PART II
RESPONSIBILITY FOR FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES

Municipal responsibilities

2. (1) Every municipality shall,

(a) establish a program in the municipality which must include public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention; and

(b) provide such other fire protection services as it determines may be necessary in accordance with its needs and circumstances.

Methods of providing services

(2) In discharging its responsibilities under subsection (1), a municipality shall,

(a) appoint a community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team; or

(b) establish a fire department.

Services to be provided

(3) In determining the form and content of the program that it must offer under clause (1) (a) and the other fire protection services that it may offer under clause (1) (b), a municipality may seek the advice of the Fire Marshal.

Shared responsibilities

(4) Two or more municipalities may appoint a community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team or establish a fire department for the purpose of providing fire protection services in those municipalities.

Services outside municipality

(5) A municipality may, under such conditions as may be specified in the agreement, enter into an agreement to,

(a) provide such fire protection services as may be specified in the agreement to lands or premises that are situated outside the territorial limits of the municipality; and

(b) receive such fire protection services as may be specified in the agreement from a fire department situated outside the territorial limits of the municipality.

Automatic aid agreements

(6) A municipality may enter into an automatic aid agreement to provide or receive the initial or supplemental response to fires, rescues and emergencies.

Review of municipal fire services

(7) The Fire Marshal may monitor and review the fire protection services provided by municipalities to ensure that municipalities have met their responsibilities under this section and, if the Fire Marshal is of the opinion that, as a result of a municipality failing to comply with its responsibilities under subsection (1), a serious threat to public safety exists in the municipality, he or she may make recommendations to the council of the municipality with respect to possible measures the municipality may take to remedy or reduce the threat to public safety.

Failure to provide services

(8) If a municipality fails to adhere to the recommendations made by the Fire Marshal under subsection (7) or to take any other measures that in the opinion of the Fire Marshal will remedy or reduce the threat to public safety, the Minister may recommend to the Lieutenant Governor in Council that a regulation be made under subsection (9).

Regulation

(9) Upon the recommendation of the Minister, the Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations establishing standards for fire protection services in municipalities and requiring municipalities to comply with the standards.

Same

(10) A regulation under this section may be general or specific in its application and may be restricted to those municipalities specified in the regulation. 1997, c. 4, s. 2.

Territory without municipal organization

3. (1) The Fire Marshal, a services board established to provide services in territory without municipal organization or a prescribed person or organization may enter into agreements to provide fire protection services in territory without municipal organization and to govern the provision of those services.

Same

(2) An agreement referred to in subsection (1) may provide for,

(a) the appointment of a community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team; or

(b) the establishment of a fire department. 1997, c. 4, s. 3.

Community fire safety officer or team

4. (1) A community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team appointed in a municipality or in a group of municipalities shall provide the program established under clause 2 (1) (a) in the municipality or in the group of municipalities, as the case may be.

Same

(2) A community fire safety officer or a community fire safety team appointed by agreement with the Fire Marshal, a services board or a prescribed person or organization to provide services in territory without municipal organization shall provide a program which includes public education with respect to fire safety and certain components of fire prevention in the territory in accordance with the agreement. 1997, c. 4, s. 4.

Municipalities may establish fire departments

5. (0.1) The council of a municipality may establish, maintain and operate a fire department for all or any part of the municipality. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (2).

Fire departments

(1) A fire department shall provide fire suppression services and may provide other fire protection services in a municipality, group of municipalities or in territory without municipal organization. 1997, c. 4, s. 5 (1).

Same

(2) Subject to subsection (3), the council of a municipality may establish more than one fire department for the municipality. 1997, c. 4, s. 5 (2).

Exception

(3) The council of a municipality may not establish more than one fire department if, for a period of at least 12 months before the day this Act comes into force, fire protection services in the municipality were provided by a fire department composed exclusively of full-time firefighters. 1997, c. 4, s. 5 (3).

Same

(4) The councils of two or more municipalities may establish one or more fire departments for the municipalities. 1997, c. 4, s. 5 (4).

Fire chief, municipalities

6. (1) If a fire department is established for the whole or a part of a municipality or for more than one municipality, the council of the municipality or the councils of the municipalities, as the case may be, shall appoint a fire chief for the fire department.

Same

(2) The council of a municipality or the councils of two or more municipalities may appoint one fire chief for two or more fire departments.

Responsibility to council

(3) A fire chief is the person who is ultimately responsible to the council of a municipality that appointed him or her for the delivery of fire protection services.

Fire chief, territory without municipal organization

(4) If a fire department is established in territory without municipal organization under subsection 3 (2), the agreement shall provide for the appointment of a fire chief.

Powers of fire chief

(5) The fire chief may exercise all the powers assigned to him or her under this Act within the territorial limits of the municipality and within any other area in which the municipality has agreed to provide fire protection services, subject to any conditions specified in the agreement.

Delegation

(6) A fire chief may delegate his or her powers or duties under sections 14, 19 and 20 and such other powers and duties as may be prescribed to any firefighter or class of firefighters, subject to such limitations, restrictions or conditions as may be prescribed or set out in the delegation. 1997, c. 4, s. 6.

Fire co-ordinators

7. (1) The Fire Marshal may appoint fire co-ordinators for such areas as may be designated in the appointment. 1997, c. 4, s. 7 (1).

Duties

(2) A fire co-ordinator shall, subject to the instructions of the Fire Marshal,

(a) establish and maintain a mutual aid plan under which the fire departments that serve the designated area agree to assist each other in the event of an emergency; and

(b) perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Fire Marshal. 1997, c. 4, s. 7 (2); 2002, c. 18, Sched. N, s. 1.

Municipal by-laws

7.1 (1) A council of a municipality may pass by-laws,

(a) regulating fire prevention, including the prevention of the spreading of fires;

(b) regulating the setting of open air fires, including establishing the times during which open air fires may be set;

(c) designating private roads as fire routes along which no parking of vehicles shall be permitted and providing for the removal and impounding of any vehicle parked or left along any of the fire routes at the expense of the owner of the vehicle. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (3).

Definition

(2) For the purpose of clause (1) (c),

"private road" means any private road, lane, ramp or other means of vehicular access to or from a building or structure and may include part of a parking lot. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (3).

Scope

(3) A by-law under this section may deal with different areas of the municipality differently. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (3).

Officer

(4) A municipality may appoint an officer to enter upon land and into structures at any reasonable time to inspect the land and structures to determine whether by-laws enacted in accordance with this section are being complied with. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (3).

Exercise of power

(5) The exercise of powers by an officer appointed under this section shall be carried out in accordance with Part XIV of the *Municipal Act, 2001,* other than clause 431 (a) of that Act or with Part XV of the *City of Toronto Act, 2006*, other than paragraph 4 of subsection 375 (1) of that Act, as the case may be. 2001, c. 25, s. 475 (3); 2006, c. 32, Sched. C, s. 20 (1).