

## Emergency Management Update

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| Prepared by:    | Latoya McGaw<br>Community Safety       |
| Recommended by: | General Manager of<br>Community Safety |

## Report Summary

This report provides information regarding the recent business activities, relevant statistics and good news stories within the Emergency Management Section, Community Safety Department.

## Relationship to the Strategic Plan / Health Impact Assessment

This report refers to operational matters.

## Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## Background

This report aims to provide the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services Committee with an update on information as it relates to recent business activities within the Emergency Management Section of the Community Safety Department.

The Emergency Management Section provides leadership, guidance, and direction to ensure the safety of residents in community emergencies. This section is governed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) and the Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel provide further direction and advice to the Emergency Management Section. This section offers 24/7 support with a primary focus on the safety of our citizens through the effective management of community risks and emergencies.

# **Emergency Management**

## **Emergency Response**

### **COVID-19**

The City of Greater Sudbury remains under a State of Emergency as was declared by Mayor Bigger on April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, due to the outbreak of coronavirus COVID-19, which constitutes a significant danger that could result in serious harm or death.

The Community Control Group (CCG) has been activated since March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and continues to meet virtually on a weekly basis to discuss operations and response in light of COVID-19, as well as future planning for the potential surge in the coming months and implementation of recovery plans.

As an added support to the CCG, Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel (GSEMAP) was repurposed as the Community Advisory Group (CAG) through which external emergency management stakeholders provide situational awareness and share information including public health guidance and facilitate information requests. The information gathered through these meetings are shared with the CCG as it provides a complete picture of needs, trends, and impact across the community.

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Program**

In December 2020, after independent and thorough scientific reviews for safety and efficacy, Health Canada approved two vaccines for use in Canada: Pfizer-BioNTech (December 9th) and Moderna (December 23rd). An additional vaccine, Astra Zeneca was also approved by Health Canada in February 2021.

Public Health Sudbury & Districts (PHSD) unveiled a COVID-19 vaccination plan on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021 for its service area. The plan, Public Health Sudbury & District COVID-19 Vaccination Program Playbook, is the roadmap to vaccinate area residents against COVID-19. Vaccinations will follow the Ontario Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Plan and the recent COVID-19 vaccination updates issued by the Ontario government to implement the local vaccination program in three phases.

Phase 1 (January to March): vaccines will be offered to seniors in long-term care homes and high-risk retirement homes, including staff and essential care givers; health care workers; adult (16+) First Nations, Métis, and Inuit populations; and adult chronic home care recipients (16+).

Phase 2 (April to August): essential workers; adults aged 60+; staff and residents of additional congregate settings; at-risk populations; and remaining adults aged 16 to 59.

Phase 3 (September and ongoing): all remaining eligible populations who wish to be vaccinated.

The local vaccination program will be implemented in close partnership with community stakeholders to ensure access to vaccine is based on ethical principles and that the program is run efficiently.

The goal of the local vaccination program is to achieve a coverage level of at least 75% of eligible recipients in the service area, within the prescribed timeframe.

Vaccination has been completed in long-term care homes and other congregate setting for seniors. Healthcare workers, essential caregivers, First Nations community members and those 80 years and older in Ontario are now receiving the vaccine.

It is important to note that while the local plan is in place and being executed, it is subject to change based on the timing and availability of vaccines in the community.

## **Second Provincial Emergency Declaration**

With COVID-19 case numbers rising since late fall, the Province of Ontario has implemented a second provincial State of Emergency on January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021, under s 7.0.1 (1) of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* (EMCPA), to address the COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the healthcare system. The declaration also included enhanced measures and a 28-day stay-at-home order.

The stay-at-home order, which came into effect January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021, requires everyone to remain at home with exceptions for permitted purposes or activities. The order and new public health restrictions are aimed at limiting people's mobility and reducing the number of daily contacts with those outside an immediate household. In addition to limiting outings, all businesses must ensure that any employee who can work from home, should work from home.

## **Host Community Planning**

Annually, the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) seeks host communities' assistance in ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of First Nations community residents in the event there is a need for evacuation due to flooding or forest fires.

As a result of COVID-19, many traditional host communities are unable to host evacuees due to the risk of illness and spread of COVID-19 in their communities.

OFMEM in light of COVID-19, developed a new framework that would help First Nations residents stay in their communities. The decision to evacuate a community during this time would only be made in exceptional circumstances (i.e., potential threat to life and limb) and if all other options such as sheltering in place if feasible, have been exhausted or unsuitable.

CGS Emergency Management Section has been working with the OFMEM in light of recent increase in COVID-19 cases in the far North which may impact the availability of accommodations for First Nations evacuees. Should the need arise for First Nations community members to be evacuated to Greater Sudbury, the City in its efforts would play a supportive role in this initiative.

## **Training**

The third and final quarterly hazardous material tests were conducted on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 (Exercise Boysenberry) and December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (Exercise Sangria).

The exercises were designed to test the communication process between response and partner agencies who would be involved in a hazardous material release event.

First responders including Emergency Management, Public Health, and Vale staff assembled via the emergency teleconference line for information gathering and sharing as well as to pre-plan should the given scenario increase in complexity.

## **Compliance**

The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* requires all municipalities to conduct annual training and exercise with members of the Community Control Group (CCG).

Recognizing that municipalities continue to actively engage their emergency management procedures and programs in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of the Solicitor General has suspended the requirement for an emergency exercise in 2020. This suspension will allow municipalities to focus on reopening their communities and local economies while keeping residents safe.

Municipalities are however expected to complete other key elements of their emergency management

program which includes conducting an annual Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA), identification of critical infrastructure, and review the municipal emergency response plan.

Greater Sudbury's Emergency Management Section has conducted activities to achieve compliance with the remaining requirements of the Act and Ontario Regulation 380/04. Our submission of the online compliance requirements was completed on December 31, 2020.

OFMEM will review Greater Sudbury's submission and advise if the municipality has met the requirements of the Act. Since the implementation of the Act in 2006, Greater Sudbury has continuously met and exceeded the requirements under the legislation.