

Emergency Management Update – December 2024

Presented To:	Community and Emergency Services Committee
Meeting Date:	December 16, 2024
Type:	Correspondence for Information Only
Prepared by:	Shannon Dowling Community Safety
Recommended by:	General Manager of Community Safety

Report Summary

This report provides an update regarding the recent business activities within the Emergency Management Section of the 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

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Background

The Emergency Management Section provides leadership, guidance, and public education to ensure the safety of residents during emergencies. This Section is governed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) and the Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel (GSEMAP) 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.

Compliance Review Submission for 2024

Each year, municipalities are required to submit a compliance package to Emergency Management Ontario to ensure municipalities are meeting the requirements of their emergency management program, in accordance with the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). Annual compliance is reached when a municipality satisfies 13 program elements required under the EMCPA including:

- Complete a municipal Hazard and Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)
- Municipal critical infrastructure list;
- Municipal emergency plan;
- Program By-law;

- Annual Review;
- Annual training;
- Annual exercise;
- Public education program;
- An Emergency Operations Center;
- A Community Emergency Management Coordinator;
- An Emergency Management Program Committee;
- A Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) and;
- An Emergency Information Officer.

The 2024 compliance package has been submitted for review via the provincial compliance portal. Notification of status is traditionally shared with municipalities in the spring.

The City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Management program has successfully achieved compliance for 16 consecutive years and anticipates another successful compliance year for 2024.

Flood and Wildland Fire Season and Stronger Together Host Community Plan

In advance of the annual flood and wildland fire seasons, Emergency Management Ontario aims to secure the necessary spaces for evacuations of First Nations communities across the province displaced due to the threat of wildland fires.

The 2024 wildfire season, from April to October, was less active in Ontario than previous years, with more than 475 fires burning close to 90,000 hectares of land. This is lower than the 2023 wildland fire season and lower compared to the 10-year average of 694 fires and 201,781 hectares burned.

There were no community evacuations in Ontario due to wildland fires in 2024, including First Nations communities. As a result, there were no calls through the PEOC requesting Greater Sudbury support S evacuated communities, through the Stronger Together Host Community Plan.

The Sudbury Stronger Together Host Community Plan is supported by 40 local community partners including 16 local Indigenous service agencies and seeks to enhance host teams, resources, and operational plans. Should a First Nations community request Greater Sudbury act as a host community through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), the Stronger Together Host Community Plan would be activated, and partners would be engaged. Costs for hosting operations is funded through an agreement between the City and Indigenous Services Canada.

Community Evacuation Plan Review

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, RSO, 1990 requires every municipality to have an emergency plan that includes procedures related to evacuations.

Most evacuations are routine operations overseen by first responders with a limited number of those displaced for a limited time frame. The Emergency Management Section administers the City's Personal Disaster Assistance fund and coordinates these types of evacuations, in collaboration with the Canadian Red Cross.

Larger scale evacuations require a more coordinated approach, often with several City Departments, community agencies, and may involve other levels of government for support. Larger evacuations and hosting operations may require a partial or full activation of the Community Control Group.

Work is ongoing and includes conversations with Emergency Management Ontario who is developing a Near

North Evacuation Plan designed to support municipalities across the north facing large scale evacuations. The province has engaged CGS Emergency Management in conversations exploring the role Greater Sudbury may play in future regional evacuations. No commitments have been made, and conversations are ongoing.

The Community Evacuation Plan review includes:

- A review of the criteria of each evacuation level.
- Facility reviews of the six existing Evacuation Centres used for group lodging, last reviewed between 2017 and 2019.
- Identification of Reception Centres used to support evacuation efforts and information sharing.
- The development of an Emergency Social Services Plan to support standard and specialized services for those displaced as a result of a community emergency.
- The development of a public framework supported by the Emergency Public Information Plan.

The Evacuation Plan review is a collaboration between several City Departments and various community partners. It is being developed using best practices and learning from the recent lived experiences of other municipalities and provinces.

Community Emergency Exercises

On September 25, 2024, the City participated in a joint live emergency exercise “Operations Sudbury Safe Skies” in collaboration with the Greater Sudbury Airport. The Loomex Group was contracted by the Greater Sudbury Airport to oversee the coordination of the exercise with a collaborative cost sharing agreement with the City’s Emergency Management Section.

The scenario included a mass casualty event and wildland fire at the Airport following a plane crash. The exercise involved more than 25 first responders and operational staff at the crash site and 50 additional participants at the Airport Emergency Coordination Centre and the City’s Emergency Operations Centre.

An After Action Report will be shared with the City’s Executive Leadership Team to determine action items to improve operations to support emergency response.

Under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, the City is required to conduct regular testing including one annual test with the Community Control Group.

Other exercises:

- Quarterly Hazardous Materials Notification Test
- Hazardous materials notification protocols were tested with Vale and with internal partners on:
 - Q2 – June 26
 - Q3 – October 2 (rescheduled from September 25 due to the Live Exercise)
 - Q4 – December 10
- Alert Ready National Notification Test – November 20
The bi-annual test of the federal notification system was conducted.