CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN

BY-LAW NUMBER: 21-680

Being a By-Law to authorize a Tiered Response Agreement between The Township of South Algonquin Fire Department and Nipissing District Paramedic Services.

WHEREAS The *Municipal Act, 2001* Subsection 10(2) 6 and 8 authorizes a Municipality to pass By-Laws respecting the health, safety and well-being of persons and the protection of persons and property;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin deems it necessary to have an agreement in place between the Nipissing District Paramedic Services and the Township of South Algonquin Fire Department for Tiered Response Agreement for Medical Emergencies;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin
enacts as follows:

1. SHORT TITLE

This By-Law may be cited as the "Tiered Medical Response By-Law."

2. DEFINITIONS

Ambulance Service means the Nipissing District Paramedic Services

Code 4 (Life and Limb) Emergencies means any emergency where the patient may die without timely medical intervention

Fire Department means the Township of South Algonquin Fire Department

MVC means Motor Vehicle Collision and includes any collision between a motorized vehicle including but not limited to cars, trucks, and motorcycles

Off Road means ATV and snowmobile trails, and/or any response where the patient is not accessible by land ambulance and response requires additional equipment or personnel

Patient Lift Assist means paramedics have requested Fire Department assistance with patient lifting and/or extrication

3. AGREEMENT

The CAO/Clerk, Paramedic Chief (A) / Manager, and South Algonquin Fire Chief are hereby authorized to execute the Tiered Response Agreement for Medical Emergencies attached hereto as Appendix "A" to and forming part of this By-Law.

That the executed agreement be forwarded to Nothern911 for implementation.

That the CAO/Clerk of the Municipality of South Algonquin be authorized to make minor modifications or corrections of a grammatical or typographical nature to this By-Law or appendix, after the passage of this By-Law, where such modifications or corrections do not alter the intent of the By-Law.
This By-Law will come into force and take effect upon final passing thereof.

READ A FIRST & SECOND TIME THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMER 2021

_____	_____
Jane A E Dumas, Mayor	Bryan Martin, CAO Clerk /Treasurer

READ A THIRD TIME AND PASSED THIS 1ST DAY OF DECEMER 2021

_____	_____
Jane A E Dumas, Mayor	Bryan Martin, CAO Clerk /Treasurer

Tiered Response Agreement

Between

Nipissing District Paramedic Services
hereinafter referred to as “the Ambulance Service”

And

Township of South Algonquin Fire Department
hereinafter referred to as “the Fire Department”

The parties’ mutual understanding and their intention in tiered response for Medical Emergencies

Whereas the parties have expressed their desire to participate in a tiered response for specified medical emergencies, the parties agree as follows:

1. The activation of a tiered response may occur at any time for the following criteria:
    a. Unconscious (does not include seizures)
    b. VSA (Vital Signs Absent)
    c. Multiple Casualty incidents that may overwhelm the ambulance service
    d. Instances where the Fire Department is able to respond to a Code 4 emergency in a timelier fashion (due to location of call), than the ambulance service
    e. When an Off-Road Rescue is required to reach a patient. An Off-Road response is defined as a patient that cannot be accessed by ambulance and will require additional equipment or personnel to complete
    f. All confirmed structure fires
    g. Patient Lift Assists – at the request of the paramedics on-scene the Fire Department will be sent to provide assistance in lifting/extricating patients.
2. The Fire Department will only respond to calls within the municipal boundaries unless otherwise authorized.
3. Dispatch shall notify the Fire Department within **one (1) minute** of the receipt of a call when able, for any emergencies that meet the criteria as listed in section 1.
4. The Ambulance Service and Fire Department shall have in place the necessary Liability Insurance.
5. **This agreement recognizes that the Fire Department may not be able to respond when occupied with a fire emergency, or for any other reason as determined by an on-duty fire official.**
6. Appendix “A” to this agreement is the operational guidelines for activating this tiered response agreement.
7. This agreement my be reviewed, revised, and maintained by the Fire Department, Ambulance Service on an annual basis or at the request of any parties to this agreement.

Appendix A

Operational Guidelines

Northern911 Responsibilities:

- Activate the Township of South Algonquin Fire Department to emergencies located within their normal response areas when these emergencies/requests fall into the criteria that has been mutually agreed upon.

Nipissing District Paramedic Services Guidelines:

- Upon responding the closest, most appropriate, ambulance to the scene, will advise the ambulance crew if a tiered response has been activated.
- All available information should be relayed to the Fire Department with updates as they are received.
- Advise of **any potential hazardous situations**.

Fire Department Responsibilities:

- Prevent, control, and or extinguish fires
- Control the safety of the scene when hazards are identified.
- Provide extrication as needed.
- Control and coordinate incidents involving spills, leaks, or dangerous goods.
- Providing patient care as necessary, including First Aid, CPR, AED and O2 Therapy.
- Make decisions involving the potential for evacuations at the scene of an emergency.

Fire Department Guidelines:

- Firefighters are responsible for activities in areas subject to hazardous environmental conditions or where exposure to fire may occur. Ambulance crews, unless equipped with adequate protective equipment and supervised by firefighters, will remain in a staging area.
- Firefighters should position their vehicles so as to not block access or egress for the responding ambulance.
- Ambulance will cancel Fire Department if it is obvious that they are not needed.

Ambulance Responsibilities:

- Ambulance personnel are responsible for the care and transportation of patients.
- Ambulance personnel will assist other emergency services as required, secondary to patient care and transport.
- The Paramedics should be aware of the local tiered response agreement(s) in place and upon arrival at the scene should determine whether or not the Fire Department is needed for further assistance.
- The Ambulance crew will evaluate injuries of patients, perform triage if necessary and notify dispatch immediately if any further assistance is required, i.e., Air Ambulance response.
- The Ambulance crew may request assistance from the Fire Department at the scene with regards to patient removal or further patient care.

Shared Responsibilities:

- Scene safety is everyone’s responsibility. Should a hazard be identified anyone on scene can call a “STOP” to all activities.
- Wherever possible, allied agencies should encourage their respective staff to meet after calls, at a mutually agreed site in order to discuss the events of the call in such a way as to improve the handling of such a call in the future.
- Return equipment as required.
- Maintain a high level of respect and a professional rapport with one another.
- Participate in inter agency training whenever possible.
- Participate in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing as necessary.