

## **Fire Services Prevention and Public Safety Update March 2024**

Presented To: Community and  
Emergency Services  
Committee

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### **Report Summary**

This report and presentation provides an update on the recent activities of the Fire Prevention and Public Education Sections of the Fire Services Division, Community Safety Department.

### **Relationship to the Strategic Plan, Health Impact Assessment and Community Energy & Emissions Plan (CEEP)**

This report refers to operational matters and has no direct connection to the Community Energy and Emissions Plan.

### **Financial Implications**

Costs to be incurred from the work described in this report will be funded within the existing budget for Fire Services.

### **Background**

The Fire Prevention and Public Education Section consisting of a Chief Fire Prevention Officer, five Fire Prevention Officers, one Public Safety Officer and one Fire Prevention Clerk. The Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) recommends that municipal fire protection services are based on the three lines of defense: Public Fire Safety Education, Fire Safety Standards and Code Enforcement, and Emergency Response. Fire Prevention and Public Education are responsible to address and uphold the first two lines of defense. Fire Prevention staff are Assistants to the Ontario Fire Marshal and enforce Fire Code compliance under the authority of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. Enforcing the second line of defense is achieved through property inspections, building permit plans review, onsite training and legal prosecution. Fire Prevention is mandated by the Fire Protection and Prevention Act to address three types of inspections: Request, Complaint and Vulnerable Occupancies (care and treatment residential facilities). The Fire Prevention Officers have achieved the certification of National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1031 Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plans Examiner. The Public Fire Safety Officer has achieved the certification of (NFPA) 1035 Level II Public Fire and Life Safety Educator and Public Information Officer.

## Fire Inspections

The Fire Prevention Section continues to complete proactive fire inspections for multi residential buildings to ensure that residential buildings are in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code and to assist in reducing the number of fire related fatalities with our community. Fire Prevention Officers continue to focus on the older residential buildings that were constructed prior to the Ontario Building Code which may be required to be retrofitted to bring these building up to a minimum level of fire and life safety.

The following chart provides a breakdown of fire inspections completed in 2023:

Complaint Inspections	290
Request Inspections	351
Vulnerable Occupancies	55
Target Inspections	215
<b>Total Inspections Completed in 2023</b>	<b>856</b>

The chart below identifies the number of residential occupancies to be inspected as part of this targeted inspection strategy. The goal of Fire Prevention is to complete all residential inspections within a 10-year period.

Type of Occupancy	Number of Occupancies	Avg. Inspection Time (hours)	Estimated Time to Complete (hours)
Duplex	1,698	3	5,094
Triplex	434	3.25	1,410
Four Plex	418	3.5	1,463
Five Plex	75	3.75	281
Six Plex	70	4	280
7+ Units	342	7	2,394

## Public Safety Education

The Public Safety Officer, Fire Prevention Officers, and firefighters of the City of Greater Sudbury Fire Services (GSFS) bring life-saving messages to the community through many public fire safety education programs and activities. These programs and activities target fire risks identified through a community risk assessment that considers previous fire losses, building stock, and the demographic profile of the municipality. GSFS partners with a variety of community groups and organizations to provide leadership in public fire safety education within the community.

Identified and described below are the new initiatives that will be implemented in 2024 by the Fire Prevention and Public Education Section:

### Home Safe and Sound Program

The purpose of the “Home Safe and Sound” smoke alarm program is for firefighters to conduct door-to-door-surveys, home fire safety reviews, and provide fire safety education to all 46,300 single family dwellings within seven years of inception. This program has been developed to be a continuous annual program that is repeated every seven years. The goal of the program will be to increase the number of single-family dwellings with working smoke alarms and educate the residence on fire safety within the home. This program also aims to decrease the number of fires that occur annually within our community and reduce the number of injuries and fatalities to the public and firefighters. This program will utilize technology using electronic devices (tablets) and a “Field Maps” app. The Field Maps app identifies each residence within their community and is interactive by allowing the user to identify homes that they have attended and made contact with the occupants vs properties where no one was home and no contact was made with the owner. This interactive feature ensures that proper follow up is achieved and staff are aware of the need to reattend specific properties. This app also provides several questions that will be asked of the homeowner to assist

with the collection of statistical data pertaining to working smoke alarms within the City. The program will be non-punitive as a result of home owners not being in compliance with the Ontario Fire Code. Homeowners will be responsible for the purchase of the smoke alarm (purchased at cost) through Fire Services if required. The success of this program will not be determined until sufficient statistics are gathered and compared to previous annual statistics including, but not limited to, number of fires, number of injuries and fatalities, and smoke alarm compliance.

### **After The Fire Program**

This is a new program that has been implemented in which Fire Prevention Officers attend to neighbourhoods in which a structure fire occurred within the previous 72 hours. The Fire Prevention Officers canvas the neighbourhood by knocking on doors and reminding residents of the importance of fire safety and having working smoke alarms, carbon monoxide alarms, and a home escape plan. This program has seen success in other parts of the Province as community residents appear to be more engaged and willing to learn about fire safety when a fire emergency has occurred in their neighbourhood. A Fire Safety Booklet that provides fire safety information on a wide range of fire safety topics is also left at each property.

### **Community Action Network (CAN) Presentations**

The Public Safety Officer shall contact each of the 20 Community Action Network representatives and arrange a date and time that the Public Safety Officer can attend a regularly scheduled meeting to provide fire safety education and documentation to the CAN members. The Public Safety Officer is currently collaborating with the Emergency Management Coordinator to conduct joint presentations at these CAN meetings.

### **Elementary Schools – Fire Safety Program**

The Public Safety Officer is developing an elementary school “Fire Safety Program” that will be utilized by teachers to educate their students on certain aspects of fire safety appropriate to grade and age level. Fire Services will not conduct the education sessions, but provide the teachers with the appropriate lesson plans, teaching points, and resources to ensure consistent fire safety education is provided to elementary school children across the City of Greater Sudbury. The Public Safety Officer will meet with all the school boards to review the fire safety program and gain board approval to ensure all schools are involved and providing fire safety education as part of their curriculum.

### **Fire Prevention Week**

Fire Prevention staff are reviewing and identifying opportunities to promote Fire Prevention Week (October 06 - October 12, 2024) and enhance our ability to reach a broader audience to provide fire safety education and increase public participation in Fire Prevention Week activities. Fire Services will be looking to host open houses and conduct station tours providing fire safety education to community residence at their local fire station.

### **Partnerships**

Fire Prevention is continually looking for partnerships with outside community agencies to assist with and offset the increased costs of administering fire safety programs and providing fire safety education materials to the citizen of Greater Sudbury. Staff are collaborating with Vale and Glencore on the possibility of utilizing grant funding to purchase smoke alarms that will be used as part of the Home Safe and Sound Program. This will assist to offset the cost of smoke alarms for those residents that are not financially able to pay for the cost of a smoke alarm.

### **Lesson Plans**

Staff are currently reviewing all fire and safety education material (lesson plans, presentations, handouts) to ensure they are accurate, up to date and applicable. Once all fire safety material has been standardized, a

fire safety binder and electronic copy of all fire safety education material will be provided to each station to utilize during station tours and when attending public education training sessions within their community.

## **Conclusion**

Fire Prevention and Public Education staff are working to ensure Fire Services are delivering the first two lines of defense, ensuring we meet mandatory requirements set by the Office of the Fire Marshal, and making fire and life safety a priority for those who live, work, and play in the City of Greater Sudbury. Fire Prevention and Public Education is continually looking for new opportunities to ensure our public education reflect fire risks, and assist in reducing the number of fires within our community.