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Halifax Regional Council
July 6, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: *Michael E. Eddy*
Michael E. Eddy, Chief Director, Fire and Emergency

DATE: June 28, 2004

SUBJECT: Petition from Residents of Herring Cove Requesting Burning of
Hurricane Juan Debris

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the Regional Council Meeting of May 4, 2004, Councillor Adams served a petition from residents of Herring Cove requesting that they be permitted to burn debris from Hurricane Juan on a regulated basis.

BACKGROUND

On September 29, 2003, the Halifax Regional Municipality sustained severe damage to trees and property as a result of Hurricane Juan. Consequently, the Municipality has a tremendous amount of fallen debris which has raised concerns that fire hazards may exist and this has been a concern to the residents of HRM.

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DISCUSSION

The Halifax Regional Municipality has in effect By-Law O-103 Respecting Open Air Burning. This By-Law has been recently amended and approved by Council to allow for an Extraordinary Exception which was effective May 22, 2004.

The Extraordinary Exemption gives the Chief Director or designate special permission to deal with any natural disasters or other similar conditions. Under this authority he may give special permission for the issuance of permits for the open air burning of trees, wood, shrubs or brush. Any such permits may be issued at the discretion of the local Fire Chief, considering the Forest Fire Index or any hazardous conditions that may cause a fire safety issue in their local area, in accordance with Section 9 of By-Law O-103 and shall be subject to any terms and conditions imposed by the local Fire Chief.

In response to the petition from the residents of Herring Cove seeking permission to be allowed to burn debris from Hurricane Juan, this can be done under the Extraordinary Exemption. Residents are required to obtain a Burning Permit from their local fire station, which will also require a site inspection by Fire Service personnel before burning can commence on the property.

Discussions with the Councillors and Fire Chiefs are scheduled and taking place to determine an appropriate and safe method to use burning as an option for cleanup of Hurricane Juan debris.

The Extraordinary Exemption is presently in effect until further notice.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

None

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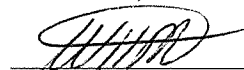
ATTACHMENTS

None

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Darlene Ellis, Coordinator, Chief Director's Office, 490-5614

Report Approved by:



Bill Mosher, Deputy Chief Director, 490-4239