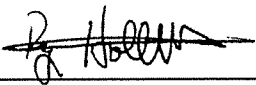


**Chebucto Community Council**  
**August 8, 2011**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Chebucto Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
Roy Hollett, Acting Chief Director, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency

**DATE:** August 3, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Fleming Park Management Practices and Fire Hazards, Westgate/Burns Drive Area

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

A resident from the Westgate Drive area submitted a letter of concern to the HRM Superintendent of Parks and Spaces concerning the fallen forestry debris behind their property and the potential fire hazard. HRM Regional Councillor Linda Mosher forwarded this letter to Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency (HRFE) for a response regarding the potential fire hazard and the ability of HRFE to conduct wildland firefighting operations.

**BACKGROUND**

In late September 2003, Hurricane Juan's storm path went across the HRM, leaving a wide path of forestry debris in various states of damage. The damage from the hurricane resulted in forestry damage and ground conditions that had never been previously experienced.

## **DISCUSSION**

Since this event, Halifax Regional Fire and Emergency have examined their wildland firefighting resources, equipment and tactics used and have gradually purchased additional equipment, specific to wildland firefighting tactics. HRFE have also added training programs for HRFE Members in the use of chain saws and “Strategies and Tactics for Wildland Firefighting”.

Contacts for external resources have been identified such as the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for their expertise and access to wildland specific resources (staffing and equipment). As well a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with the NS DNR that provides further clarification regarding wildland firefighting. Additionally, HRFE Fire Prevention – Public Education Division have implemented educational programs for the general public and the NS Educational System, such as Risk Watch to further educate HRM residents on wildland fire safety matters.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None

## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The HRFE Fire Prevention Division has presented a number of information sessions to residents throughout the Municipality regarding “Wildland Fires the steps a home owner can take to help mitigate a fire”. These sessions can be scheduled by contacting our Fire Prevention Division. Further information on Wildland fires is also available on the HRM public web site at <http://www.halifax.ca/FirePrevention/index.html>.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Roy Hollett, Deputy Chief Director, HRM Fire and Emergency, 490-5036

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