

To: Dawn Galusha
From: Tyler Moffitt, Fire Chief/CEMC
Date: December 18, 2019
Subject: Comments regarding letter from Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce

Background

Catherine L. Emes, President of the Fort Frances Chamber of Commerce sent a letter to the Mayor & Council; it was dated November 22, 2019.

In the letter, it was noted that the Chamber of Commerce would like to know how well trained and equipped our Emergency Management is to ensure an appropriated response and prevent loss of life should a derailment take place within the Town of Fort Frances.

As well, many of the membership of the Chamber of Commerce have concerns with the number of times the crossing is blocked at the Level Crossing on McIrvine Road with rail traffic.

Comments from Tyler Moffitt, Fire Chief/CEMC

I will address the following question regarding our Emergency Management etc. by covering five areas, which are **People, Environment (Includes Measurable Things), Equipment (Includes Materials, Apparatus etc.), Procedures, and Organizations (Resources)**.

As well, I will address the concerns regarding the Level Crossing at McIrvine Road.

People

The Town of Fort Frances has a population of approximately 7,800 people.

Meanwhile, our Fire Rescue Service consists of:

- 1 Fulltime Fire Chief/CEMC (Community Emergency Management Coordinator),
- 6 Fulltime Firefighters, consisting of:
 - Captain of Training,
 - Captain of Apparatus & Equipment,
 - Captain of Fire Prevention & Education,
 - 3 Fire Officers, and
- 15 Part Time Firefighters.

As well, the Town of Fort Frances Emergency Management Team consists of:

- 1 Fulltime Fire Chief/CEMC (Community Emergency Management Coordinator),
- 2 Alternate CEMC's (Community Emergency Management Coordinator's),
- MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) consisting of various team members withing the Town of Fort Frances, and
- MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) Advisory & Support team members, representing the OPP, Paramedic Service, as well as the Fort Frances Power Corporation.

Environment (Includes Measurable Things)

The Town of Fort Frances is the busiest port of entry for railway traffic in North America. In fact, the railway industry overall outlook is that the number of trains travelling through the Town of Fort Frances will only increase.

As well, the railway traffic that travels through the Town of Fort Frances daily consists of a vast quantity of hazardous materials/dangerous goods.

Equipment (Includes Materials, Apparatus etc.)

Equipment and Apparatus at the Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service

Two Rescue Vehicles	<p>Rescue 11-6: 2017 Chevy Silverado Four Door Extended Cab - Rescue/Utility</p> <p>Rescue 11-7: 2013 Dodge - Heavy Rescue Truck equipped with the "jaws of life" servicing the Town of Fort Frances and the Central Zone of the Rainy River District.</p>
Two Pumper Rescues	<p>Pumper Rescue 11-1 (Reserve Pumper Rescue): 1995 Volvo equipped with a 5000 LPM pump, ground ladders and firefighting equipment.</p> <p>Pumper Rescue 11-2: 2008 Spartan equipped with a 5000 LPM pump, 28-foot water tower and light boom, ground ladders and firefighting equipment.</p>
One Aerial Ladder	Aerial Ladder 11-3: 1988 Ford equipped with a 5000 LPM pump, 75-foot hydraulic ladder, and firefighting equipment.
One Decontamination /Rehabilitation Trailer	<p>Decon/Rehab 11-4: 14-foot trailer equipped with Decontamination and Rehabilitation supplies.</p> <p>Deployed primarily to fire incidents for providing decontamination of personnel, PPE, and equipment, as well as rehabilitation of personnel.</p>
One Command Trailer	Command 11-8: 2010 - 28-foot trailer Deployed as a mobile command post, and rehab point or Emergency Operation Centre.
One Marine Response Boat	Marine 11-9: 14-foot Aluminum boat with 25 hp motor that is used for rescue support, and access to municipal islands for fire suppression and prevention duties.
Two Water Rescue Craft	Oceanid RDC (Rapid Deployment Craft) that is designed for quick deployment after arrival on scene. Very effective for shore based, and open water rescue.

CN Rail Spill Response Sea-Can: Spill Response Equipment

CN Rail has a Spill Response Sea-Can Container situated in Fort Frances, which is at our disposal if required.

Procedures

The Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service will endeavor to provide Hazardous Material Response to an Awareness Level.

The nearest Hazardous Material Response Operational/Technician Level Fire Rescue Service is in Thunder Bay. The Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Service is recognized as a Provincial Level Response Team in Ontario.

Meanwhile, our MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) consisting of various team members within the Town of Fort Frances and the MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) Advisory & Support team members meet regularly throughout the year.

As well, we also complete table-top exercises and full-scale exercises; this prepares us if we had to activate our EOC (Emergency Operations Centre) for an incident.

In the event of an incident involving Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods within the Town of Fort Frances ... the Fire Rescue Service initial response would be as follows:

- Respond to recognize and identify any Hazardous Materials/Dangerous Goods,
- Secure the area,
- Keep the public away from railcars,
- Keep potential sources of ignition away from the railcars,
- Initiate MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) if required,
- Initiate Evacuation of people if required,
- Communicate Incident to all stakeholders via B93 radio, social media etc. and,
- Call for Trained Personnel if required.

In addition to our initial response ... we do have a laminated visual tool to utilize from **CN**, which is called: **PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE AT THE SITE OF A DERAILMENT & CN EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROCESS.**

Meanwhile, the Fort Frances Fire Rescue Service can initiate a call for Mutual Aid from International Falls Minnesota, which has been done in the past.

Mutual Aid was requested during a Peroxide Railcar Derailment and Spill at Resolute Forest Products back in October 2013; International Falls responded with their Aerial Ladder Truck to assist in diluting the spilled product.

As well, we can also initiate Mutual Aid from other Fire Rescue Services in Ontario.

Organizations

During a Hazardous Materials Incident, the following is a list of some of the organizations who would be potentially involved and at our disposal if required:

- CN Dangerous Goods Spill Response Team
- CN Police
- Ontario Provincial Police
- Rainy River District Paramedic Service
- International Falls Fire Rescue Service
- Fire Rescue Services within Ontario
- OFMEM (Ontario Fire Marshal Emergency Management)
- Thunder Bay Fire Rescue Service (Provincial Hazardous Materials Response Team)
- MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) consisting of various team members within the Town of Fort Frances
- MCEG (Municipal Emergency Control Group) Advisory & Support team members
- CANUTEC
- Spills Action Centre

Level Crossing at McIrvine Road

A train derailment incident did take place this year at the McIrvine Crossing; even though it did not pose a threat to the community ... the crossing was blocked.

The Portage Avenue CN Rail Underpass was the only other means of accessing the North End and vice versa.

Meanwhile, if the McIrvine Crossing was blocked with rail traffic and we had another heavy down pour of rain, and the pumps of the underpass failed to keep up ... Emergency Services only other access to the North End would be to travel by way of Hill Road in Alberton.