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## Item No. 2

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**July 7, 2009**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Labrecque".

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Mike Labrecque, Director Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** June 15, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Winter Control (Snow Equipment Emergency Response)

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

February 10, 2009, Item # 10.2.1: Moved by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Walker, that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report with regards to the possibility of establishing a policy for emergency vehicles, and that a formal protocol be established whereby the closest plow would be required to go to an emergency situation when called.

#### BACKGROUND

During the major snow and ice event of January 28, 2009, an EHS unit responding to a call, had difficulty in accessing a resident's street because of snow and ice.

## **DISCUSSION**

Municipal Operations met on March 13, 2009 with the 911 Call Center, HRM Call Center, Police, and the EHS Call Center to discuss the coordination and creation of a policy regarding operational support for emergency response vehicles during snow events. Although there has always been a good working relationship between all parties, there has never been a formalized process for snow and ice equipment response for emergencies during snow and ice events.

Municipal Operations will develop and include in it's Snow and Ice Manual, a procedure for Supervisors to follow when they receive a request for assistance during snow and ice events. (See Schedule A, attached).

The EHS Call Center will contact 490-8400 if they determine they have, or might have, a need for assistance. They will also provide their Call Center with the necessary equipment to communicate directly with Municipal Operations staff via a 2-way radio. Fire and Police 911 Center will also call 490-8400 if they require assistance.

During extreme events such as the Feb 18, 2004 blizzard, coordination would be managed through the EMO center.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications.

## **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.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Schedule A: Emergency Response (Municipal Operations) Snow and Ice Control

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

Report Prepared by : Gordon Hayward Winter Works Superintendent 490-4956



Report Approved by: Peter Verge, Manager Municipal Operations, 490-4673

## **Schedule A:**

**April, 2009**

### **Emergency Response Municipal Operations Snow and Ice Control**

#### **Standard Operating Procedure**

1. During snow and ice events, if a Supervisor is contacted by the HRM Call Center, Dispatch (490-8400), or the 911 Call Center requesting assistance, the Supervisor must dispatch the closest unit to provide the required service.
2. Supervisors will follow up with an on-site visit to determine if other assistance is required.
3. If the nature of the emergency requires the plow/salt unit to remain on site, the Supervisor will authorize the unit's support until the emergency vehicle has access to the location of the emergency.
4. At the start of each winter season, Municipal Operations will hold a joint meeting with the HRM Call Center, 911 Call Center and the E.H.S. Call Center staff to review policy and clarify any changes in operational procedure.