



Policy Title: Fire Prevention Policy
Policy No: 2-13
Approval Date: October 21, 2013
Effective Date: October 21, 2013
Last Revised Date:

1. Policy Statement

To provide an effective fire prevention program that includes public education and other fire prevention services in accordance with the needs and circumstances of the Township.

2. Purpose / Background Information

The Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, Section 2(1) states:

- 1) Every municipality shall:
 - i. Establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and
 - ii. Provide other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

3. Application

This Fire Prevention Policy provides for the participation of all members of the Fire Department in fire prevention and public education activities. It also addresses the types and frequency of inspections directed by Council. This policy is intended as affirmative direction to the Fire Chief, Fire Department and the public.

4. Definitions

Not applicable.

5. General Principles

GENERAL

As a minimum accepted model, the municipality should provide the services listed below:

- 1) Smoke alarm program and home escape planning;
- 2) Distribution of public education information and delivery of public education programs;
- 3) Fire prevention inspections upon complaint or request; and
- 4) Simplified Risk Assessment

Depending on periodic Simplified Risk Assessments, additional services may be required to meet the needs and circumstances of the Township. Since the Township must be able to demonstrate that it can meet its needs and circumstances, prevention programs under this policy should be measured to ensure effectiveness. This shall be the responsibility of the Fire Chief.

SMOKE ALARM PROGRAM

The objective of the smoke alarm program is to ensure the provision, installation and maintenance of working smoke alarms in all occupied residential dwelling units, in the

municipality. Activities to help achieve this goal include:

- Distribution of pamphlets, flyers or other education material;
- Providing advice and /or assistance on the installation and maintenance of smoke alarms;
- Instruction to residents / occupants on smoke alarms & home escape planning; and
- Performing Inspections at the request of residents to determine compliance with the smoke alarm provisions of the Fire Code.

All Fire Departments providing protection services in the Township will ensure that all residents are provided with a similar service.

When providing instruction to residents concerning the use of smoke alarms, the Fire Department's practice is also to instruct residents on the importance of installing carbon monoxide alarms.

PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAMS

The Fire Chief and Department members will provide a variety of fire prevention education programs within the community in accordance with the priorities identified in the community's Simplified Risk Assessment. Priority will be given to those groups/segments of the Township that are at the greatest risk. Community groups and organizations may request safety related presentations, demonstrations and tours of the fire station.

Appropriate fire safety education materials will be distributed in an effective manner to address community fire safety issues and concerns based upon needs and circumstances.

Fire safety education material may be distributed to residents / occupants by any combination of the following activities:

- Distribution of pamphlets, flyers or other education material (Township wide);
- Public service announcements utilizing available media including the Township's web site; and
- Instruction to residents / occupants on fire safety matters (for example, presentations to community groups such as scouts, seniors and students).

Public fire safety education material will address such issues as preventing fire occurrence, planning to escape from a fire, being prepared to deal with a fire incident and the importance of smoke alarms.

INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT

Private Residential Occupancies

It is the policy of the Fire Department to conduct or arrange for fire prevention/safety inspections of all residential occupancies upon request or complaint to assess the occupant/owner's compliance with the Fire Code. The inspection process will include notification to the affected property owner or responsible party, appropriate follow-up and enforcement as necessary.

Fire Inspection Practices

It is a policy of the Township that the Fire Department, through an independent services agreement, performs regular and routine inspections of the following occupancies:

- Assemblies
- Apartments
- High and Medium risk industries
- Mercantile
- Business and personal
- Vacant premises

Inspections are to be carried out on a 3 year rotating basis and written reports will be prepared. There will be appropriate follow-up and enforcement as necessary.

Appropriate action will be taken to ensure the elimination of serious fire hazards, immediate threats to life from fire, and to enforce the Fire Code under the authority and in accordance with the provisions outlined in the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997.

OPEN AIR BURNING

Open air burning is permitted in accordance with the Township's Open Air Burning Guidelines and the approval of the Chief Fire Official.

6. Notice of the Availability of the Policy

The Fire Prevention Policy is available on the Township's Website at www.dawneuphemia.ca. The policy is also available from the Municipal Office and from the Fire Department.

7. References

Administrator-Clerk/Fire Chief report dated October 21, 2013.