

December 15, 2009

Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula
Ratepayers Associations

Attention Association Members:

It has been the intent of your fire department over the past few years to work toward more efficient and expedient delivery of water to fire emergencies within our Municipality. The Fire Underwriters Survey is the governing body in Canada that determines whether a municipality qualifies for a specified "SUPERIOR SHUTTLE TANKER SERVICE". This service will provide ratepayers with substantial savings to their home fire insurance rate.

In order for a municipal fire department to be recognized with being able to provide this service, it first must obtain the following:

- Two apparatuses that are able to respond together with a combined water capacity of 1500 gallons or more;
- Both apparatuses must be pumpers or pumper-tankers;
- They must be capable of maintaining a pressure of at least 120 PSI on both apparatuses;
- They must be able to transfer water from the apparatus to a tank;
- At least one pump must have the ability to pump 500 gallons per minute at 150 PSI;
- Must have the refill capacity of at least 100 gallons per minute on both apparatuses; and
- The main ability must have year round capability to provide a flow of 200 gallons per minute for a minimum of two hours.

Only recently with the purchase of a new 1050 Pumper and two new 1500 gallon pumper/tankers in 2008, was the Municipality able to meet these requirements and had been waiting for FUS to be able to assess our ability to meet this criteria.

However, on September 15, 2009, all Ontario fire departments and municipalities were notified that the

Fire Underwriters Services of Canada had arbitrarily changed the standard criteria for fire service set up and water flow testing. This is also a measured benchmark within the superior water tanker shuttle accreditation process. The new minimum criterion has increased the flow to 320 gallons per minute within the first two minutes of the first arriving apparatus.

We are also being told that FUS is also requiring a retest every five years for the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation.

We understand that these changes will impose insurmountable hardship to most fire departments, both urban and rural, in order to achieve and maintain the required accreditation. In doing so it is believed that even those departments that presently qualify may very well lose their accredited status, resulting in millions of dollars increase to insurance premiums for the residents of Ontario.

The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs strongly opposes the FUS changed criteria and requests that it immediately retract and reinstate the ISO standard. The OAFC has already advised The Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). Also, The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Office is doing everything possible to have this overturned.

If your organization is not in favour of these new criteria, please write a letter on behalf of your organization not supporting this change for rating under Superior Shuttle Tank Service. The address can be found below:

Andrew Sabine
Fire Protection Specialist
Fire Underwriters Survey
SCM Risk Management Services
An SCM Group Company
150 Commerce Valley Drive West
Lock Box 200
Markham, Ontario
L3T 7Z3

Sincerely,

Fire Chief: Mike Henderson
The Municipality of Northern Bruce Peninsula Fire Department