POLICY CSD-08: Responding to Mutual Aid Incidents

Community Services

Approval Date: **October 14, 2003**
Approval Authority: **Council Resolution No. 15**
Effective Date: **October 14, 2003**
Revision Date/s:

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to recognize the conditions under which firefighting or rescue apparatus, equipment, and firefighters can respond to emergencies beyond Norfolk County municipal borders.

Legal Reference

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O> 1997 c.4; Sections 2(5)(6), 6(6), and 13 (3).

Definition:

Automatic Aid

Means any agreement under which municipality “A” agrees to provide an initial response to fires, rescues, and emergencies that may occur in a part of municipality “B” where the fire department in municipality “A” is capable of responding more quickly than the fire department in municipality “B”.

Fire Chief

Means the Norfolk County Fire chief appointed by by-law, or designate.

Mutual Aid

Means a program to provide firefighting or rescue assistance to a neighbouring municipality in the case of a major emergency in a community, in consideration of future reciprocal need.

Mutual Aid Plan

Means the Mutual Aid Plan developed under the authority of the Fire Protection and Prevention Act and direction of the Ontario Fire Marshal to facilitate the provision of fire protection services to the residents of a county, district, or region under a coordinated and cooperative system.

Implementation Procedure:

Norfolk County firefighting or rescue apparatus, equipment, and firefighters or other personnel associated with Norfolk County Fire Services are authorized to respond to any real or perceived emergency beyond Norfolk County municipal borders under any of the following circumstances.

Response is to another municipality with which an agreement exists between Norfolk County and the municipality to provide fire protection services under an automatic aid, mutual assistance, or fire protection services agreement, as the case might be.

Response is on the request of the fire chief or senior official of a receiving municipality, where such municipality is a participant in any county or regional mutual aid plan that is established by a fire coordinator appointed by the Ontario Fire Marshal, or of any other similar reciprocal plan or program. Such response is at the discretion of the Fire Chief or Designate who will determine the capability of Norfolk County to provide such assistance when and where requested.

Response is to a property where the Fire Chief or Designate determines that immediate action is necessary to preserve life or property and where the appropriate fire department or other emergency service is notified to respond and assume command or establish alternative measures to deal with the situation.

The Fire Chief shall delegate suitable officers of Norfolk County Fire Services to act in the capacity as a Designate for the purposes of this policy.

The Fire Chief shall establish guidelines on the application of this policy by such Designates.