

Township of Southgate
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Staff Report FIRE2022-009

Title of Report: FIRE2022-009- Mandatory Firefighter Certification
Department: Fire
Council Date: March 16, 2022

Recommendation:

Be it resolved that Council receive Staff Report FIRE2022-009 for information.

Background:

Under the previous Provincial Government Ontario Regulation 379/18: Firefighter Certification was revoked in 2018 prior to coming into force requiring mandatory NFPA certification requirements for firefighters in ten specific roles.

On January 28, 2022 the Ministry of the Solicitor General released a proposed Firefighter Certification Regulation for comment on the Ontario Regulatory Registry until February 28, 2022. The regulation is proposed to come into force on July 1, 2022, with a four and six year compliance timeline.

Staff Comments:

Since the release of the proposed regulation, Fire Chiefs around the province have had several information sessions regarding the proposed regulation supplied by the Office of the Fire Marshal (*attachment 1 and attachment 2*). The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs agreed the best response would be a unified response by stakeholders. The OAFCA held several town hall meetings to listen to Municipal Fire Chiefs concerns and to consolidate all concerns into one document in response to the proposed mandatory certification. This document was then presented to the Ministry of the Solicitor General and the Ontario Fire Marshal.

Staff supports the proposal for mandatory certification as it only increases the safety to firefighters. Currently based off of the Southgate E&R Bylaw, firefighters in Dundalk, as of July 1st 2026 will be required to have firefighter level 1, firefighter level 2, hazmat awareness, hazmat ops training and certification.

Since 2019 each recruit firefighter hired by the Township has been put through the departments in house recruit training program. Utilizing this program each recruit has been able to receive their NFPA 1001 firefighter level 1 and 2 within their first year of employment. Due to Covid-19 last year, a few firefighters will have to complete their firefighter 2 in 2022.

Staff is proud to report that as of today 26 firefighters have received certification to firefighter level 1 and 24 firefighters have received certification to firefighter level 2. There are 6 probationary firefighters who will receive the certification this year to bring the number up to 32 firefighters.

Staff is also currently working on an internal hazmat training program utilizing certified in house staff and external partners to certify 23 firefighters to the hazmat operations level this year.

Financial Implications:

There are no financial implications from this report.

Communications & Community Action Plan Impact:

This report has been written and presented to Council to communicate accurate information to the public.

Concluding Comments:

That Council receive this report as information on the present level of training and the future training program requirements for the Township's Fire Department firefighters.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dept. Head:	<u>Original Signed By</u>	CAO Approval:	<u>Original Signed</u>
	Derek Malynyk, Fire Chief Official		Dave Milliner, CAO

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – Firefighter Certification Technical Briefing
- Attachment 2 – FPPA Regulation Draft