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# THE CITY OF CALGARY FIRE DEPARTMENT

Consolidation and Revision of Fire Bylaws

**CPS2014-0720**

2014 October 1

Teamwork

Professionalism

Pride

Respect



## BACKGROUND

- Three bylaws consolidated and updated to reflect current operating environment:
  - Fire Department By-law
    - Fire Operations Bylaw 37M84
  - Fire Department Rates and Fees for Service
    - Fire Fees Bylaw 40M2003
  - Commercial Burning Bylaw 48M2003
- Repealing of Bylaw 7342, The 1968 Calgary Fire Prevention Bylaw
  - Housekeeping task, as not previously repealed in the past
- Consequential amendment to Community Standards Bylaw 5M2004
  - Fire Chief's authority to declare fire bans incorporated into proposed bylaw



## Proposed Bylaw

- Matters specific to the position of Fire Chief (Section 3):
  - Fire Chief appointed by Council
  - Interim Fire Chief appointed by General Manager of Community Services & Protective Services (CS&PS) if position becomes vacant
  - Fire Chief is accountable to the General Manager of Community Services & Protective Services (CS&PS) in accordance with current City organizational structure



## Proposed Bylaw

- Authority (Section 5) and Jurisdiction (Section 6)
  - The proposed bylaw sets out the Fire Chief's responsibility for fire protection services provided by The City and the Fire Chief's authority to prescribe the rules, regulations and policies for the efficient and sustainable operation of the Fire Department.
  - It also sets out the limits of the Fire Chief's authority and conditions under which the Fire Chief may dispatch apparatus beyond those limits.



## Proposed Bylaw

- Fire Department Authority (Sections 7 through 15)
  - Sets out authority at incidents including control, direction and management of the response, demolishing structures, entry onto the premises and adjacent premises, establishing a perimeter around an incident and ordering an evacuation.
  
- Reporting of Hazards (Sections 16, 17)
  - Requires anyone owning or authorized to act on behalf of the owner of a property that is damaged by fire or where hazardous material is released to report the particulars to the Fire Department.



## Proposed Bylaw

- Open Air Permits (Sections 18, 19)
  - Defines open air fires, the requirement for a permit and the authority of the Fire Chief to issue, charge a fee for and set conditions on a permit
    - Includes open flame used in a procession, display or as part of an act or entertainment, fire for training or ground thawing purposes, or fire associated with a special event/production
  
- Fire Bans (Section 20)
  - Moves the authority of the Fire Chief to declare a fire ban contained in the Community Standards Bylaw 5M2004 to the proposed bylaw, including the authority to order a fire extinguished, if it is in violation of the fire ban.



## Proposed Bylaw

- Fees & Payment of Fees (Sections 21-24)
  - Inspections, Permits and Administration
    - Moved fees out of the bylaw and into a fee schedule for review during budget deliberations
  - Fees for Other Services
    - Provision of members or apparatus on standby
    - Emergency response or other service provided outside of City limits
    - Training services and rental of Department facilities
  - Extraordinary and Unusual Costs
    - An additional fee may be charged where the actual cost of providing a service took an unusually long time or required specialized equipment, apparatus or materials, or for any other reason outside of the Department's control.
    - Or where an emergency or non-emergency service requires apparatus, materials or labour not usually required to perform that service, the Fire Chief may charge a fee reflecting the additional costs to perform the service.



## Proposed Bylaw

- False Alarm Fees (Section 25-28)
  - Increased fees to encourage property owner compliance and to increase alignment with other Canadian cities of similar size
  - First false alarm (free - unchanged)
  - Second false alarm (\$265 to \$300)
  - Third false alarm (\$530 to \$600)
  - Four or more false alarm (new)
    - \$1,000 and a mandatory inspection required
- Offences and Penalties (Sections 29-33)
  - Standard provisions of bylaws



**Administration Recommendation(s):**

That the Standing Policy Committee and Protective Services:

1. Forward this report as an item of urgent business to the 2014 October 06 Combined Meeting of Council
2. Recommends that Council give three readings to the proposed City of Calgary Fire Operations and Fees Bylaw (Attachment 1)



**Thank you**