



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee
From: Jim Hancock
Fire Chief
Re: Emergency Demolition Services

Date: September 30, 2002
File: -

Staff Recommendation

That the attached report on Emergency Demolition Services (from the Chief Fire Prevention Officer dated September 30, 2002) be received for information.

J. Hancock
Jim Hancock
Fire Chief

FOR ORIGINATING DIVISION USE ONLY		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Budgets.....	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	
Law	Y <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> N <input type="checkbox"/>	

Staff Report

Origin

Fire Prevention Bylaw No. 4564 gives the Fire Chief or (other person in charge of the Fire Department at any fire) the authority to demolish a building to prevent the spread of fire. In the past Richmond Fire-Rescue has had occasions to call for demolition. One incident was an abandoned house on General Currie Road. Richmond Fire-Rescue had responded to this address on many different occasions. This particular night was a snowy/icy night that posed extreme hazardous conditions for the Fire Suppression crews. Firefighters were slipping from the third story roof when attempting to ventilate. The Battalion Chief was concerned for the Firefighters safety and that the fire would spread to the neighbouring houses. Confirming the house was vacant the Chief called the City Worksyard to supply a demolition crew. He was told that the City does not provide that service.

Analysis

Richmond Fire-Rescue Department and/or City crews do not have the equipment or training to demolish buildings under emergency conditions. Richmond Fire-Rescue department consulted with Finance and Corporate Services. A province wide "Request for Quotation" for On-Call demolition services at fire/disaster scenes was conducted. As a result two companies qualified and will be retained to perform this work on an as – required basis.

The scope of the work may include but not limited to, any of the following types of required activities:

- Knocking down unsafe walls and buildings
- Mitigating dangerous situations such as in creating openings for fire fighting activities
- Digging out debris during and after fire fighting
- Moving debris as needed for access

Financial Impact

The Demolition Order would be done at the expense of the City unless the owner and/or insurance agent is present to authorize the demolition. We are currently consulting with the Law department to ensure the City can recoup costs.

Conclusion

Emergency demolition is available through two pre-qualified contractors who are aware of Richmond's scope of work and response time expectations. If needed these companies shall limit the risk and exposure from fire to both the Public and City staff.



Rick Stene
Chief Fire Prevention Officer