

Staff Report to Council

Title: Draft Community Risk Assessment

Report Number: CAO General-2024-19

Director: Chief Administrative Officer

Manager: Emergency Services

Meeting Date:
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Date to be considered by Council:
Wednesday, June 26, 2024

Recommendation:

That the Community Risk Assessment (CRA) document prepared by Fires Services be adopted; and

That the CRA process of identification, analysis, evaluation, and risk prioritization be used to inform updates to the Establishing and Regulating (E&R) By-Law for the Municipality of Kincardine Fire Service; and further

That a revised E&R By-Law be drafted for Council's consideration.

Executive Summary:

Acting Fire Chief Simmons has drafted a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) for the Municipality of Kincardine for consideration. Ontario Regulation 378/18, requires every municipality, and every fire department in a territory without municipal organization, to complete a review of community risk assessments as provided by the regulation and use its community risk assessment to inform decisions about the provision of fire protection services.

Strategic Priorities:

C.13-Protect people, property and the environment from the effects of dangerous conditions caused by people and nature

Financial Considerations:

No direct financial impact at this time. Financial impacts will be addressed through future engagement of Council through staff reports and the budget process.

Policy:

Ontario Regulation 378/18

Context and Background Information:

A CRA is a process of identifying, analyzing, evaluation, and prioritizing risks to public safety, particularly as they relate to the fire services. The noted process helps the municipality to make informed decisions regarding the provision of fire protection services. The CRA must address the mandatory profiles listed by the Office of the Fire Marshall and in the forms approved by that office.

The mandatory profiles include:

1. Geographic Profile
2. Building Stock Profile
3. Critical Infrastructure Profile
4. Demographic Profile
5. Hazard Profile
6. Public Safety Response Profile
7. Community Services Profile
8. Economic Profile
9. Past Loss and Event History Profile

These risks have been identified and evaluated by the Fire Services.

There are options for how to deal with the identified risks:

1. Avoid the Risk Avoiding the risk means implementing programs and initiatives to prevent a fire or emergency from happening. Avoidance often is linked to Public Education initiatives.
2. Mitigate the Risk Mitigating the risk means implementing programs and initiatives to reduce the probability and/or consequence of a fire or emergency. Mitigation often is linked to fire service inspection and compliance activities.
3. Accept the Risk Accepting the risk means the fire department accepts that the potential risk might happen and will respond if it occurs. If the fire department accepts the risk, sufficient staffing, training, equipment and operation guidelines are required.
4. Transfer the Risk Transferring the risk means the fire department transfers the impact and/or management of the risk to another organization or body. Contracting a neighbouring municipality or another organization are examples of transferring the management of risks to another body.

The information provided in the CRA can be used for recommendations for Council to consider in setting “service levels” that can be adopted for inclusion in future revisions to the Establishing and Regulating Bylaw for the Fire Service.

These recommendations can be revisited at any time and brought forward for Council consideration after annual reviews of the CRA or at the request of Council for new service offerings. Once the service offering is approved by Council for inclusion in the E&R bylaw, the fire service will identify specific activities required to meet the level of service.

Origin:

Provincially regulated requirement

Implementation Considerations:

There are often strong links between a CRA and a Fire Master Plan. Consideration of the development of a Fire Master Plan will be discussed with Fire Services to provide recommendations as to how to achieve service levels that Council sets through the E&R By-law. A Fire Master Plan could address an implementation process, options associated with Public Education, Inspections, and Apparatus Requirements.

Risk Analysis:

The Ontario Regulation requires that the municipality adopt a CRA by July 1, 2024, however, Council could choose to not accept or modify staff's recommendation.

Attachments: Draft Community Risk Assessment

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Submitted by: Jillene Bellchamber-Glazier