



# City of Richmond

## Report to Committee

**To:** Community Safety Committee

**Date:** June 19, 2014

**From:** John McGowan  
Fire Chief

**File:** 99-Fire Rescue/2014-  
Vol 01

**Re:** Lafarge Canada Inc. – High Angle Rope Rescue Service

### Staff Recommendation

That the Chief Administrative Officer and General Manager, Law and Community Safety be authorized to negotiate and execute an amendment to the existing Confined Space Rescue Service Agreement between the City and Lafarge Canada Inc. (Lafarge) to include Technical High Angle Rope Rescue services by Richmond Fire-Rescue to Lafarge operations at 7611 No.9 Road on the terms and conditions outlined in the staff report titled “High Angle Rope Rescue Services” dated June 19, 2014 from the Fire Chief.

John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

Att. 1

REPORT CONCURRENCE		
<b>ROUTED TO:</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE</b>	<b>CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER</b>
Business Licences Finance Division Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	 <hr/>
<b>REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE</b>	<b>INITIALS:</b>	<b>APPROVED BY CAO</b>
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## Staff Report

### Origin

This report supports Council's Term Goal 1:

*To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City's specific needs and priorities.*

At the Council meeting, held on October 24, 2011, the Chief Administration Officer and the General Manager of Law and Community Safety were authorized to:

*To negotiate and execute on behalf of the City, a fee-for-service agreement for the provision of Confined Space Rescue services by the City's Fire Rescue Division to Lafarge Canada Inc.'s operations at 7611 No. 9 Road on the terms and conditions outlined in the staff report titled "Lafarge Canada Inc. – Confined Space Rescue, Fee-for-Service Agreement" dated September 23, 2011.*

In June 2012, the Confined Space Rescue Services Agreement was signed and activated. Subsequently, an effective strategic alliance with Lafarge was developed.

Richmond Fire-Rescue (RFR) conducted the familiarized inspections, and has been on stand-by 24 hours a day, seven days a week, available to respond if requested. Fortunately, a confined space incident has not occurred on the Lafarge site and therefore RFR confined space rescue services have not been requested.

### Analysis

With the success of the confined space rescue agreement, Lafarge has expressed a desire to expand the service agreement to include Technical High Angle Rope Rescue (THARR).

Under the Occupational Health and Safety Guidelines, for the Industrial High Angle Rope Rescue Program Lafarge conducted a risk assessment and identified the requirement for a THARR program.

The guidelines provide that if the local fire department has THARR capabilities, an employer can enter into agreement with the local fire department to provide the THARR services. The written agreement with the fire department may require agreement terms such as:

1. site inspections to determine site suitability for rescue purposes; and
2. the provision of additional and reasonable support to assist rescue capabilities.

RFR has a THARR program and therefore is capable of providing the service to Lafarge. The THARR service provision would be under similar conditions as the existing Confined Space Rescue Service Agreement, whereby, RFR would be on standby and respond when requested. It is proposed to amalgamate the two services into one agreement, with very similar terms and no additional cost to Lafarge, since RFR is able to provide the THARR services without incurring additional costs to the City. The monthly site inspections can occur at the same time for both services.

Lafarge has also committed to providing, at their costs, improvements to the training site that RFR will occupy. Those include, install fencing with lockable gate and a fire hydrant for the City's use as well as provide use of the classroom trailer currently on site.

The proposal to enter into a THARR program agreement with Lafarge will not affect the delivery of fire and rescue emergency services to the City, as the existing agreement provides that service. Since 2006 RFR has not respond to a THARR event at the Lafarge plant. In the event that RFR resources are fully deployed RFR will notify Lafarge that technical rescue services (confined space and THARR) will be suspended until such time that RFR resources are fully available.

The Confined Spaces Services Agreement would be amended to include THARR services to the rescue services provided under the contract, on the same terms and conditions and for the same fees as the current contract. The current contract terms are as follows:

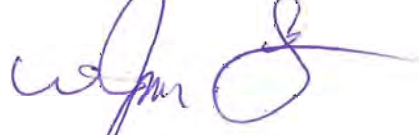
1. **Basic Services:** being on standby 24 hours per day, 7 days per week; performing emergency rescue services when necessary and conducting 12 on-site familiarization visits per year at Lafarge's operation at 7611 No.9 Road.
2. **Additional Services:** dedicated on-site THARR team, on request by Lafarge.
3. **Term:** one year with automatic annual renewals subject to termination with 6 months notice.
4. **Fee for Basic Services:** \$14,300 per year, adjusted annually on the WorkSafe BC rates for THARR services, plus 12 site visits/year @ \$250 per visit. This fee is based on a full cost recovery basis.
5. **Fee for Additional Services:** cost recovery based on the hourly rate plus benefits and equipment of the RFR emergency response team and back fill of RFR staff.
6. **Indemnity:** Lafarge Canada Inc. shall hold harmless and indemnify the City of Richmond against any and all claims and actions arising from providing the services.

### Financial Impact

No further financial impacts beyond the current contract terms.

### Conclusion

Providing both confined space rescue and THARR rescue services to Lafarge provides mutual benefits to both parties including the creation a strong working relationship with a long-standing Richmond business that has been operating since 1958.



John McGowan  
Fire Chief  
(604-303-2734)

JM:kh

Att. 1: G4.13(3)(a) Industrial high angle rope rescue program REDMS #4254855