit. This unit provides an area to remove FES members from the emergency environment and provide them a space to rest and rehabilitate and receive appropriate attention. While in-station the unit will be subject to inspection twice a day by on duty staff which will include mobility verification and ensuring rehabilitation supplies are current. The stationing of the unit allows for rapid deployment in the Community of Sydney and also in support of Volunteer FES. You need only fight one fire in sweltering heat or subzero temperatures and or extended periods to appreciate the importance of having the ability to rapidly deploy the Rehab Unit.

The ICS is also part of the CBRM All Hazards Emergency Management Plan (AHEMP). With AHEMP the importance of IC and the use of the Mobile Command Post (MCP) cannot be understated. The MCP is instrumental in the ICS. Establishing command and with the availability of an MCP provides for the coordinated initialization of the elements of the ICS. What is important is that the MCP can be rapidly deployed when required and that it receives daily inspections to ensure equipment functionality. This will be achieved by the career staff.

OHS also deals with wellness. Wellness encompasses physical, mental and medical wellbeing. In the fire world it is incumbent for firefighters to be physically fit to do the job. This requires that we have appropriate space to promote fitness activity. In keeping with the wellness theme, in the rest or in-station rehabilitation area, we will be looking at incorporating privacy, locker areas and a desk or reading area.

Certification and maintenance training is a norm for firefighters and the ability to have a properly equipped and sized training space is a formula for success. There are also synergies within a training space that can be utilized to create an Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC). In this section of the design we will be looking at the cooperative use of this space between training and Emergency Management.

OHS practices require that there be a separation between the response area of the station (the bay area) and the administration and common zones of the station. This is to avoid cross contamination. It is extremely important that the station design takes into consideration the management of contaminants by having the station properly equipped to deal with contaminants such as decontamination areas for equipment, places to sanitize gear and work clothing including safe workplace practices.

An emerging trend for restroom and shower facilities is to provide gender-neutral spaces. The spaces are designed much the same as one would find in a bathroom in your home. With the thought that indeed a fire station is your home away from home.

The bays will also house the primary pumper, reserve pumper, utility vehicle and Platoon Chiefs vehicle.

While not part of the current concept we will be investigating the possibility of incorporating fire fleet maintenance and repair. Should this be a viable option we will provide the Fire and Emergency Services Committee with a paper outlining the change requirements.

For your review and comment.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Bernie MacKinnon', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

Bernie MacKinnon

## References

- Federation of Canadian Municipalities. <http://www.fcm.ca/home/programs/green-municipal-fund/what-we-fund/projects/energy-funding.htm>. n.d.
- Government of Canada. <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/energy/efficiency/buildings/allies/4263>. n.d.
- International Association fo Fire Chiefs and International Association of Firefighters. [http://www.iafc.org/files/healthwell\\_wfi3rdedition.pdf.pdf](http://www.iafc.org/files/healthwell_wfi3rdedition.pdf.pdf). n.d.
- John Dilny. *CBRM All Hazards Emergency Management Plan*. Emergency Management. Cape Breton Regional Municipality: Cape Breton Regional Municipality, 2015.
- National Fire Protection Association 1584. *NFPA 1561: STANDARD ON EMERGENCY SERVICES INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND COMMAND SAFETY*. 2014.
- National Fire Protection Association. *NFPA 1500 - STANDARD ON FIRE DEPARTMENT OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM*. 2013.
- . *NFPA 1584: STANDARD ON THE REHABILITATION PROCESS FOR MEMBERS DURING EMERGENCY OPERATIONS AND TRAINING EXERCISES*. 2015.
- . *NFPA 1600: STANDARD ON DISASTER/EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND BUSINESS CONTINUITY PROGRAMS*. 2013.
- Province of Nova Scotia. <http://novascotia.ca/lae/ohs/>. n.d.



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To: Fire and Emergency Services Committee  
Subject: Fire Department Apparatus Funding & Purchasing  
Date: May 20, 2015

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## **Purpose**

The purpose of this paper is to highlight the methods in which we regionally fund fire and emergency apparatus and provide a working list of vehicle purchases and movements for fiscal year 2015-2016.

## **Industry Standards**

Risk Management Services sets the insurance grading recognition of used or rebuilt fire apparatus. The performance ability and overall acceptability of older apparatus has been debated between municipal administrations, the public fire service and many others for years. Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) has reviewed experiences across Canada and in other countries and has developed a standard for acceptance of apparatus as the apparatus becomes less reliable with age and use. The standard that is accepted throughout Canada by Fire Underwriters Survey is the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) **Standard S515** titled, “**Automobile Fire Fighting Apparatus,**” which was adopted as a National Standard of Canada in September 2004.

The fire underwriters’ states “Fire apparatus should respond to first alarms for the first fifteen years of service. During this period it has reasonably been shown that the apparatus effectively responds and performs as designed without failure at least 95% of the time. For the next five years, it should be held in reserve status for use at major fires or temporary replacement for out of service first line apparatus. Apparatus should be retired from service at twenty years of age” (Fire Underwriters Survey, 2004) this however does have exceptions to the rule as outlined in table 1. In the CBRM rural vehicles have a life span of 25 years.



Table 1 Service Schedule for Fire Apparatus For Fire Insurance Grading Purposes

Apparatus Age	Major Cities <sup>3</sup>	Medium Sized Cities <sup>4</sup> or Communities Where Risk is Significant	Small Communities <sup>5</sup> and Rural Centres
0 – 15 Years	First Line	First Line	First Line
16 – 20 Years	Reserve	2 <sup>nd</sup> Line	First Line
20 – 25 Years <sup>1</sup>	No Credit in Grading	No Credit in Grading or Reserve <sup>2</sup>	No Credit in Grading or 2 <sup>nd</sup> Line <sup>2</sup>
26 – 29 Years <sup>1</sup>	No Credit in Grading	No Credit in Grading or Reserve <sup>2</sup>	No Credit in Grading or Reserve <sup>2</sup>
30 Years +	No Credit in Grading	No Credit in Grading	No Credit in Grading

<sup>1</sup> All listed fire apparatus 20 years of age and older are required to be service tested by recognized testing agency on an annual basis to be eligible for grading recognition. (NFPA 1071)

<sup>2</sup> Exceptions to age status may be considered in a small to medium sized communities and rural centres conditionally, when apparatus condition is acceptable and apparatus successfully passes required testing.

<sup>3</sup> Major Cities are defined as an incorporated or unincorporated community that has:

- a populated area (or multiple areas) with a density of at least 400 people per square kilometre; AND
- a total population of 100,000 or greater.

<sup>4</sup> Medium Communities are defined as an incorporated or unincorporated community that has:

- a populated area (or multiple areas) with a density of at least 200 people per square kilometre; AND/OR
- a total population of 1,000 or greater.

<sup>5</sup> Small Communities are defined as an incorporated or unincorporated community that has:

- no populated areas with densities that exceed 200 people per square kilometre; AND
- does not have a total population in excess of 1,000.

## Funding Methods

There are three methods in which we currently provide funding for the 34 area Fire Departments. We have a list of apparatus for all departments by date of the vehicles. From this list it is determined each year which apparatus need to be replaced based on the age and functionality. The three methods for providing vehicles are, *assistance funding for new apparatus, new vehicle purchase with a resulting cascade, and purchases of used apparatus*, which may or may not result in a cascading of apparatus.

In the first method, an area fire department that wishes to purchase a new apparatus will make a formal application, which will include a business plan for the repayment of the balance of their loan. CBRM funding assistance is to a maximum of \$125,000. The balance beyond the



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\$125,000 is the responsibility of the purchasing department and their membership. The new apparatus purchased becomes the property of the purchasing department and will be placed in that department. Typically no other apparatus is involved with this transaction. This method provides for 1 new apparatus in 1 department. It should be noted that with this method there is also the requirement of a volunteer department to provide the balance of funding from within their community. The CBRM can provide a loan guarantee as part of the business plan.

A second method is full funding for new apparatus for Career/Volunteer Operations. This method of purchase results in vehicle cascading, which provides newer vehicles to multiple volunteer departments.

This method may be more effectively explained with an example.

It has been determined from our current list that The Albert Bridge and Donkin Volunteer Fire Department's pumpers are 25 years of age this year so they will need to be replaced. These Departments are currently not in the position where they are able to provide for any funding towards a new/newer apparatus. Through discussions it also determined that Reserve Mines Vol. Fire Department wishes to right size and move from 2 pumpers to 1 newer one.

- Currently the Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Sydney, Station #1 has a 2014 pumper and Station #2 has a 2012 pumper.
- A New 2015 pumper is purchased for Station 1, Career Operations
- 2014 pumper from Station 1 goes to Station 2
- 2012 pumper from Station 2, goes to Glace Bay Vol. Fire Department
- 2010 pumper from Glace Bay goes to Reserve Mines Vol. Fire Department.
- 1997 pumper from Reserve Mines Vol. Dep. goes to Port Morien Vol. Fire Department
- 2001 pumper from Reserve Mines goes to Albert Bridge Vol. Department
- 1988 pumper from Port Morien Vol. Fire Dep. Is decommissioned.
- 1988 from Albert Bridge Vol. Fire Dep. Is decommissioned.



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Newer, custom apparatus are efficiently cascaded to the larger, busier departments, the former town departments, and the town apparatus apparatus are moved to the less busy, rural areas.

As displayed in this example, with this method, 1 new pumper was purchased resulting in 5 Departments and 6 Stations with newer apparatus. The required replacement of 2 volunteer area pumpers is achieved with no cost, financial obligations, or fund raising burdens on the volunteer departments who required them. The cascaded apparatus become the property of the Cape Breton Regional Fire and Emergency Service which further results in financial savings for the volunteer departments who received them as the CBRM now services and insures these units as part of our regionally owned fleet. The outdated apparatus which have completed their life span are taken out of service, decommissioned.

The third method in which we provide for fire apparatus is to purchase used ones. As was stated above this may result in a cascading of apparatus as demonstrated with the previous example or may not depending on the circumstances. With this method a used pumper or tanker would be identified from within the CBRM Fire Service or more commonly, from another Canadian or American source. The Cape Breton Regional Fire and Emergency Service would purchase that vehicle at an agreed fair market price and exercise 1 of 2 options, place the truck directly into the identified department that needs a newer apparatus or place it in one that is more fitting based on the need, and cascade current vehicles until the identified department receives a required newer apparatus.



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## **2015-2016 Funding Plan**

This plan reflects the current list of pumpers and tankers that in accordance with industry standards require replacement FY 2015-2016. With the current funding for this year's budget totalling \$1,000,000, the plan for apparatus acquisitions or purchases and placement is as follows;

- 1 New Custom Pumper, CBRM Sydney, Station #1
- 1 New Tanker Mira Road Volunteer Fire Department (regional tanker)
- 1 New Pumper Bateston Volunteer Fire Department
- 1 New ¾ Ton truck CBRM mechanics service truck
- Balance to be initial payment for new pumper Sydney 2016/17

**\$1,000,000 plus app. taxes**

The following will occur as a result of these purchases and the cascading of fire apparatus.

Sydney Station #1	2015 Pumper (previous 2014)
Sydney Station #2	2014 pumper (previous 2012)
Glace Bay	2012 pumper (previous 2010)
Reserve Mines	2010 pumper (previous 1997, 2001)
Albert Bridge	2001 pumper (previous 1988)
Port Morien	1997 pumper (previous 1992)
Bateston	2015 new pumper (previous 1990)
North Sydney	NS Reserve spare <i>temp</i> (previous 2000) Cascading new pumper from Sydney 16/2017
New Waterford	2000 Pumper (previous 1994)
Donkin	1994 pumper (previous 1988)
Mira Road	2015 tanker (previous 2006)
N.S. East Bay	2006 Tanker (previous 1988)
Mechanic's Div.	2015 Service Vehicle (previous 2012)
Sydney Mines	2012 Utility Truck (previous 2004)
Mechanic's Div.	2004 Service Vehicle (previous none)

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Vehicles to be taken out of Service

1-1988 Pumpers will be decommissioned (Albert Bridge)

1- 1988 Pumpers will be decommissioned (Donkin)

1 -1988 Tanker will be decommissioned (NS. East Bay)

Transferred to Training Division

1 -1992 pumper (Port Morien) Training and a reserve unit

*DC. C. March*



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To: Fire and Emergency Services Committee  
Date: May 20. 2015  
Distribution: File, Bernie MacKinnon, Chief Director FES

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A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Bernie MacKinnon, Chief Director FES.

General Overview:

A new mechanic was hired, February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015. With the addition of this position we are now starting the process of auditing all the Volunteer mechanical assets.

We have moved from our single mechanics bay at station # 1, to a multi-bay facility at 297 Townsend Street. Which has provided new opportunities across the department.

The move was dictated by OH&S concerns within the former area at Station# 1. This new area will see our mechanics work in a much safer environment, utilizing equipment that will address preventative measures to on the job injuries. Also giving us the availability to have more than one apparatus being worked on at a time.

Although designed to address problems in the mechanics division, the relocation will also help provide temporary storage/space.

This location has also proven to be valuable as a temporary training area, when we can free up space. As some witnessed during our Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) training. There is great benefit to have various crews training in different disciplines at the same time in close proximity of each other and without concerns of the weather.

Operations is currently getting ready for the switch from our old radio system to the new TMR system. The changeover will take place late summer or early fall. In preparing for the TMR system we have been meeting with all parties concerned and will withhold our training until just before the switch. The training is tentatively scheduled for the first or second week of July.



Training:

Continuing our commitment to safety and professional development the department has completed training certifications in firefighter level II, fire officer level II, fire service instructor level I, and station and incident safety officer.

The week of January 19<sup>th</sup> to January 23 we had 14 of our staff certified as Incident Scene, Health and Safety Officers.

On March 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>, instructors from the Nova Scotia Fire School certified 15 fire fighters in RIT training. On March 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> the instructors certified these same fire fighters in Advanced RIT. This gives us personnel with certification as instructors who can pass on the training in RIT, furthering our investment.

On March 30 through April 2, 2015 personnel received certification as Fire service Instructor Certification Level I.

Most recently, on May 4, 5, & 6 we had 5 of our fire fighters join in the Mental Health First Aid course provided by staff of the CBRH Mental Health Unit. Making every effort to have our firefighters best prepared for anything that may greet them on a call.

Public Education:

In an effort to fight fires by preventing them, the Operations division is constantly involved with station tours as well as school visits. On May 7, 2015 staff participated in the Membertou Safety Expo and on May 14<sup>th</sup> we had the Mobile Burn Unit added to the Police Week Expo at C200, handing out over a thousand fire prevention pamphlets along with novelties with a prevention message. The month of June will be one of the busiest with station tours and public education events closing out the school year and preparing for summer activities.

Respectfully Yours

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gilbert MacIntyre".

Gilbert MacIntyre  
Deputy Chief, Operations  
Fire and Emergency Services  
Cape Breton Regional Municipality

Chris March, BBA  
Deputy Chief  
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## FIRE & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE REPORT

To: Fire & Emergency Services Committee

Date: May 26, 2015

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Chris March", is written over the date.

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### General Information:

Currently our Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service consists of 1 career fire department, 33 volunteer fire departments totaling 775 volunteers and 1 volunteer Hazardous Materials Response Team.

The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service Training & Prevention Divisions are made up from firefighters from various volunteer regional fire departments and total 26 members. Training and prevention activities are coordinated and conducted by these divisions. The Training & Prevention divisions conduct regular monthly meetings and prior to June of 2014 attendance was around 5 to 6 members per meeting. Currently members attending these meetings total no less than 15 and sometimes as high as all 26, regularly.

There is a great sense of pride, commitment, passion and professionalism among our Training & Prevention Division members who feel a sense of worth and appreciation. The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service are very proud of their accomplishments.

Chris March, BBA  
Deputy Chief  
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## Training:

In November of 2014, The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Training Division in conjunction with The Nova Scotia Firefighters School held a professional "**Emergency Vehicle Operations/Driving Course**" in East Division with 14 firefighters from 5 Regional departments attending. This course was offered again in Central Division, May 23<sup>rd</sup>. & 24<sup>th</sup>, with 14 firefighters representing 7 regional departments attending. The course will be offered in North Division on June 6<sup>th</sup>. & 7<sup>th</sup>. 2015.

Also in November of 2014, the C.B.R. Fire & Emergency Service, Training Division through the NS. Firefighters School conducted an "**Auto Extrication Course**" in Central Division with 16 firefighters from the 4 departments who provide extrication services attending. This proved to be an excellent opportunity to bolster relationships and to team build within the volunteer and career departments who respond to these calls with one another. The Auto extrication Course will also be offered in East and North Divisions in June and July of this year.

Both of these courses were and will be provided with no fee for The C.B.R. Fire & Emergency Service as part of a Nova Scotia Auto Insurance Levy designed to provide volunteer firefighter training for auto related emergencies.

On December 13 & 14, 2014, *The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Training & Prevention Divisions* in cooperation with *The Cape Breton Regional Fire Chief's Association* and *The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs*, presented "**Beyond Hoses & Helmets**", a leadership course for Chief Officers of a fire department to the Chief Officers of the 34 volunteer C.B.R.M. organizations. Fire Chief, Vince Mackenzie, from Grand Falls, Windsor Newfoundland and Fire Chief, Jody Price, from Oromocto, New Brunswick were the guest presenters. The course was a great success and as a result other desired courses were identified through great discussions. Forty Chief Officers representing 18 Regional fire departments attended.

It was identified that, *Fire Scene Safety, Time Management* and *Dealing with The Media/Media Relations* courses were desired. As a result a certified "**Incident Fire Safety Officer Course**" was conducted through The N.S. Fire School & the C.B.R. Training Division Jan. 24 & 25, 2015 with 40 Firefighters from 16 C.B.R.M. Volunteer Fire Departments participating.

The Training Division held a "**Media Relations Course**" on April 18 & 19<sup>th</sup>. 2015 with 32 Chief Officers attending representing 18 of 34 departments. This course was an introductory course that was highly informative and very well received. Officers who attended requested a more advanced media course and our Training Division is sourcing that currently.

Working in conjunction, *The N.S. Fire School & the CBRM Training Division*, we are conducting a "**Hybrid Level 1 Course**" which has begun. The first practical weekend was January 31<sup>st</sup>, and the final practical practice weekend was May 30<sup>th</sup>. & 31<sup>st</sup>. At this point Firefighters are trained to a level where

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Deputy Chief  
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they may be utilized and are able to perform required tasks in "The Hot Zone." There are 34 firefighter students from 13 C.B.R. Fire Departments enrolled in the inaugural class. Students will conduct required on line learning during the summer months and will complete a final practical testing weekend in late September, completing their Certified Firefighter Level 1. The cost of this training was completely covered by The C.B. Regional Fire & Emergency Service, Training Division totaling \$56,100.

The C.B.R. Fire & Emergency Service, Training Division in conjunction with The N.S. Firefighters School will be offering another "**Scene Safety Course**", an "**Advanced Media Course**" a "**Time Management Course**" that was requested by some of our volunteer Chief Officers, and another **Firefighter Hybrid Level 1**, in the months to come, along with the **Drivers & Extrication Courses** outlined above. Other courses we hope to provide in the near future are a; **Pump Operators Course, Confined Space, High Angle Rescue** along with more Leadership orientated courses similar to "Beyond Hoses & Helmets".

The issue will become, not that we are not providing adequate training, but where our valuable volunteers will find the time to participate in that training.

## **Prevention:**

Fire Prevention week October 5-11<sup>th</sup>, 2014 was a success. There was a media release provided by "**The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service**", **Prevention Division** and a cooperative, between The Cape Breton Regional Fire & Emergency Service , Prevention Division and The Cape Breton Regional Chief's Association, in an all-inclusive, Fire Prevention, full page ad placed in *The Cape Breton Post*. This ad included all 33 volunteer Fire Departments, The Hazmat Team and the CBRM Career Departments. Fire Departments conducted school fire drills and prevention talks with the various student age groups. Prevention ads were placed with local media as well as Prevention PSA's read on local radio stations. All C.B.R.M Fire Departments were supplied with and distributed various Fire Prevention and educational materials.

Thanks to Home Depot who sponsored a Fire Prevention Day on the Saturday, prior to the start of Fire Prevention Week with many departments partaking in the activities. Thanks to all those departments who came out to participate and congratulations went out to The New Waterford Volunteer Fire Department who were voted as displaying the days favorite Fire Apparatus. Home Depot provided tools as a prize for favorite apparatus and next year promises to be even more successful with more prizes and giveaways.

In December 2014, *The CBRM Prevention Division* sold tickets on a "Firefighter's duffel bag, which included; leather firefighting boots, a custom helmet, a Leatherman multi tool, firefighting ,extrication, and station gloves, a flash hood, rechargeable flash light and the duffel bag. A prize package worth \$1500 was donated by local suppliers. The Prevention Division raised \$1500 in 2 weeks and all

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proceeds were used towards an "adopt a family" project. This was a very well received and worthy team building project, and one that greatly enhanced this past Christmas for a very deserving Family.

Our Prevention Division continued its efforts throughout the C.B.R.M. during the year and conducts season appropriate PSA's on a regular basis.

On June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015, The C.B.R. Fire & Emergency Service, Prevention Division is conducting a Grading Day/ Fire Prevention Party from 11 am until 3pm. at *The Open Hearth Park*. There will be bicycle giveaways, last year 6 were donated (this year TBA), a free barbecue and many other activities and prizes with many fire Prevention materials and swag given out. Other C.B.R.M. Fire Departments and emergency services providers, Police & EHS, will be participating as there is a vehicle & equipment display, "Show & Shine" with prizes given for best in show, voted on by the children in attendance. Last year it was estimated that 1500 children attended and this year more are expected.

### **Volunteer Coordination:**

As a result of many discussions, meetings, visits, committees and working with The Cape Breton Regional Chiefs Association we are making great strides in developing a cooperative, cohesive, goal orientated group with an emphasis on achieving those areas that will better their association, their members, and thus our *Cape Breton Regional Volunteer Fire Departments*.

Currently The C.B. Regional Fire Chief's Association have formed a committee to initiate and create a process for a newly formed O.H. & S. Committee within their association consisting of volunteer members. Although Volunteer firefighters are exempt from The N.S. O.H. & S. Act, it shows great commitment and responsibility from the Regional Chiefs Association that they/we strive towards volunteer safety regardless of legislation. As the C.B.R. Volunteer Coordinator, I am currently on the committee creating the process and will sit on the O.H. & S Committee. We will be the common link between The C.B.R.M. Joint Occupational Safety Committee and The safety Committee for The Cape Breton Regional Chiefs Association bringing common safety issues back and forth so that all firefighters, career & Volunteer and all departments within The C.B.R.M. can be equally, better informed and aware of safety issues.

As the Volunteer Coordinator I am responsible for many tasks, from coordinating vehicle, equipment and building maintenance and assistance with funding, to resolution assistance for minor and sometimes major departmental issues. As the Volunteer Coordinator I assist and provide for, in training and prevention materials and activities through our C.B.R. Training and Prevention Divisions for our 33 volunteer departments. I engage in activities that will aid in our volunteer fire departments in performing their commitments and responses. For example, we are presently working on insurance ideas with our C.B.R.M. Provider that could possibly help save our volunteer departments costly insurance premiums. We are also currently working toward uniformity in materials and equipment

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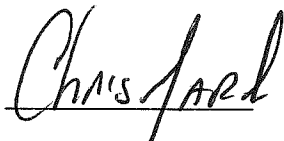


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purchases with the 33 departments, again to help maximize on budget capabilities when it comes to purchasing.

The Cape Breton Regional Municipality along with the rest of the province is currently involved in the process of switching from the VHF (very high frequency) radio system to the TMR (trunk mobile radio) system. The coordination of equipment changeover and training on these new radios and the protocols have been coordinated through this office and we are nearing the end of the initial phases and preparing for the official cut over. The training and equipment changeover has gone relatively smooth and our volunteer departments are very pleased with the new TMR System and the increased quality and coverage in communications.

  
Chris March

