The City of BARRIE

# BARRIE FIRE AND EMERGENCY SERVICE MEMORANDUM

**TO:** **MAYOR J. LEHMAN AND MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**FROM:** **BILL BOYES, FIRE CHIEF**

**KIMBERLEY GREENWOOD, POLICE CHIEF, VIA BARRIE POLICE SERVICES BOARD**

**NOTED:** **P. ELLIOT-SPENCER, MBA, CPA, CMA,**
**GENERAL MANAGER OF COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SERVICES**

**C. LADD, CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER**

**RE:** **BARRIE FIRE AND POLICE COLLABORATION**

**DATE:** **JANUARY 30, 2017**

The Fire and Police Services are entrusted to provide vital services that directly impact the safety of our community. Despite our unique mandates and roles within the public safety arena, there are areas in which Barrie Fire and Emergency Service (BFES) and Barrie Police Service (BPS) are leveraging each other's resources and expertise to minimize duplication and maximize outcomes. In an effort to improve public safety while managing our finite resources, BFES and BPS have been actively and collectively working together in a number of areas, such as joint training initiatives and sharing significant capital resources, when requested. This innovative approach to improving public safety can continue to evolve and adapt as both departments seek to meet the ever changing needs of the community and our citizens.

Listed below are 5 distinct areas in which BFES and BPS are working together:

**Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV)**

In late 2015, BPS purchased an Aeryon SkyRanger Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) from Aeryon Labs Inc. of Waterloo, Ontario. This UAV is equipped with High-Definition recording equipment capable of capturing photos and video. Also, it is equipped with an optional camera capable of capturing infrared thermal images. Lightweight, portable and very robust, the SkyRanger is capable of flying in adverse weather conditions up to a defined tolerance. In February 2016, Transport Canada issued BPS a Special Flight Operations Certificate (SFOC) that permits operational use of the UAV within the parameters of the SFOC. Seven BPS pilots then received introductory training from the OPP and qualification training from Aeryon Labs to become certified.

The UAV Unit became operational in April 2016 and responsibility for UAV operations rests with the BPS UAV Operations Manager. Since receiving the SFOC, the UAV unit has been deployed operationally on 32 occasions totaling 52 hours in support of BPS, BFES and OPP matters. A further 52 deployments totaling 134 hours were conducted for training and/or demonstration flights. From a police perspective, the primary uses for the UAV are intended to include missing and vulnerable persons, major motor vehicle collisions, crime scenes, tactical operations and critical infrastructure inspection. Moreover, BPS has and will continue to provide UAV operations to BFES in order to assist with the reconnaissance and evaluation of fire operations, hazardous materials responses, technical rescue operations and any other large-scale emergency.

**Fire Training**

Effective emergency scene management requires all responders to have an understanding of the salient risks associated with a wide range of potential incidents. Managing these risks to achieve a positive outcome benefits the citizens, community and the responders. At times, BPS may arrive on scene first to an emergency situation where BFES is responding as the lead agency. The potential for a successful outcome can be greatly improved when police take certain actions on scene prior to fire's arrival, such as ascertaining the status of evacuated and or trapped occupants. The training will take place early in 2017 and be administered by BFES Training Officers. It will provide BPS staff with updated training on actions to take when arriving first on scene of a fire, how fire science research has altered BFES tactics and actions that can improve the health and safety of responders and citizens. Also, the training will share information regarding safety precautions to be taken on scene of flooding incidents, downed electrical lines and hazardous materials responses.

**Mobile Command Centre**

BPS has made their Mobile Command Centre available for BFES should an incident necessitate a mobile, but fixed site where senior officers, the incident commander and external agencies can liaise and coordinate their response to the incident. Currently, BFES does not have a mobile command center and the ability to have this readily available resource will be extremely beneficial. The BPS Mobile Command Centre has been recently upgraded to improve the functionality and technology that is required in the event of a large-scale emergency scene. A mobile incident command post allows senior officers within the allied agencies to jointly manage the incident under the direction of the overall incident commander. The ability to have face-to-face interactions between the agencies contributes to an effective management of the overall emergency scene.

**Water Training**

Given that BPS and BFES both provide water-based public safety services, there are a number opportunities to share knowledge, skills and expertise that cross-jurisdictional boundaries. Water and ice responses have a high potential for danger to first responders given the inherent environmental dangers and present a major challenge for all involved. Each year, the BPS Marine Units and BFES water rescue personnel conduct joint training drills and incident reviews. The increased exposure to both organizations operating guidelines, equipment and personnel aids in producing coordinated and effective incident responses.

**Data Sharing**

In today's public sector, collecting, analyzing and using data to make informed decisions contributes to the delivery of innovative and effective programs and services. BFES is focusing on the use of data from a number of sources to identify risks based on structure types, occupancy types, identified fire risks, community health risks and population. In an attempt to fully understand the fire risk in Barrie, it quickly became apparent that BPS and BFES might have data that could prove beneficial from an educational, preventative and response perspective. Recently, BFES and BPS staff has been meeting to assess what data is available, able to be shared and how Environics Analytics applications can assist in the process. The overarching goal is that targeted educational strategies and preventative measures undertaken by either service will directly improve community safety for one service (e.g. BFES) and indirectly in another service (e.g. BPS) or vice versa.

The aforementioned examples demonstrate a commitment by both organizations to reduce informational and operational silos in order to provide a higher level of public safety services. Regardless of the unique mandates, BFES and BPS will embrace innovation and continuously search for opportunities to assist each other in order to realize operational and financial efficiencies.