

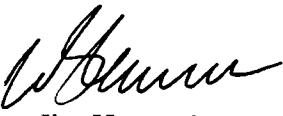


To: Community Safety Committee
From: Jim Hancock, Fire Chief
Re: **SERVICE LEVEL REVIEW**

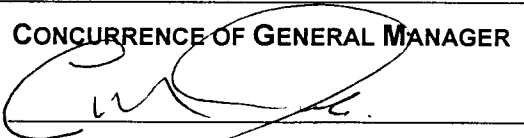
Date: August 28, 2002
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Staff Recommendation

1. THAT Fire Rescue Service Levels, as presented in Attachment 1, "Existing Programs", be approved as the basis for the preparation of the Fire-Rescue 2003 Annual Budget.
2. AND THAT the 2003 Fire Rescue Budget submission, include an Additional Level Request for the delivery of a comprehensive, school-based, public education program, as set out in Attachment 1, "New Programs".
3. AND THAT the 2003 Fire Rescue Budget submission, include an Additional Level Request for the delivery of a confined space rescue program, as set out in Attachment 1, "New Programs".

for 
 Jim Hancock
 Fire Chief

Att. 1

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY	
	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</p> 

Staff Report

Origin

At the request of Council, Fire-Rescue conducted a comprehensive review of its services in 2002, culminating with a presentation to Community Safety Committee on July 9, 2002. During the service level presentation, members of the Committee expressed interest in the development of a "school-based" program, which would have fire fighters linking with teachers and parents to teach children the skills and knowledge they need to be safe from fire and other unintentional injuries.

The purpose of this report is to conclude the Service Level Review, and to provide members of Committee with an outline of the costs associated with developing and implementing a comprehensive "school-based" public education program.

Analysis

The mission of Fire-Rescue is to protect those that live, work and visit the community from the adverse effects of fire and the ever-increasing variety of risks to public safety. To meet this mission, Fire-Rescue provides three (3) core services to the community:

1. Public education
2. Fire prevention
3. Emergency response.

It is important to note that none of these core services is more important than the others. If Fire-Rescue fails to provide adequate resources in any of these three core service areas, it will be unable to support the mission of the department.

Richmond Fire-Rescue has gone through a gradual process of evolution as the types of services expected from the community has expanded to include emergency medical services, technical rescue, and response to incidents involving hazardous chemicals. The department's fire fighting force has evolved into a multi-risk response force, which uses the same basic resources that were originally organised to fight fires.

Proposed Additional Level Program In Public Education

SCHOOL-BASED PUBLIC EDUCATION PROGRAM

The mission of Fire-Rescue involves prevention and public education activities that reduce the risk of fire and other hazards, and help our citizens reduce their personal vulnerability. Public education programs play an important role in Fire-Rescue's total risk management strategy. For children ages 14 and under, the number-one health risk isn't drugs or disease – it's injuries. Each year in North America, unintentional injuries kill more than 7,000 children and permanently disable more than 50,000. In Canada, injuries are the leading cause of death for children over one year of age.

Every time a child is unintentionally injured or killed, everyone suffers – the child, his or her family, classmates and friends, and the entire community. Sadly, the vast majority of these injuries are not random "accidents" – they are predictable and preventable. With education,

motivation and the support of caring adults, we believe that the children of our community can learn and be safer.

A school-based public education program is designed for use in the classroom. Linking teachers with community safety experts, (in this proposal Firefighters), and parents, a school-based program effectively teaches children and their families the skills and knowledge they need to create safer homes and communities.

It is estimated that the development and on-going co-ordination of a school-based program would require the addition of one (1) FTE and take approximately one year to implement into the City's schools. Endorsement of the many School Boards would be sought following program approval by Council.

Proposed Additional Level Program In Confined Space Rescue

CONFINED SPACE RESCUE PROGRAM

In 2000, Council directed the Fire Chief to review the types and levels of Technical Rescue Services provided by Fire-Rescue to determine if they were appropriate given the risks, costs and benefits associated with each area in Richmond. The Technical Rescue Services to be reviewed include; Water-Rescue, Technical High-Angle Rope Rescue, Shipboard fire fighting, Confined Space Rescue and Hazardous Materials Response. This report is the fourth of the series to be brought forward to Community Safety Committee and reviews Confined Space Rescue.

Confined space rescue represents one of the most challenging and dangerous rescue operations undertaken by fire departments today. Nearly 50 per cent of all confined space deaths are would-be rescuers associated with secondary entries. Moreover, the National Instituted for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH) reports that about 30 per cent of all confined space incidents involved more than one fatality.

Workers' Compensation Board Regulations

The construction industry is obliged by Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) regulation to provide for the services of rescue persons when a worker enters a confined space. Employers are permitted to contract for rescue service from another agency such as a fire department. However, it is widely acknowledged that not all contractors working in confined spaces comply with this requirement, and in the event of an emergency, will call 9-1-1 (Fire-Rescue).

Confined Spaces

The Workers' Compensation Board defines a confined space as "*an area, other than an underground working, that:*

- [a] is enclosed or partially enclosed,*
- [b] is not designed or intended for continuous human occupancy,*
- [c] has limited or restricted means for entry or exit that may complicate the provision of first aid, evacuation, rescue or other emergency response service, and*
- [d] is large enough and so configured that a worker could enter to perform assigned work."*

Confined spaces exist in every community in a variety of forms. Richmond, as in any suburban area, has many, if not all of the typical confined spaces, including: storage tanks, silos, vaults, tunnels and trenches, septic tanks and sewers just to name a few. As such, the potential demands for confined space rescue is high.

Corporate Confined Space Policy

The City's policy requires that all staff required to enter confined spaces take part in a training program designed to make them aware of all of the potential and actual hazards. Additionally, the City's policy states that in the event of an emergency, "immediately contact the Fire/Rescue Department for rescue". Thus there is clearly an expectation of Fire-Rescue to provide confined space rescue services for the protection of the City's employees.

Operational Capabilities

Although not trained specifically for confined space entry and/or rescue, Fire-Rescue does have a Technical High-Angle Rope Rescue team. Many of the required skills of technical high-angle rope rescue are transferable to confined space rescue operations. Also, the rigging and retrieval systems and procedures used in both confined space rescue and rope rescue are similar.

Financial Impact

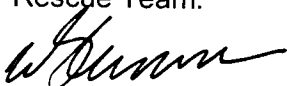
Attachment 1 identifies the Service Levels and costs associated with each of the programs provided by Fire-Rescue. Committee indicated support for these programs and requested that staff report on the additional costs to implement a school-based education program and confined space rescue program. There may be an opportunity to recover some of the costs associated with providing confined space rescue services. Fire-Rescue staff will research this further and report back to Committee at a later date.

Conclusion

The mission of Richmond Fire-Rescue is to protect those that live, work or visit our community from the adverse effects of fire as well as from the ever increasing variety of risks to public safety. If Fire-Rescue fails to provide adequate resources in any of the three core service areas, it will be unable to support the departmental mission.

The recommendations address the maintaining of current service levels as supported by Committee, and reflects the cost of adding a school-based public program as requested. This program addresses the provision of enhanced fire safety education for those most at risk. It is anticipated that the delivery of this program will have collateral impact on related family members, and may significantly improve public attitudes towards the prevention of fire and thereby help to reduce fire and life losses in Richmond.

Additionally, it is recommended that Fire-Rescue develop a confined space technician level rescue training program for the forty-eight members of the existing Technical High Angle Rope Rescue Team.



Wayne Stevens
Deputy Chief

ATTACHMENT 1

Ref.#	Department	Program/Service	Net Cost (approx. program and service level net costs)	Service Level	FTE (assigned to programs and service levels)
EXISTING PROGRAMS					
01	Fire Rescue	Fleet Management of vehicle and equipment assets	\$ 2,249,000	Daily	2.0
02	Fire Rescue	Fire Prevention Programs	\$ 806,200	Daily	9.0
03	Fire Rescue	Delivery of Fire Training Programs	\$ 410,000	Daily	4.0
04	Fire Rescue	Delivery of Emergency Response Services	\$ 14,642,000	Daily	194.0
05	Fire Rescue	Facility Building Maintenance of Fire Halls	\$ 219,100	Daily	-
06	Fire Rescue	Delivery of Emergency Response Services for YVR	\$ 3,309,300	Daily	37.0

NEW PROGRAMS

	Fire Rescue	Delivery of School Based Public Education Program	\$ 144,000	Daily	1.0
	Fire Rescue	Delivery of a Confined Space Rescue Program	Capital \$60,000 Operating \$6,000	Daily	0

MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING PROGRAMS

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