

Item No. 8.3.1

Transportation Standing Committee
May 7, 2014

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Doug Trussler, Fire Chief

DATE: March 18, 2014

SUBJECT: Reporting of Dangerous Goods Transported by Rail

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Transportation Standing Committee Status Sheet, Item #4: Presentation – New Federal Regulations on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act (1992) – Protective Direction No. 32, proclaimed on November 20, 2013 and effective for three years.

By-law E-100: Emergency Management By-Law

BACKGROUND

Transportation of dangerous goods is regulated under the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act 1992 including requirements on how they are classified and transported. As a result of the train derailment and resulting fire at Lac-Mégantic on July 06 2013, Marie-France Dagenais, Director General of the Transport Dangerous Goods Directorate issued Protective Direction No. 32 requiring any person who transports dangerous goods to disclose information on the nature and volume of dangerous goods that are transport via railway vehicle through a municipality. This is in addition to the current support provided to the municipality via CANUTEC and the Emergency Response Guidebook.

DISCUSSION

Protective Direction 32 requires that HRM be provided with a yearly aggregate notification of the nature and volume of dangerous goods being transported by rail. This yearly report is to be broken down by quarters. This requirement applies to all Class 01 railway company as well as all non-Class 01 railway companies. Canadian National Railway is the only Class 01 railway company operating in HRM and there are no non-Class 01 railway companies operating in HRM.

Under Protective Direction 32, the information is to be provided to a designated Emergency Planning Official(s) of the municipality. This designation is to be made by the CAO of the municipality to Transport Canada through CANUTEC, who will in turn advise any Class 01 or non-Class 01 railway company of the designated official's contact information.

This information may only be used for emergency planning purposes or response and only disclosed to persons who have a need to know for emergency planning purposes or response. This information is to be kept confidential by the Emergency Planning Official and any others who have received it.

This information will allow HRM emergency response units to research, plan and exercise for potential emergencies using more accurate information for materials passing through HRM. It will also allow HRM to develop response procedures and guidelines as well as the pre-positioning of resources if needed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

As part of general preparedness measures endorsed by Public Safety Canada, all communities within HRM are encouraged to participate in family and individual emergency planning as well as being able to be self-sufficient for 72 hours. In areas where there are local emergency planning groups, EMO will engage these communities in hazard identification and emergency planning, including evacuation procedures.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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

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Report Approved by:

Original signed

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