



October 08, 2019

Trisha Law, GIS Expert
Town of Fort Frances
Public Works Department
320 Portage Avenue
Fort Frances, ON P9A 3P9

Fire Underwriters Survey – GIS Data Request

Dear Ms. Law,

Fire Underwriters Survey (FUS) is a national organization administered by OPTA Information Intelligence that provides data on public fire protection for fire insurance statistical work and underwriting purposes of subscribing insurance companies. Subscribers of Fire Underwriters Survey represent approximately 85 percent of the private sector property and casualty insurers in Canada.

FUS provides a standardized measure of the ability of the protective facilities of a community to prevent and control the major fires that may be expected to occur. It does so by evaluating in detail the adequacy, reliability, strength, and efficiency of the protective facilities and comparing the level of protection against the level of fire risk in the built environment. Specifically, Fire Insurance Grades measure: risk levels, fire suppression, water supplies, emergency communications, and fire prevention.

Fire Underwriters Survey maintains the Canadian Fire Insurance Grading Index where all Fire Insurance Grades are published for communities across Canada. Fire Insurance Grades are derived from multiple layers of data including, but not limited to, hydrant location data, civic address, and parcel GIS data. Ensuring that the most recent data is displayed on the Fire Insurance Grading Index results in property owners receiving the benefits for public fire protection resources when applying for insurance.

As the community receives a benefit from updated Fire Insurance Grades, Fire Underwriters Survey does not pay for GIS data. This is the case for all communities and municipalities across Canada. The system of fire insurance grading in Canada is set up to reward communities that



make investments in managing fire risk and maintaining the capacity to respond to structure fires effectively. For communities to receive full credit for these investments the communities must report the levels of investment through the FUS data collection program. Note that the system is entirely voluntary, and communities are not required to participate, however the fire insurance grades determined with this system impact insurance line capacities and property insurance premiums.

As included in the Geospatial Data Share Agreement, the specific ESRI shapefile layers FUS is requesting with standard fee waived include water distribution system mains, water distribution system hydrants, water distribution system main valves, road center lines, and civic address data and lot lines.

Please contact our office if there are any questions or comments regarding the intent or content found throughout this letter.

Regards,

David Wilson
Public Fire Protection Specialist
Fire Underwriters Survey