



The Corporation of the Municipality of Tweed Staff Report

Date: July 11, 2023 Council Meeting
Report to: Council
Report from: Fire Chief
Department: Fire
Title: Fire Department Update

PURPOSE:

To provide a report to Council on Fire Department activities.

BACKGROUND:

- 1) The Ministry of Natural Resources continues to monitor our area for fire risk assessment. We have received heavy rains in the past couple of weeks. There has been a significant number of questions regarding lifting the burn ban. With the amount of run off from the rain, there has been an increase in the levels of our lake and streams, but it has not increased the ground moisture content, only in low lying areas and pockets where it has collected. The MNR has reported that we have received a number of lightning strikes in our area and to the north of us. These strikes can cause underground fires that may burn for days underground before they go out or can cause the fire to surface up a tree root or a crack in a rock surface causing wildfires to start. The MNR continues to leave the fire ban on in our RFZ zone. A Restricted Fire Zone is a temporary measure for extreme situations. As soon as outdoor conditions permit, the restrictions will be lifted as per the MNR. We receive reports from the MNR daily and will continue to stay in contact with them so that when it is safe to lift the ban we will do so. All of our neighbours to the North are facing the same situation and are allowing certified propane fire tables or propane fire pits to be used. With these types of appliances, the gas can be shut off so the open flame is out immediately. I realize it is not the same as a campfire, however it is a chance to do some of the campfire activities that we enjoy.
- 2) We continue to work with our logging contractors to finish the Fire Smart Program clean up of the 100 feet around the affected homes that have provided permission. It is going very well. The large piles of brush should be chipped in the next few days which will help reduce some of the risk.

- 3) During the last storm, we received a number of calls where the hydro lines were down.
- 4) We continue to receive a lot of questions about the smoky haze from the wildfires still burning out of control in Quebec.
- 5) At an upcoming meeting, I will be presenting information regarding the need for a property numbering by-law. It is important when we have emergency calls that homes and apartments have proper and more legible numbering so that we can easily find an emergency location. We are researching other Municipalities' information in order to have continuity.
- 6) We are meeting with St. Catharines fire dispatch to go over our next steps to change over this fall.

OPTIONS:

None

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

None

IMPACT:

None

RECOMMENDATION:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Council receive the Fire Department Update as presented.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Fire Department Update July 11, 2023.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Jul 5, 2023

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

Derrick Little - Jul 5, 2023 - 1:06 PM

Gloria Raybone - Jul 5, 2023 - 4:50 PM