

**THE CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP
OF SOUTH ALGONQUIN**

BY-LAW NUMBER 2024-785

Being a By-Law to adopt an Emergency Response Plan under Sections 2.1 (2) (a) and 3 (1) of the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act, R.S.O., 1990, Ch. E 9, as amended.

WHEREAS the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act, Section 2.1 (2) (a) and Section 3(1) requires every municipality to develop and implement an emergency plan;

NOW THEREFORE Council for The Township of South Algonquin hereby ENACTS as follows:

- 1)** The Document “The Municipal Emergency Response Plan for the Township of South Algonquin” attached hereto as “Schedule A” shall be and is adopted as the emergency plan of The Township of South Algonquin.
- 2)** In accordance with Section 3(6) of the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act, R.S.O., 1990, Ch. E9, as amended, Schedule “A” shall be reviewed and, if necessary, revised, (at least once each calendar year);
- 3)** In the event of any conflict between the provisions of Schedule “A” hereto and the provisions of any statute, regulation or other law, the provisions of such statute, regulation, or other law shall govern;
- 4)** That this By-law shall come into force and effect on the date of Third and Final reading.

READ A FIRST AND SECOND TIME on March 6, 2024

Ethel LaValley – Mayor

Bryan Martin-CAO/Clerk Treasurer

READ A THIRD TIME, PASSED AND ENACTED on March 6, 2024

Ethel LaValley – Mayor

Bryan Martin-CAO/Clerk Treasurer



Municipal Emergency Response Plan

Revision 7

2024

FOREWARD

In accordance with the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act R.S.O. 1990*, there is a requirement for all municipalities, ministers of the Crown and designated agencies, boards, commissions and other branches of government to develop and maintain an emergency management program consisting of emergency plans, training programs and exercises, public education and any other elements prescribed by Regulation.

The *Municipal Emergency Response Plan* for the Township of South Algonquin establishes a framework document for responding to any type of emergency and outlines the following:

- Policy for emergency management
- Emergency response strategies
- Concept of Operations
- Roles and responsibilities

The Municipal Emergency Response Plan is an “umbrella” document for the Township’s risk-specific plans and implementing procedures. Local emergency plans, and those of external agencies support this document. This plan establishes an effective system of emergency management to accomplish the following specific purposes:

- To reduce the vulnerability of South Algonquin residents and visitors to the loss of life, to the loss of infrastructure or to the adverse health effects resulting from a natural or human-caused event.
- To ensure the preservation of essential municipal services and the local economic base.
- To prepare for prompt and efficient response and recovery activities for the protection of lives, property and infrastructure affected by the emergency.
- To respond to all emergencies using all existing systems, plans and resources necessary to preserve the health, safety and welfare of persons affected by an emergency.

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1.0 Introduction

The Township of South Algonquin is located along the Highway 60 corridor in Nipissing District in the northeastern section of Ontario. The municipality has a land mass of 873 square kilometres (80% is Crown land) and features a population of 1,055 permanent residents in 894 private dwellings. A resource-based economy employs 49% of the local work force. Located adjacent to Algonquin Provincial Park, the municipality was formed in 1998 by amalgamating the Village of Whitney (Airy Township) with the former unincorporated geographic Townships of Murchison, Lyell, Dickens and Sabine.

A “risk-based” emergency management program was created in 2003 to deal with actual or potential emergencies. The program is administered by the Community Emergency Management Coordinator(s) who ensure the development, implementation and maintenance of the program in association with the *Emergency Management Program Committee*. Core components of the program include prevention, mitigation and preparedness strategies and emergency response and recovery plans.

A coordinated emergency response system, under the direction of the *Municipal Control Group* (MCG) provides for the implementation of distinct arrangements and protocols which exceeds the normal operations of emergency service. The *Municipal Emergency Response Plan* provides key officials with specific emergency response information relating to:

- Arrangements, services, equipment and,
- Roles and responsibilities during an emergency

For information on any aspect of emergency management please contact:

Community Emergency Management Coordinator

Township of South Algonquin

P.O. Box 217 Whitney, Ontario

KOJ 2MO

613 – 637 – 2650

2.0 AIM

Municipalities are the responsible and accountable governments with respect to matters within their jurisdiction and each municipality is given powers and duties under many Acts for the purpose of providing good government with respect to these matters.

The primary reason for establishing an emergency management program is to improve public safety through a coordinated and pre-identified process for responding to critical situations. A realistic emergency management program will assist in protecting lives, critical infrastructure, property and the environment while promoting economic stability and ensuring the continuance of critical assets and government.

South Algonquin is not immune to disaster according to our historical past. An annual *Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment* (HIRA) is developed gauging the probability and consequence of each known hazard. This local “*Risk Profile*” provides accurate direction in relation to emergency planning and response.

Potential emergency situations may include forest fires, human health emergencies, critical infrastructure failures and flood concerns. In 2013, South Algonquin formally declared a state of emergency in response to historic flood levels and the potential failure of the Galeairy Lake Dam in Whitney.

The “risk-based” method being used ensures that the municipality can respond to any type and level of community emergency. An efficient “*Recovery Plan*” results in local economic recovery, stabilizes confidence in government and returns the community to a state of “*normalness*”.

3.0 LEGAL AUTHORITY

The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* and *Ontario Regulation 380/04* provide the legal authority for emergency plans in Ontario.

3.1 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ACT

Section 3 (1) of the Act states

Every municipality shall formulate an emergency plan governing the provision of necessary services during an emergency and the procedures under and the manner in which employees of the municipality and other persons will respond to the emergency and the council of a municipality shall by by-law adopt the emergency plan.

R.S.O. 2002, c.14, S.5(1).

Section 3(6)

Every municipality shall review and, if necessary, revise its emergency plan every year.

Section 4(1) Emergency Declaration

“The head of council of a municipality may declare that an emergency exists in the municipality or in any part thereof and may take such actions and make such orders as he/she considers necessary and are not contrary to law to implement the emergency plan of the municipality to protect the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the emergency area”.

Under Section 4(2) of the Act, the Head of Council shall notify forthwith the Solicitor General of a declaration made under subsection (1) or (2). The Head of Council or the Council of a municipality may at any time declare an emergency has terminated.

The *EMCPA* also requires every municipality to submit the most current version of their emergency response plan to the Chief, Emergency Management Ontario Sec 6.2(1).

Municipalities must also conform to the standards of the Occupational Health & Safety Act and must take all reasonable precautions to ensure the safety of workers. Section 7.1(8) of the *EMCPA* states that “the Occupational Health & Safety Act, or a Regulation made under it, shall prevail over other Acts”, including the Emergency Management Act.

3.2 ONTARIO REGULATION 380/04

This Regulation sets out municipal standards for emergency management programs.

Section 10 (1)

Every municipality shall designate an employee of the municipality or a member of the council as its emergency management coordinator.

Section 10 (2)

The emergency management coordinator shall complete the training that is required by the Chief, Emergency Management Ontario.

Section 10 (3)

The emergency management program coordinator shall coordinate the development and implementation of the municipality's emergency management program within the municipality and shall coordinate the municipality's emergency management program in so far as possible with the emergency management programs of other municipalities and ministries of the Ontario government and of organizations outside of government that are involved in emergency management.

Section 10 (4)

The emergency management coordinator shall report to the municipality's emergency management program committee.

Section 11 (1) Every municipality shall have an emergency management program committee. The committee shall be composed of:

- Emergency management program coordinators
- Senior municipal official, appointed by Council
- Such members of Council, as appointed by Council
- Municipal employees who are responsible for emergency management functions
- Other persons, as appointed by Council

3.2 ONTARIO REGULATION 380/04

Section 11 (5) Council shall appoint one of the members of the committee to be the chair of the committee.

Section 11 (6) The committee shall conduct an annual review of the municipality's emergency management program and shall make recommendations to the council for its revision if necessary.

3.3 MUNICIPAL BY-LAWS

South Algonquin's Emergency Management Program was first introduced in May, 2003 as approved by Council under authority of By-Law # 03-180.

The most recent Emergency Management Program By-Law and the Emergency Management Response Plan being;

- By-law # 2024-784, being a By-law adopting the municipality's Emergency Management Program.
- By-law # 2024-785 authorizing a revised Municipal Emergency Response Plan described as Revision 7, 2024.

The CEMC shall review the Municipal Emergency Response Plan annually. If revisions to the plan are required, the CEMC shall revise the emergency plan and submit it for Council approval by By-law, per Section 3 (6) of the Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act.

This Municipal Emergency Response Plan will be filed with the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM) following Council approval and its adoption by municipal by-law.

Municipalities are required to meet stringent program requirements and submit program verification forms to OFMEM prior to December 31st of each calendar year. It is the responsibility of the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) to ensure program compliance. Both the CEMC and the Head of Council are required to sign these forms as part of the program completion process.

4.0 Definition of an Emergency

An “**emergency**” is defined as:

“a situation or impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise”.

(EMCPA R.S.O. 2006, Sec 1.)

An “**emergency area**” is defined as the area in which an emergency exists.

A “**disaster**” is defined as an emergency which severely incapacitates a community.

4.1 Actions prior to an Emergency Declaration

When an emergency exists, but has not yet been declared to exist, municipal employees may take such actions as may be required to protect the health, safety, welfare and property of the inhabitants of the emergency area. The associated plans and information attached as “Annexes” to the Municipal Emergency Response Plan may be implemented in whole, or in part, in the absence of a formal emergency declaration.

5.0 Emergency Notification Procedures

Only a member of the *Municipal Control Group* (MCG) may initiate the emergency notification procedure. When a member of the MCG receives a warning of a real or potential emergency, or of a significant event requiring a response above normal emergency response procedures, the member will immediately contact the Municipal CAO/Clerk-Treasurer. If the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer cannot be contacted, or is unable to act, then the “Designated Alternate” should be contacted, refer to Annex # 1 Notification & Contacts. The Community Emergency Management Coordinators should also be contacted immediately. The MCG member initiating the call must provide all the pertinent details of the emergency as part of the notification procedure.

When it becomes apparent that the critical situation requires that municipal officials take immediate action, the CEMC’s should ensure that the Emergency Management Program is activated, and the Municipal Emergency Response Plan is engaged at a sufficient level to mitigate the emergency. There are four levels of activation:

Level 1 Routine Monitoring

Normal surveillance activities...Prepare for known or forecasted events. Ensure operational readiness for unforeseen events.

Level 2 Enhanced Monitoring

Increased monitoring and preparedness for emerging or unexpected events...MCG may/may not be convened, depending upon the nature of the emergency. Formal emergency declaration may / may not be in effect.

Level 3 Partial Activation of Emergency Response Plan

Situation may require the deployment of municipal resources and activation of the Municipal Emergency Response Plan. EOC may be operational, and MCG may be convened as necessary. An emergency declaration may / may not be in effect.

5.0 Emergency Notification Procedures

Level 4 Full activation of Emergency Response Plan

Resources deployed to mitigate the emergency as required. The Emergency Operations Centre is operational at an appropriate level of operation and appropriate location. MCG may be convened and staffed at an adequate level. Head of Council may declare a formal state of emergency.

Once contacted, it is the duty of the Municipal Control Group members to report to the appropriate Emergency Operations Centre, as directed in the notification order. If the “Primary” MCG members are unable to attend, then the *Designated Alternate* must be called to respond. Depending upon the nature of the emergency, some or all of the members may be required to attend the EOC, but all members should be informed of the emergency situation. Refer to Annex # 1 Notification & Contacts.

If deemed appropriate, MCG members may initiate their own internal notification procedures of their staff and volunteer organizations. When the threat of an impending emergency exists, the Municipal Control Group may be placed on “**stand-by**”.

6.0 Requests for Assistance

Assistance from the Province of Ontario may be requested at any time without any loss of control or authority. The Community Emergency Management Coordinator acts as the primary municipal contact for Emergency Management Ontario on matters relating to emergency management and response. The CEMC, or designate, should request assistance by contacting the PEOC Duty Officer at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre in Toronto. Refer to Annex # 1 for contact information.

The Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management may dispatch an EMO Field Officer to the requesting community or may deploy the Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT) to the affected municipality.

If you are unable to contact the PEOC Duty Officer, then the O.P.P. Duty Officer should be contacted.

7.0 Declared Municipal Emergencies

The mayor, as Head of Council, is responsible for declaring a state of emergency within the Township of South Algonquin and this decision is made in consultation with the members of the Municipal Control Group.

“In the mayor’s absence, inability or refusal to act, or if the office is vacant, then the mayor’s “designated alternate” shall assume the powers and duties of the Head of Council as prescribed in the Township’s current Procedural By-Law.

1(a) Acting Head of Council shall mean another designate who shall act as a presiding officer in the absence of the mayor.

1(cc) a quorum of not less than two members shall be present.

4.7.1 Presiding Officer

The mayor shall preside at all Council and Committee of the Whole meetings. In the absence of the mayor, or if the office is vacant, the Council may appoint by by-law or resolution, a Chair from among members present who, during the absence or vacancy, shall have all the powers of the Head of Council.

Each member of Council is listed as a “designated alternate” to the Head of Council. In a serious emergency, where several Council members may be unavailable, or incapable of assuming the role as “Acting Head of Council”, this policy allows for maximum flexibility in choosing a designated alternate for the mayor’s position and will allow for the continuation of government.

7.0 Declared Municipal Emergencies

Upon declaring an emergency, the mayor will fill out and sign the Emergency Declaration Form and submit it to the PEOC Duty Officer at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. The emergency area(s) should be clearly defined on the form. Refer to Annex # 1-Notification & Contacts for official templates to be used when declaring, renewing or terminating an emergency.

Upon declaring, renewing or terminating an emergency declaration, the following groups will be notified:

- Office of Fire Marshal & Emergency Management (OFMEM)
- Council members
- General Public
- Local member of Provincial Parliament
- Neighbouring communities
- Media
- Other groups, NGO's, Ministries, agencies and organizations, as required.

A declared municipal emergency may be terminated by:

- Premier of Ontario
- Head of Council
- Council (as a whole body)

8.0 Provincially Declared Emergencies

Section 7.0.1 of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* states

(1) The Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Premier, if in the Premier's opinion the urgency of the situation requires that an order be made immediately, may by order declare that an emergency exists throughout Ontario or in any part of Ontario.

2006.c. 13, S1 (4).

The criterion for declaring a Provincial emergency is as follows:

3. (1) There is an emergency that requires immediate action to prevent, reduce or mitigate a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property.

3. (2) One of the following exists:

- i. The resources normally available to the government of Ontario or any agency, branch or commission or other branch of the government, including existing legislation, cannot be relied upon without the risk of serious delay.
- ii. Resources referred to in paragraph (i) may be insufficiently effective to address the emergency.
- iii. It is not possible, without the risk of delay, to ascertain whether the resources referred to in paragraph (i) can be relied upon.

Under Section 7.0.3 (2) of the EMCPA, the Premier has specific municipal powers:

(2) If an order is made under Section 7.0.1 and the emergency area or any part of it is within the jurisdiction of a municipality, the Premier, where he/she considers it necessary, may by order under this section,

(a) Direct and control the administration, facilities and equipment of the municipality in the emergency area, and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing, the exercise by the municipality of its powers and duties in the emergency area, whether under an emergency plan or otherwise, is subject to the direction and control of the Premier; and

8.0 Declared Provincial Emergencies

Section 7.0.3 Premier's specific municipal powers

2(b) Require any municipality to provide such assistance as he/she considers necessary to an emergency area or any part of the emergency area that is not within the jurisdiction of a municipality and direct and control the provision of such assistance.

2006, c.13, S. 1 (4).

9.0 Provincial Orders & Special Powers

Emergency powers and Provincial Orders are used to promote the public good by protecting the health, safety, welfare of the people of Ontario in times of declared emergencies in a manner subject to the Canadian Charter of Rights & Freedoms.

Section 7.0.2 (4) provides the Lieutenant Governor in Council with emergency powers and the ability to make orders in respect of the following:

1. Implementing any emergency plans formulated under Sections 3, 6, 8 or 8.1.
2. Regulating or prohibiting travel or movement to, from, or within any specified area.
3. Evacuating individuals and animals, removing personal property from any specified area and planning for the adequate care and protection of individuals and property.
4. Establishing facilities for the care, welfare, safety and shelter of individuals including emergency shelters and hospitals.
5. Closing any place, whether public or private, including any business, office, school, hospital or other establishment or institution.
6. To prevent, respond to, or alleviate, the effects of the emergency by constructing works, restoring necessary facilities and appropriating, using, destroying, removing or disposing of property.
7. Collecting, transporting, storing, processing and disposing of any type of waste.

9.0 Provincial Orders & Special Powers

8. Using any necessary goods, services and resources within any part of Ontario, distributing and making available necessary goods, services and resources and establishing centres for their distribution.

9. Procuring necessary goods and services.

10. Fixing prices for necessary goods, services and resources and prohibit charging unconscionable prices in respect of necessary goods, services and resources

11. Authorizing, but not requiring, any person, or class of persons, to render services of a type that the person, or person of that class, is reasonably qualified to provide.

12. Taking other such actions or implementing such other measures as the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary to prevent, respond to, or to alleviate the effects of the emergency.

2006, c. 13, S. 1 (4).

Emergency Orders are subject to the following limitations:

- Actions shall be exercised in a manner which, consistent with the objectives of the order, limits their intrusiveness.
- Orders only apply to the areas of the province where it is necessary.
- Orders will be effective for only as long as is necessary.

Section 7.0.2 (5).

10. Terminating Provincial Emergencies

An emergency declaration made under Section 7.0.1 will be terminated at the end of the 14th day following its declaration unless the Lieutenant Governor in Council by order declares it to be terminated at an earlier date.

2006, c. 13 S. 1 (44).

The Lieutenant Governor in Council may by order extend an emergency before it is terminated for one further period of no more than 14 days.

Under Section 7.0.7 (3) the Assembly, on the recommendation of the Premier, may by resolution extend the period of an emergency for additional periods of no more than 28 days.

If there is a resolution before the Assembly to extend the period of the emergency, the declaration of the emergency shall continue until the resolution is voted on.

2006, c. 13 S. 1 (4).

11. Mutual Assistance

Municipalities have the primary responsibility for response in emergency situations within their communities. They will commit all available resources to save lives and minimize injury to persons, damage to property and infrastructure.

As appropriate, and through pre-arranged mutual assistance agreements, adjacent jurisdictions and other agencies aid in emergency response and recovery capabilities if called upon.

For complete and detailed information on the “response capabilities” of agencies responding to emergencies within the Township of South Algonquin refer to Annex # 4- Response Capabilities, as appended to this emergency response plan.

11. Mutual Assistance:

The municipality currently has in place several mutual assistance agreements with varying agencies. Refer to Annex # 7 Mutual Aid Information and/or Annex #8 Mutual Assistance Agreements/ MOU's/MOA's. Agreements include:

- ✓ Red Cross Personal Disaster Assistance (PDA) Agreement
- ✓ Red Cross Disaster Services/ "Just-In-Time" Shelter Agreement
- ✓ MNRF / AFFES Fire Protection Agreement (5 year)
- ✓ Renfrew County Mutual Fire Aid
- ✓ MNRF Algonquin Park Fire Protection Agreement
- ✓ Ornge Air Ambulance Helipad Maintenance Agreement
- ✓ Northern 911 Fire Dispatch & Paging Agreement
- ✓ Other agreements/ MOU's & MOA's, as deemed necessary.

South Algonquin Township is designated as a "single-tier" municipality, and as such has no upper-tier government that it is associated with. The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board (DNSSAB) aids the Township of South Algonquin under Provincial legislation. DNSSAB provides the following assistance:

- Administering the Ontario Works Program
- Providing municipal Social Services and Social Housing
- Children's Services
- Land Ambulance Services

One member of municipal council is appointed to sit on the DNSSAB Board, and this member acts as the primary contact between the District of Nipissing and the municipality.

A copy of the DNSSAB Emergency Response Plan is found in Annex # 4 – Response Capabilities.

12. Municipal Control Group (MCG)

Section 12(1) of Ontario Regulation 380/04 requires every municipality to have an emergency control group.

Section 12(2) The emergency control group (MCG) shall be composed of:

- a) Such officials or employees of the municipality as may be appointed by council.
- b) Such members of council as may be appointed by council.

Section 12(3) Members of the group shall complete the annual training that is required by the Chief, Emergency Management Ontario.

Section 12(4) The emergency control group shall direct the municipal response in an emergency, including implementation of the municipality's emergency plan.

Section 12(5) The group shall develop procedures to govern its responsibilities in an emergency.

Section 12(6) The group shall conduct an annual practice exercise for a simulated emergency incident in order to evaluate the municipality's emergency response plan and its own procedures.

Section 12(7) The group shall, if deemed necessary, revise its procedures and shall make recommendations to the council for the revision of the municipality's emergency response plan.

Upon receipt of an "**emergency alert**" notification the *Municipal Control Group* will assemble at the appropriate Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The location of the Primary EOC and Secondary EOC is listed in Annex # 1- Notification & Contacts. Under extraordinary situations, where it is not possible for the Municipal Control Group to convene in person (i.e., pandemic), then electronic meetings may be used as authorized under South Algonquin Bylaw # 20-622. Refer to Annex # 1-MCG Contacts for a current list of MCG and EM Program Committee members.

13. Composition of the MCG

The *Municipal Control Group* may consist of the following primary members:

- ❖ Head of Council
- ❖ CAO/Clerk-Treasurer
- ❖ Deputy Clerk
- ❖ Community Emergency Management Coordinators
- ❖ Works Superintendent
- ❖ SAFD Fire Chief
- ❖ Municipal Council Representative(s)
- ❖ O.P.P. representatives
- ❖ Emergency Medical Services representatives

If primary MCG members are absent/unable to act, then the “***designated alternate***” will assume the position. Refer to Annex # 1 MCG Contact List for details.

The *MCG* may also rely on the following “***support & advisory***” resources including:

- ❖ EMO Field Officers/OFMEM representatives
- ❖ Deputy Treasurer
- ❖ Administrative Assistants/Accounts Receivable Clerks
- ❖ Chief Building Official
- ❖ Municipal Custodian/Building Maintenance Manager
- ❖ Medical Officer of Health, Renfrew County & District Health Unit
- ❖ Hospital representatives, St. Francis Memorial Hospital
- ❖ South Algonquin Family Health Team
- ❖ Boards of Education representatives
- ❖ Emergency 9-1-1 agencies and representatives
- ❖ Utility representatives
- ❖ Legal services representatives
- ❖ Human Resources staff
- ❖ Citizen Inquiry Supervisor
- ❖ Transportation Manager
- ❖ Others, as required.

14. Additional Staff & Resources

Additional resources may be recruited to assist the MCG including:

- ✓ Provincial Ministries and Ministry Action Groups (MAGs) operating from a Ministry Emergency Operations Centre(s).
- ✓ Experts, officials and representatives from both the public and private sectors.
- ✓ Community Volunteer organizations, as required.

Under Regulation 380/04 all Provincial ministries shall:

- Designate an employee of the ministry as the ministry's emergency management program coordinator and another employee as an alternate.
- The emergency management program coordinator shall coordinate the ministry's emergency management program within the ministry and shall report to the ministry's emergency management program committee.
- Every ministry must have a Ministry Action Group (MAG) which directs the ministry's response in an emergency, including the implementation of the ministry's emergency plan.
- The MAG shall establish an emergency operations centre to be used by the action group in an emergency.

15. MCG Operating Cycle

The *Municipal Control Group* will gather at regular intervals (operating cycles) to inform each other of actions taken and problems encountered during the emergency. The CAO/Clerk-Treasurer will act as the EOC Manager and will assume responsibility for scheduling, convening and coordinating the operations cycle with an emphasis on a timely system of reporting at each formal meeting. In the absence of the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer then the designated alternate, or another member of the MCG, may assume the position.

The MCG will meet frequently during the first stages of the emergency and less frequently during an on-going situation. Each operating cycle should contain the following six components:

1. Assessment of the situation. What is happening? What is needed?
2. Establish priorities. What can be done in a timely manner?
3. Set objectives.
4. Determine an action plan. Who does what? What tasks are required?
Timeframe?
5. Set timelines for the implementation of assigned tasks.
6. Monitor and reporting. Schedule time & location of next meeting.

Documenting all activities is extremely important. Individual and group logs shall be kept, and Master Event Logs created.

Should the nature of the emergency (i.e., pandemic) prevent the Council of a municipality, or the Municipal Control Group, from meeting in person then “electronic meetings” may be used to facilitate the continuation of government. South Algonquin By-law # 20-622 establishes rules for the proceedings of Council, the calling of meetings and the conduct of Members. Schedule C of the By-law, pursuant to Section 238 (3.3) of the Municipal Act, 2001 allows Members of Council, Committees or Local Boards to participate in meetings/closed meetings electronically.

16. Responsibilities of the MCG

Members of the MCG are likely to be responsible for the following actions or decisions:

- Dispatching and mobilizing emergency service agencies, equipment, resources
- Coordinating and directing their service and ensuring that any actions necessary for the mitigation of the effects of the emergency are taken, provided they are not contrary to law.
- Determining if the location and composition of the MCG is appropriate.
- Advising the Mayor as to whether the declaration of an emergency is recommended.
- Advising the Mayor on the need to designate all, or part of, the municipality as an “emergency area”.
- Ensuring an Incident Commander is appointed at each emergency site.
- Ensuring support to the emergency site(s) by offering equipment, staff and resources as requested by the Incident Commander
- Ordering, coordinating or over-seeing the evacuation and sheltering of inhabitants considered to be in danger and appointing shelter management staff as required.
- Discontinuing utilities or services provided by public or private concerns and arranging for their restoration at the appropriate time.
- Arranging for services and equipment from local agencies not under municipal control (private contractors, industry, service clubs, volunteers)
- Notifying and requesting assistance from, and/or liaison with, various levels of government and any public or private agency not under community control
- Ensuring that a registration system is established for all staff, volunteers, evacuees and media organizations involved in an emergency.
- Ensuring an accountability system is established to track the location and safety of all emergency first responders involved in the emergency response.
- Authorizing the expenditure of money required for dealing with the emergency.

17. Additional Duties of the MCG

Additional responsibilities of the MCG may include:

- Determining if additional volunteers are required, and if an appeal for volunteers is warranted.
- Determining if additional or specialized transportation is required for the evacuation of persons, or the movement of supplies.
- Ensuring that all pertinent information regarding the emergency is promptly forwarded to the *Emergency Information Officer* and Citizen Inquiry Supervisor for dissemination to the media and public.
- Determining the need to establish advisory groups and/or sub-committees and working groups for any aspect of the emergency, including the recovery phase.
- Ensuring the well-being of persons displaced from their homes by arranging for disaster services including shelter, food, clothing, personal services and registration & inquiry services. Social Service representatives on the Control Group are responsible for establishing the Emergency Shelter Services Plan and initiating operations until the Canadian Red Cross Society responds and becomes operational under their Disaster Service Agreements
- Notifying the service, agency or group under their direction of the termination of the emergency
- Maintaining a log outlining decisions made and actions taken and submitting a summary of the log to Council following termination of the emergency,
- Participating in the de-briefing process following termination of the emergency
- Other duties, as assigned.

18. Individual Responsibilities of the MCG

18.1 MAYOR OR ACTING MAYOR

The Mayor / Acting Mayor are responsible for:

- Providing overall leadership in responding to an emergency
- Declaring, renewing and terminating municipal emergencies
- Notifying Emergency Management Ontario of such declarations/ terminations
- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and issuing an “emergency alert”
- Ensuring all Council members are advised of the declaration and are kept informed of the emergency.
- Acting as the Community Spokesperson for the municipality, hosting media press conferences and performing media-related duties as required
- Approving press releases at his/her discretion, in consultation with the *Emergency Information Officer*
- Dealing with any matters arising as part of the emergency and ensuring that the MCG functions effectively

18.2 CAO/CLERK-TREASURER:

The CAO/Clerk-Treasurer is responsible for the following:

- Performing the duties and exercising the responsibilities of CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and assuming the duties as EOC Manager.
- As corporate coordinator, facilitate inter-departmental efficiency.
- Activating the municipal emergency notification system and directing essential MCG members to report to the appropriate EOC.
- Ensuring security arrangements at the EOC and other municipal facilities
- As “EOC Manager” coordinate all operations in the Emergency Operations Centre including the scheduling of regular meetings (business cycles) and ensuring all events are properly documented by EOC staff.
- Ensuring communications links are established between the EOC, emergency site(s) and all other facilities used in emergency response to the incident.
- As a senior member of the Emergency Information Team, assist the Mayor and Emergency Information Officer in the delivery of emergency information to public and media.

18.3 DEPUTY CLERK or Designate

The Deputy Clerk is responsible for the following:

- Providing administrative assistance to Department Heads ensuring all municipal and legislative policies are met.
- Taking minutes and compiling payroll and accounts receivable and producing reports for Council and Committees
- Performing the statutory duties and exercising the responsibilities of the Deputy Clerk as assigned by the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, as outlined in the Deputy Clerk's job description and the Municipal Act
- Assisting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer at the Emergency Operations Centre during an emergency and assuming the duties of EOC Manager in the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer's absence, or inability to act
- Assisting the CEMC(s) in the implementation of any aspect of the emergency management program and emergency response plan
- Ensuring the EOC is functional and that all maps, supplies and equipment is available while coordinating the provision of clerical and administrative staff to assist in the EOC as necessary.
- Assisting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and the CEMC's in documenting all important decisions made and actions taken by the MCG during the emergency.
- Assuming the duties of the *Citizen Inquiry Supervisor* and initiating the opening, operation and staffing of all switchboards at municipal facilities as the situation dictates.
- Ensuring a "Scribe" is present at all MCG meetings and cycles to properly document the emergency response.
- Maintaining a personal log of actions taken.

18.4 DEPUTY TREASURER

The Deputy Treasurer is responsible for the following:

- Reporting to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer will act as financial coordinator and will perform all the statutory duties of Treasurer and tax collector.
- Coordinating the preparation, maintenance and monitoring of all financial, accounts payable and accounting records and provide support, guidance and advice to Department Heads, Council and committees on financial matters.
- Assist the Treasurer in all facets of the financial management of the emergency.
- Assist with the financial administration of the Municipal Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (formerly ODRAP) or other available programs.
- Assisting the MCG in the Emergency Operations Centre, as requested by the EOC Manager
- Maintaining a personal log of actions taken
- Other duties, as necessary

18.5 PLANNING & BUILDING ADMINISTRATOR/CEMC ALTERNATE:

The Planning & Building Administrator is responsible for the following:

- Reporting to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, the Planning & Building Administrator will provide operational support and assistance to the Public Works, Building and Planning Departments by performing routine secretarial, clerical and receptionist duties, responding to public inquiries in the absence of the Works Superintendent and Chief Building Official / By-Law Enforcement Officer.
- Assuming the duties and responsibilities of the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) in the absence, or inability to act, of the Primary CEMC as appointed by Council. In an emergency, priority should be given to his/her role as CEMC over other job responsibilities.
- Assisting the Community Emergency Management Coordinator in any aspect of emergency management as requested
- Maintaining a personal log of actions taken

18.6 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (CEMC)

Under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and Regulation 380/04* every municipality must appoint a Primary CEMC and may appoint two CEMC *Designated Alternates*. The CEMC serves as the primary contact for Emergency Management Ontario. CEMC's will build professional relationships with various organizations, whether public or private, or non-governmental organizations. Once identified CEMC's will be placed on EMO's "CEMC Distribution List".

Reporting to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, the "primary" Community Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for developing, implementing, maintaining and verifying the emergency management program with Emergency Management Ontario (OFMEM). The CEMC reports to the Emergency Management Program Committee. The CEMC Designated Alternates assist the primary CEMC in program administration and development and will assume the duties of the primary CEMC in his/her absence, or inability to act.

CEMC roles and responsibilities may include the following:

- Successfully completing all required training required by OFMEM.
- Maintaining familiarity with current emergency management strategies and legislation
- Ensuring senior management and elected officials are aware of the latter.
- Identifying municipal program resource requirements, including funding and assisting in the preparation of an annual emergency management budget
- Forming an Emergency Management Program Committee
- In conjunction with the Committee, conduct an annual Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Ensuring the designation of an appropriate Emergency Operations Centre
- Identifying all the critical infrastructure within the municipality
- Documenting existing municipal response capabilities
- Conducting annual training for MCG and EOC members
- Conducting an annual exercise to evaluate the Municipal Emergency Response Plan
- Identifying and training individuals to act as Emergency Information Staff.

18.6 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR (CEMC)

In conjunction with the Emergency Management Program Committee:

- Conducting an annual review of the emergency management program
- Providing expertise and support to the MCG in an emergency
- Maintaining the Municipal Emergency Response Plan and ensuring it is current.
- Liaising with Field Officers and representatives of the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM)
- Monitoring the municipality's level of compliance and processing the required verification documents for submission to OFMEM

Additional CEMC duties may also include the following:

- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and issuing an "emergency alert"
- Ensuring that security is in place at the EOC and that all MCG members are registered upon arrival for each operating cycle.
- Ensuring that the operating cycle of the MCG is met, and that related documentation is maintained for future reference.
- Addressing any action items that may arise from the activation of the emergency response plan.
- Assisting the Emergency Information staff in the preparation and dissemination of emergency information to the public and media
- Other duties, as deemed necessary.

The Community Emergency Management Coordinators appointed by the Township of South Algonquin are not "full-time" CEMCs. Their emergency management duties comprise a portion of their municipal responsibilities, therefore, when a critical situation arises, and the emergency management program is engaged then priority must be given to their emergency management duties over other duties assigned in their respective municipal job descriptions. This allows for an efficient emergency response and facilitates compliance with the duties placed on CEMC's by the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and Regulation 380/04*.

18.7 WORKS SUPERINTENDENT – PUBLIC WORKS

The Public Works Department for the Township of South Algonquin provides summer and winter maintenance activities to 135 kilometres of municipal highways on a year-round basis.

The Works Department is supervised by the Works Superintendent who reports to the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer. The Works Superintendent is supported by the Planning & Building Administrator, Operations Foreman and Public Works Employees and is responsible for the following:

- Snowplowing, sanding, salting, culvert steaming and other road maintenance activities.
- Summer grading, dust control, road building activities and maintenance of bridges, culverts and other critical infrastructure
- Fleet maintenance
- Maintaining municipal facilities, buildings and parks
- Other duties, as assigned.

As a member of the MCG, the Works Superintendent is responsible for the following:

- Responding to municipal emergencies, or critical situations, affecting the municipality's buildings, roads, property and infrastructure
- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and issuing an "emergency alert"
- Providing an Incident Commander, depending on the nature of the emergency
- Providing the MCG with information, advice, technical and engineering expertise relating to public works and roads
- Establishing an on-going communications link between the EOC and the senior Works official at the emergency site(s)
- Ensuring the construction, maintenance and repair of all municipal highways
- Ensuring the operation of all sanitary, sewage and water systems and municipal landfill sites as required
- Providing potable water, supplies and sanitation facilities at all municipal buildings, Reception Centres and Evacuation Centres to the requirements of the Medical Officer of Health

18.7 WORKS SUPERINTENDENT

Additional duties of the Works Superintendent may include:

- Arranging for the discontinuation of public works services and/or utilities and restoring such services when appropriate
- Providing Works Department staff, vehicles and resources as required by any other emergency service, where possible
- Procuring, providing, operating and maintaining emergency generators as required

18.8 CEMC/DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Deputy Fire Chief report directly to the Fire Chief and are responsible for the coordination and direction of all activities and training of the firefighting units assigned to them in the Fire Chief's absence.

The CEMC/Deputy Fire Chief is also designated as the Primary Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of South Algonquin. Pursuant to Section 18.6 of this Emergency Response Plan and pursuant to the legal requirements of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, and Regulation 380/04, should a conflict of duty arise between the position of the Deputy Fire Chief and the Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC) position, then the CEMC position shall prevail, and take precedence over, the Deputy Fire Chief position.

18.9 SOUTH ALGONQUIN FIRE DEPARTMENT – OVERVIEW

The South Algonquin Fire Department (SAFD) is authorized under the authority of By-law # 2014-452, “Establishing a Fire Department”. The Department consists of two Fire Stations (Whitney & Madawaska) with approximately 30 volunteer members. Legal Authority for the provision of fire protection services falls under the Fire Prevention & Protection Act and related statutes.

South Algonquin Council has revised the Fire Chief Job Description and has created a new Part-time Fire Chief position in 2020. The Fire Chief is responsible for the operation of the department under the general direction of Council. The Fire Chief reports to the CAO/Clerk Treasurer and supervises two Deputy Chiefs. The Deputy Chiefs are responsible for all operational and tactical operations at their respective Fire Stations located in Whitney and Madawaska, as authorized under By-law # 2020-617.

18.9.1 FIRE CHIEF

The Fire Chief is responsible for:

- Preparing, presenting and administering capital & operating budgets.
- Planning, coordinating and directing firefighting/prevention, rescue and life and property saving functions.
- Supervising the activities and training programs.
- Ensuring compliance with legislation, codes and by-laws and required documentation of such.
- Developing and coordinating public education/public relations programs and activities.
- Reporting to, and taking command of, major incidents and initiating investigations, as required.
- Liaising with the Office of the Fire Marshal.
- Ensuring the maintenance of all major equipment.
- Ensuring all volunteer firefighters are trained and familiar with the safe operation of all vehicles and equipment.
- Maintaining all training records.
- Attending conferences, meetings, workshops and seminars.

- Meeting regularly with the Deputy Chiefs and other Officers to ensure the goals and procedures of the department are being followed.
- Recommending new volunteer members to Council to maintain volunteer levels, as established by Council.
- Developing a program to work with residents and business owners to ensure conformity with the Fire Code.
- Commenting on site plans, re-zonings, subdivision agreements and new buildings.
- Attending area Fire Chief's meetings and attending council and committee meetings as required.

As a member of the *Municipal Control Group* the Fire Chief is also responsible for the following:

- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk Treasurer and issuing an "emergency alert".
- Providing an Incident Commander, depending upon the nature of the emergency.
- Establishing an on-going communications link with the EOC and the emergency site(s) and at all departmental facilities and command posts.
- Requesting, activating and terminating Mutual Aid.
- Determining if additional or specialized equipment is needed and recommending sources of supply.
- Aiding other municipal departments or other agencies, where possible.
- Maintaining a log of actions taken.

18.9.2 SAFD DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

Deputy Fire Chiefs report directly to the Fire Chief and are responsible for the coordination and direction of all activities and training of the firefighting units assigned to them. In the Fire Chief's absence, or inability to act, then the Deputy Fire Chief shall assume the powers and duties of the Fire Chief.

General responsibilities of the Deputy Fire Chief may include:

- Responding to all alarms and assuming command of the incident until relieved by the Fire Chief
- Ensuring safety by supervising the fire ground and establishing proper firefighting methods and procedures
- Assisting in determining fire cause and fire investigations
- Overseeing the training of members and ensuring discipline

18.9.3 SAFD CAPTAINS

A Captain is in command of the company or group to which he/she is assigned and is responsible to the Deputy Chief for the proper operation of that group. Captains will assign personnel to perform firefighting functions in accordance with proper training and best practices. Captains will supervise the work of department members to ensure that it is done safely and according to proper procedures. Captains are responsible for the inspection of equipment, grounds and station to ensure proper order and shall report deficiencies to the Deputy Fire Chief.

In circumstances where the CEMC/Deputy Fire Chief is required to perform solely the position of the CEMC, a Captain may be requested by the Fire Chief take on the position of the Deputy Fire Chief as required.

18.9.4 FIREFIGHTERS

Members respond to all alarms assigned to their respective fire stations in a timely manner. Firefighters perform manual duties at emergency incidents, operate vehicles and equipment and perform rescue, as assigned. All members must complete all required training. Firefighters are under the direct control of the Captain, Deputy Fire Chief or the Fire Chief.

18.10 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

Municipal Councillors are the elected officials of the municipality and play an important role in the emergency management process. Municipal Council may assume the following responsibilities:

- Advising the Head of Council on emergency declarations /terminations and may assist in defining specific “emergency areas”.
- As members of the Municipal Control Group assuming roles and responsibilities as designated in the emergency response plan
- As members of “working groups” or “sub-committees” assisting in emergency response
- Requesting and participating in “special” Council meetings and/or “electronic meetings” (as authorized under By-law # 2020-622, Procedural By-law) which may be required in response to a community emergency.
- Liaising with residents and community members, groups and organizations and keeping them updated on the status of the emergency.
- Providing other assistance as may be necessary.

18.11 CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL / BY-LAW OFFICER

Under Section 3(2) of the Building Code Act, every municipality shall appoint a Chief Building Official and such inspectors as necessary for the enforcement of the Building Code Act. Under By-Law # 15- 491 the C.B.O. will review permit applications, issue permits and conduct inspections. The primary purpose of inspections is the promotion of public safety through the application of appropriate, uniform standards while safeguarding buildings where we live, work and play. The By-Law Enforcement Officer has the responsibility of carrying into effect the provisions of any Act, legislation or municipal by-law of the Corporation of the Township of South Algonquin.

From an emergency management perspective, natural and man-made disasters precipitate a broad variety of damage to buildings and structures which may include partial or complete collapse, and the amount of damage sustained from any particular incident will be a function of the kind of event experienced, as well as the magnitude, duration and intensity of the event.

18.11 CHIEF BUILDING OFFICIAL / BY-LAW OFFICER

The Chief Building Official may assume the following responsibilities:

- Inspecting and reporting on the condition of buildings and designated structures, as referenced in the Ontario Building Code, that due to an emergency are safe, need repair or that require demolition.
- Participating in a needs / damage assessment immediately following an emergency incident
- Assessing any immediate or potential hazards to public safety and taking appropriate action to repair, or have demolished, damaged buildings.
- Coordinating or assisting in the barricading of affected sites to ensure safety.
- Documenting fully any sites that are demolished.

As an advisor of the *Municipal Control Group* the CBO / By-Law Officer is responsible for:

- Providing expertise and enforcement of Building Code matters that may arise as part of the emergency.
- Providing enforcement of any Act, legislation, By-Law or other provision arising as part of an emergency response
- Aiding other municipal departments where possible
- Other duties, as assigned.

18.12 OFFICE OF FIRE MARSHAL & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (OFMEM)

In 2015, major changes took place within the Ministry of Public Safety and Corrections. The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Ontario were consolidated into a single organization known as the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management (OFMEM). In 2018, EMO has re-instated the Sector system and each municipality is assigned an EMO Field Officer who assists communities in the development of their emergency management program. South Algonquin is in the “Capital Sector” and has been assigned a Field Officer from this sector.

18.12.1 OFMEM FIELD OFFICERS

OFMEM Field Officers provide front line emergency management advice and assistance to CEMCs and are available to consult with CEMCs regarding the implementation, maintenance and confirmation of all aspects of a municipality's emergency management program. In the event of a major incident, a Field Officer may be requested to respond to the affected municipality to coordinate the dispatch of provincial resources and to provide advice and assistance to municipal officials.

18.12.2 PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (PERT)

OFMEM Field Officers may also be deployed to any part of the province as a member of the Provincial Emergency Response Team (PERT). The team may also include a Senior Officer, additional Field Officers, Emergency Information Officers, other provincial ministries and specialists, depending on the type of incident and its severity.

18.12.3 PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE – DUTY OFFICER

A Duty Officer is on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year at the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre in Toronto. In an urgent situation, the Duty Officer can provide the CEMC and municipal officials with advice and assistance. It is vitally important that the Duty Officer receives all requests for provincial assistance. Refer to Annex # 1 Notification & Contacts for details.

All emergency declarations made by the Head of Council should be forwarded immediately to the Duty Officer at the PEOC. The MCG should also ensure that the Duty Officer is updated frequently as to the status of the emergency. It is the responsibility of the PEOC Duty Officer to deploy Field Officers to communities requesting such assistance.

18.13 ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE REPRESENTATIVES

The Ontario Provincial Police Service provides policing services to the Township of South Algonquin. The O.P.P. operates from the Killaloe Detachment and the Whitney satellite office, under the direction of the Detachment Commander. The O.P.P. Communications Centre in Smith Falls provides communications. A member of the O.P.P. is selected to sit on the *Municipal Control Group* and the *Emergency Management Program Committee*. In an emergency several Officers may be present, including Senior Police officials. The O.P.P. is responsible for:

- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and issuing an “emergency alert”
- Activating the O.P.P. response and notification systems and advising the Staff Sergeant and the O.P.P. Duty Officer of the emergency
- Establishing an on-going communications link between the EOC and the senior police official at the emergency site(s) and maintaining communication with all police command posts and other facilities
- Providing an Incident Commander depending on the nature of the emergency
- Establishing a “command post” at emergency site(s) as required
- Ensuring the provisions of law and order and the protection of life and property
- Ensuring traffic and corridor control on all King’s highways, connecting links and municipal highways under the provisions of the Highway Traffic Act
- Providing additional resources as requested by the MCG.
- Ensuring law enforcement and emergency response on all navigable waters
- Ensuring assistance for the victims of crime
- Ensuring police services at the EOC, Emergency Shelters and other facilities
- Performing investigations, investigating the cause of the emergency and assessing liability and/or responsibility where applicable
- Assuming a lead role in the implementation of the Municipal Evacuation Plan
- Establishing inner and outer perimeters in the vicinity of the emergency to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles and restricting access to all but essential emergency personnel.
- Providing Scribes, Emergency Information Officers or other specialized staff
- Maintaining a log of actions taken

18.14 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

The District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board is the designated delivery agent responsible for providing land ambulance services to Nipissing District. It also administers the supply and use of AEDs as part of the “PAD Lifeline Project”. The District of Nipissing EMS provides pre-hospital care to the sick and injured in the communities served. These professional health care services are contracted out to qualified providers that are licensed by the Ministry of Health.

The District of Nipissing borders Manitoulin/Sudbury, Temiskaming District, Parry Sound and Renfrew County and has successfully negotiated cross-border agreements, assuring seamless primary care to all citizens in Nipissing District. Land ambulance costs are shared 50:50 between municipalities and the province, in accordance with a funding template.

District of Nipissing Paramedic Service has paramedic stations located in eleven separate municipalities serving 85,000 people and responding to over 17,000 calls annually. The catchment area covers 17,000 square kilometres. The service sets out standards set out under the Ambulance Act and related legislation. North Bay General Hospital operates North Bay & District Ambulance under contract with DNSSAB.

Ambulance dispatching and communications are the responsibility of the **Central Area Communications Centre (CACC)** in Renfrew, Ontario. **Ontario’s Air Ambulance Program** (Ornge) is accessed through the CACC in Renfrew. South Algonquin maintains an air ambulance helipad in Whitney under the authority of an agreement with Ornge. The helipad features a “windsock” and “solar night lights” enabling 24- hour operation. The helipad is located beside the Whitney Medical Centre.

The closest receiving hospital for medical emergencies to South Algonquin is **St. Francis Memorial Hospital** in Barry’s Bay. **Pembroke General Hospital** is the closest Stroke & Trauma Centre to South Algonquin. The CACC Dispatch Centre coordinates patient delivery within the entire region. If the Whitney ambulance is busy, then ambulances from Renfrew County or Hastings County may be dispatched to our community (if they are the closest available unit) under a “seamless response system”. Refer to Annex # 4- Response Capabilities for detailed information on each service.

18.14 EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS)

EMS representatives on the Municipal Control Group are responsible for:

- Ensuring an adequate EMS response to emergencies within the municipal catchment area and activating the emergency plans and protocols of the Nipissing EMS Service, as required
- Ensuring emergency medical services at the emergency site(s) and obtaining assistance from other EMS / emergency health providers, as needed
- Providing an Incident Commander, depending on the nature of the emergency
- Establishing an on-going communications link between the EOC and the emergency site(s) and all other EMS facilities, mobile units and command posts
- Ensuring the triage of victims at emergency site(s) and engaging the Mass Casualty Plan, when required
- Ensuring the transportation of all patients from the emergency site(s) to receiving hospitals as directed by the CACC.
- Obtaining Air Ambulance support via the CACC when appropriate
- maintaining a log of actions taken

18.15 EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES – OVERVIEW

The primary goal of all social service agencies is to:

“ensure the well-being of persons who have been displaced from their homes by an emergency, by arranging for disaster services which may include Registration & Inquiry Services, Food, Clothing and Emergency Lodging Services, as well as providing other necessary Personal Services”.

In an emergency the following agencies may provide aid to the municipality:

- ✓ District of Nipissing Social Services Administration Board
- ✓ Canadian Red Cross Society
- ✓ NGO Alliance of Ontario
- ✓ Government ministries
- ✓ Other charities, public or private agencies and organizations, as needed.

18.15.1 EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES- MUNICIPAL DUTIES

The municipality is responsible for the following:

- ✓ Designating facilities within the community that are suitable for use as *Emergency Reception Centres and Emergency Evacuation Centres* and where no suitable facilities exist within the municipality, plan with neighbouring communities for the use of suitable facilities in their communities.
- ✓ Maintaining agreements for the use of such facilities
- ✓ Developing and maintaining agreements with other agencies for the provision of Emergency Social Services and Disaster Services

18.15.2 DISTRICT OF NIPISSING E.S.S.

DNSSAB is mandated to manage the delivery of social services and assistance, childcare and social housing within Nipissing District under the authority of the DNSSAB Act of Ontario, 1998. DNSSAB administers the following programs:

- Ontario Works Program
- Housing Services
- Children's Services
- Land Ambulance Service

DNSSAB may be requested by its member municipalities to assist during emergency incidents. The Director of Emergency Medical Services is the *Emergency Management Lead* for the Board and is the primary contact for member municipalities. An Emergency Social Services Response Plan may be activated to assist in emergency response.

18.16 CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY – DISASTER SERVICES

South Algonquin has two signed agreements with the Red Cross for the provision of Emergency Disaster Services. The Manager for Disaster Services for Eastern Ontario (located in Ottawa) administers all disaster service agreements. Upon notification from the Disaster Services Manager, Red Cross volunteers respond to municipal emergencies per the procedures and protocols established by the Canadian Red Cross Society.

18.16 CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Personal Disaster Assistance Program (PDA) provides individuals with emergency assistance for a period of 72 hours following an emergency. This program is designed to assist up to 20 individuals. Contact numbers are found in Annex # 1.

A “*Just-In-Time*” Agreement also exists between South Algonquin and Red Cross Disaster Services which includes Emergency Lodging, Food, Clothing and Personal Services. A Registration & Inquiry Service is also included. This agreement is designed for larger, more complex emergency situations (in excess of 20 persons) requiring immediate social services. Refer to Annex # 8 – Agreements for detailed information on Red Cross services and refer to Annex # 21 for details of the Emergency Shelter Services Plan.

18.17 NON-GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES (NGO’S/CHARITIES/NON-PROFITS)

Annex # 4 – Response Capabilities contains information on all local non-governmental agencies that are prepared to offer help in an emergency. They may include the following:

- ✓ “faith-based” church groups and/or non-profit community organizations
- ✓ Registered charities
- ✓ Other reputable public or private entities, as required.
- ✓ NGO Alliance of Ontario

The NGO Alliance of Ontario was formed in 2017 and the goal is to:

“assist in addressing the humanitarian needs of Ontarians during and recovering from disasters” and to maintain a reliable, credible and respected Alliance for members, municipalities, the province and other stakeholders to access and share information. The Alliance can re-direct calls for assistance to NGO Council members, and other stakeholders, to aid in times of disaster and emergency.

18.18 PROVINCIAL & FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

Provincial and Federal assistance may be obtained by contacting the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre. Contact information is found in Annex # 1.

18.19 EMERGENCY INFORMATION OFFICER: OVERVIEW

Under *Regulation 380/04* every municipality shall designate an employee of the municipality as its *Emergency Information Officer* and shall act as the primary media and public contact for a municipality in an emergency. The provision of timely and accurate information to the public and media is a vital part of effectively managing major incidents and emergencies. The Community Emergency Management Coordinator for South Algonquin is appointed as the *EIO* while the Head of Council is appointed as *Spokesperson*. In their absence, or inability to act, then the designated alternate for these positions will assume the roles.

Emergency Information refers to information about the emergency which is broadly communicated to the public, news media, partners and other stakeholders. It is disseminated primarily in anticipation of, during and immediately after an emergency.

Responsibilities of the E.I.O. may include:

- Consulting with Incident Command, Mayor and CAO/Clerk-Treasurer as to the need for news briefings and press conferences, granting media interviews and the status of media monitoring.
- Recommending responses to media misinformation and rumours
- Supervising the content of official statements, announcements and other forms of emergency information and ensuring the mayor approves all releases.
- Consulting with the MCG on the status of the emergency and the need for resources that could be filled by public calls for assistance through media.
- Informing the MCG of any significant information received through the public inquiry lines.
- Directing the activation of the Emergency Information Plan
- Delegating responsibilities and providing direction to the *Emergency Information Team* with respect to the production, distribution and retention of informational materials and media monitoring
- Responding to inquiries from news media and the public
- Ensuring an on-going communications link is maintained between the EOC and emergency site(s) and maintaining contact with the *Site Information Officer* and ensuring all media centres are staffed and operational.

Refer to Annex # 9 Emergency Information Plan for more details.

18.20 MUNICIPAL SPOKESPERSON

The mayor is designated as the municipal “*Spokesperson*” for the Township of South Algonquin. The Emergency Information Officer and/or the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer may perform such duties at the mayor’s discretion.

Responsibilities of the Spokesperson may include:

- Giving news interviews on behalf of Council and the MCG
- Establishing a communications link and regular contact procedure with EIO
- Other duties, as assigned.

19. Support & Advisory Staff of MCG

The following officials may provide support, advice and logistical support to the MCG. They can be called upon as the emergency may dictate. These resources may, or may not, be under municipal control. Where resources are not owned or controlled by the municipality, the organization will follow its own policies, procedures and emergency plans. Depending on the nature of the emergency, these additional resources may be utilized when needed. Refer to Annex # 1 Notification for contact information.

19.1 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (RCDHU)

The Renfrew County & District Health Unit, under the direction of the Medical Officer of Health, provides local health services to South Algonquin Township. Under provincial legislation the Medical Officer of Health has special powers, duties and responsibilities relating to public health. As needed, the Health Unit and Medical Officer of Health can be engaged to assist the MCG and is responsible for:

- Coordinating the response to disease-related emergencies, or anticipated emergencies, such as outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics according to the policies and procedures of the Ministry of Health and RCDHU.
- Providing advice on any matter which may adversely affect public health and providing authoritative instructions on health and safety matters to the public via the Emergency Information Officer.
- Activating the municipal emergency notification system by contacting the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and issuing an “emergency alert”.

19.1 MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH (RCDHU)

Additional duties of public health may include:

- Acting as a coordinating link for all emergency health services at the MCG and ensuring liaison with the Ministry of Health and other health agencies
- Ensuring the emergency plans, procedures and protocols as established by the Renfrew County & District Health Unit while ensuring the coordination of care of bed-ridden citizens and invalids, at home and in evacuation centres, during an emergency.
- Ensuring the coordination of all efforts to prevent and control the spread of disease.
- Ensuring a liaison with all social service agencies, in areas of mutual concern, regarding the health conditions and services at all Emergency Reception and Emergency Evacuation Centres
- Other duties, as required.

19.2 ST. FRANCIS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

There are no hospitals, nursing homes or senior citizen care facilities within our municipality. The closest receiving hospital is St. Francis Memorial Hospital in Barry's Bay. In an emergency, the hospital will initiate its own policies, procedures and emergency plans as required. The hospital will work cooperatively with local emergency medical services and the MCG during critical events. The hospital has its own helipad and is serviced by Ornge Air Ambulance. Refer to Annex # 4 – Response Capabilities for detailed information on hospital services.

19.3 SOUTH ALGONQUIN FAMILY HEALTH TEAM

The Administrator of the South Algonquin Family Health Team is designated as the primary representative to sit on the *Municipal Control Group*. The Family Health Team has been a part of the Northeast Local Health Integration Network (LHIN). Patients can establish a continuous relationship with health care providers for comprehensive family health care close to home. Members include physicians, nurse-practitioners, nurses and a range of inter-disciplinary health care providers who are committed to working together to provide health care to a defined population. The South Algonquin Family Health Team is located at the Whitney Medical Centre and is responsible for:

- Liaising and assisting the *Municipal Control Group* during an emergency by providing expertise and resources, as appropriate.
- Liaising with other health care organizations to improve public access to comprehensive family health care including health promotion and illness prevention.
- Assisting in the response to disease-related emergencies including outbreaks, epidemics and pandemics
- Working cooperatively with local Emergency Medical Services, hospitals and the Ministry of Health in the delivery of health care within the community

19.4 LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION

There are two separate Boards of Education operating from a single school within the Township of South Algonquin. St. Martin of Tours Catholic School is owned and operated by the Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic District School Board and houses the students of St. Martin of Tours Catholic School. Whitney Public School also operates from the same location under the authority of the Renfrew County & District School Board.

Local Boards of Education will manage school related emergencies by activating the Emergency Response Plan and the emergency policies/procedures as developed by each school Board. Each Board has appointed a representative to sit on the *Municipal Control Group* and will act as the primary contact for each student body. The CEMC is responsible for assisting local schools with their emergency planning, as requested.

19.4.1 LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION – RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Education is responsible for:

- Activating emergency first response agencies as required
- Activating the school's emergency response plan and emergency policies and procedures as needed.
- Notify the Municipal CAO/Clerk-Treasurer and CEMC's of a school emergency and to request municipal assistance.
- Following instructions/orders issued by the *Municipal Control Group* as they pertain to emergencies affecting the community which require immediate action to ensure public safety.
- Ensuring a current copy of the school Board's emergency plan has been deposited with the Community Emergency Management Coordinator for the Township of South Algonquin and that an updated list of emergency contacts has also been provided to the municipality.
- Providing school facilities, as appropriate, for use as a municipal evacuation or reception centre, per the Agreement established with the Algonquin & Lakeshore Catholic District School Board.

Refer to Annex # 17- Local Schools to locate school information and emergency plans and contact information.

19.5 EMERGENCY 9-1-1 SYSTEM: OVERVIEW

The “*Enhanced Emergency 9-1-1*” system became operational within the Township of South Algonquin as of September 30, 2015. Police, Fire and Emergency Medical Services can be contacted by utilizing the universal 3-digit number **9-1-1**.

The municipality is responsible for implementing and maintaining the *Civic Address System* and 9-1-1 signage. Bell Canada 9-1-1 Services are responsible for the Bell telephone network over which the 9-1-1 calls are routed. Emergency 9-1-1 calls are routed to the selected *Community Emergency Reporting Bureau* or *CERB* (may also be referred to as a “Primary Public Safety Answering Point” or PPSAP). The municipality has signed an agreement with the O.P.P. (North Bay Communications Centre) to act as CERB. From the CERB calls are transferred to “*Remote Agencies*” (Dispatch & Communications Centres) for each emergency service (Police, Fire, EMS). Emergency first responders then proceed to the location provided by the 9-1-1 Call-takers.

19.5.1 BELL CANADA 9-1-1 SERVICES

Bell 9-1-1 Service works cooperatively with the municipality to develop and maintain the community's *Public Emergency Reporting System (PERS)*. Bell Canada is responsible for the installation, maintenance and repair of their 9-1-1 equipment and systems. In the event of a system failure Bell Canada will restore 9-1-1 services on a "priority basis" and will provide direction and assistance to the affected municipality. *"Next Generation 9-1-1 Services" will be provided by Bell Canada under By-law # 2022-733.*

In Ontario, each area code is serviced by 2 DMS- 100 E9-14 tandem switches known as "selective routers" which direct 9-1-1 calls to appropriate agencies. This system is separate from the normal residential and business lines commonly used. Bell Canada charges a nominal fee on your monthly phone bill to ensure system maintenance.

19.5.2 COMMUNITY EMERGENCY REPORTING BUREAU: NORTH BAY CERB

South Algonquin has signed a five-year agreement with the O.P.P. for the provision of CERB services from their North Bay Communications Centre, as authorized under By-law # 2020-616. The O.P.P. is responsible for the staffing, operation and maintenance of their facilities and equipment, per the conditions listed in the contract. Should the North Bay facility be unable to process 9-1-1 calls for any reason then the Alternate CERB location, as listed in the agreement, will be utilized. The CERB answers all calls to 9-1-1 and determines which emergency service is needed and then transfers the caller to the appropriate remote agency. Refer to Annex # 34 E 9-1-1 System for more information. (CERB may also be referred to as a "Primary Public Safety Answering Point" or PPSAP).

19.5.3 REMOTE AGENCY CALL CENTRE: O.P.P. POLICE

9-1-1 calls for police assistance are transferred from the CERB to the O.P.P. Communications Centre in Orillia. This facility is operated by the O.P.P. and is responsible for all police communications for our area. Calls made to 1-888-310-1122 will be directed to this location also.

19.5.4 REMOTE AGENCY CALL CENTRE: SOUTH ALGONQUIN FIRE SERVICE

9-1-1 calls for the South Algonquin Fire Department are transferred from the CERB to Northern 911 Dispatch Centre in Sudbury, Ontario. The dispatcher will record all pertinent information from the caller and will dispatch either the Madawaska Fire Station, or the Whitney Fire Station, based on the nature and location of the emergency. A new three-year agreement between the municipality and Northern 911 began in July, 2023.

19.5.5 REMOTE AGENCY CALL CENTRE: AMBULANCE (CACC)

9-1-1 calls for medical emergencies/land ambulance are transferred from the CERB to the *Central Area Communications Centre* in Renfrew. Operated by the Ministry of Health the CACC provides all communications for area land ambulances and may request air ambulance service from Ornge. The CACC operates under the policies and procedures as established by the Ministry of Health who is responsible for the staffing, maintenance and operation of their facility.

19.6 UTILITIES REPRESENTATIVES

Depending on the nature and severity of the emergency various utilities may be affected. Refer to Annex # 4 Response Capabilities for contact information. Local utilities include Hydro One, Bell Canada and local communications/internet providers.

19.7 LEGAL SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES

Legal services may be asked to provide expertise and advice on legal matters concerning any aspect of an emergency or represent the municipality in legal actions. Legal action may be taken by the municipality to recover costs resulting from an emergency:

(12) Where money is expended, or costs incurred by a municipality or the Crown in the implementation of an emergency plan, or in connection with any emergency, the municipality or the Crown, has a right of action against any person who caused the emergency for the recovery of such money”.

19.8 HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

The Chair of the Human Resources Committee, or a member of the MCG, will assume the duties of the Human Resources Manager during an emergency. The Human Resources Manager is responsible for:

- Coordinating and processing requests for human resources
- Coordinating offers of, and appeals for, volunteers in an emergency.
- Selecting appropriate sites for the registration and training of human resources and arranging for their transportation
- Ensuring that a Volunteer Registration Form is completed by every volunteer assisting in the emergency for W.S.I.B. purposes and that a copy of the form is retained for administrative purposes.
- Ensuring an identification system is established and that all volunteers have been issued I.D. Cards
- Ensuring that an “accountability system” is established to track all employees, first responders, volunteers and other persons involved in the emergency.
- Ensuring that all personnel have been issued the appropriate personal protective equipment for the task at hand, and that individuals have adequate training to perform their tasks safely.
- Liaising with the Canadian Red Cross Society regarding their Volunteer Recruitment Program and assigning the Red Cross tasks as outlined in the “Just-In-Time Agreement”. Red Cross shall be responsible for its own staff and volunteers, who will work in accordance with Red Cross procedures. The Red Cross is deemed to be their employer for W.S.I.B. purposes

19.9 CITIZEN INQUIRY SUPERVISOR

The Deputy Clerk, or a member of the MCG, will assume the duties of the Citizen Inquiry Supervisor and is responsible for:

- Establishing Citizen Inquiry Lines including appointing personnel and the designation of phone lines
- Responding to and re-directing inquiries and reports from the public based on the latest information available.
- Responding to and re-directing inquiries pertaining to the investigation of the emergency, deaths, injuries or matters of personnel involved with, or affected by the emergency, to appropriate emergency services.
- Responding to, and re-directing inquiries related to persons who may be in evacuation or reception centres to the Registration and Inquiry phone numbers.

19.10 TRANSPORTATION SERVICES MANAGER

The Works Superintendent, or a member of the MCG, will assume the duties of the Transportation Services Manager who is responsible for:

- Acquiring, distributing and scheduling various modes of transportation for the purposes of moving equipment, supplies or persons
- Ensuring a record is kept of all carriers, operators and drivers and their payloads.
- Securing specialized transportation for persons who may be bed-ridden, disabled, or who have special needs and require evacuation or transport.
- Providing advice on transportation issues and recommending supply sources
- Liaising with local school boards to ensure the Boards of Education have adequate transportation available, should school evacuations become necessary.
- Maintaining a log of actions taken.

19.11 TELE-COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, as *EOC Manager*, will ensure that adequate tele-communications are in place and is responsible for:

- Ensuring on-going communications between the Emergency Operations Centre and all emergency sites
- Ensuring that a “back-up” system of communications is in place should all primary means of communications fail.
- Ensuring that all municipal facilities, command posts, media centres and evacuation/reception centres can communicate effectively in an emergency.
- Ensuring that a wide variety of communications systems are available for municipal use including cellular devices, satellite phones, faxes, vhf radio systems, internet services.
- Liaising with the Amateur Radio Emergency Services Network (ARES) as required. EMO’s call sign is VA3 EMO. Renfrew County ARES is the closest responding ham radio service to South Algonquin Township.

19.12 LOCAL BUSINESS & INDUSTRY

Local business and industry can supply the municipality with expertise, resources, equipment and other means of support in an emergency.

Please refer to the Emergency Management Resource Guide in Annex # 20 for important contacts. The CEMC is responsible for the development and revision of this guide annually.

20. Use of Volunteers in Emergencies

Adequate “human resources” are critically important to the success of the response and recovery phases of an emergency. The municipality as an “employer” is responsible for ensuring the health and safety of all workers under its control. The Workplace Safety and Insurance Bureau Act of 1997 is the guiding legal authority for workplace safety in Ontario. Document # 12-0402, issued January 2,2015 states:

“members of a volunteer fire brigade, volunteer ambulance brigade and auxiliary members of a police force generally operate under the authority of a municipality. Members of these forces are workers under the W.S.I.B. Act, 1997”.

W.S.I.B. also recognizes worker coverage for the following “special cases”:

- An authority who summons a person to assist in controlling or extinguishing a fire is deemed the person’s employer.
- Crown is deemed the employer of a person who assists in search and rescue operations at the request of, and under the direction of, a member of the O.P.P.
- Crown is deemed the employer in connection to an emergency declared by the Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Premier
- Municipality is deemed the employer of persons who assist in connection with an emergency declared to exist by the Head of Council
- MNRF is deemed the employer of a person who assists in connection with a fire in a designated region.
- The person in the emergencies listed above is deemed a worker of the relevant employer.

(W.S.I.B. February,2013)

21. Volunteer Recruitment

The Municipal Control Group, in consultation with Council, will decide if the use of volunteers in an emergency is appropriate and required. A formal emergency declaration by the Head of Council should be forwarded to EMO prior to using volunteers.

The following steps should also be undertaken when deploying volunteers. They include:

- ✓ Volunteer Registration: All volunteers will be registered for W.S.I.B. purposes at an appropriate location and personal information retained for administrative use.
- ✓ Security Checks: All volunteers should complete, and pass security screening as required under municipal guidelines.
- ✓ Training: Proof of skills & competencies should be documented at the time of registration. Training will be provided by the municipality, as indicated.
- ✓ Safety Equipment: Volunteers may supply their own safety equipment provided it meets all current and applicable safety standards for the assigned task. The municipality shall provide safety equipment as needed.
- ✓ Accountability System: An accountability system must be established to track the status of all emergency personnel, including volunteers.

22. Emergency Operations

22.1 INCIDENT COMMANDER (I.C.)

“*Command*” is the act of directing, controlling or ordering by virtue of explicit statutory, regulatory or delegated authority. The term “*Incident Commander*” means the function of Command as exercised in respect to developing and carrying out the *Incident Action Plan*” (IAP) for each specific emergency incident, the individual who exercises the function of “command” is the “*Incident Commander*” (I.C.). Only one person will exercise the function of Incident Command at any one time, for a given incident.

The Incident Commander has overall authority and responsibility for conducting all incident operations. The Incident Commander is responsible for the development of strategies and tactics to manage the emergency and is responsible for the ordering and release of all incident resources.

Therefore, while several jurisdictions may respond at the same time to the same incident, there will be only one Incident Commander. As other staff and/or levels are activated, they will work in support of the Incident Commander. Command and the *Command General Staff* together, are called the “*Incident Management Team*” (IMT). The location from which the incident command function is carried out is called the “*Incident Command Post*”. There are two basic models of incident command that may be used in response to an incident including “*Single Command*” and “*Unified Command*” structures.

22.2 SINGLE COMMAND

Single Command exists when the decision-making process needed to direct the response is straightforward and independent. This typically is the case when the incident is the responsibility of a single jurisdiction or organization. The *Single Command* model may be arrived at:

1. By default, when only one jurisdiction/organization is involved.
2. By design, when the multiple jurisdictions/organizations that are involved decide and agree on a single command.
3. By legislation, if the responsibility is legally that of one jurisdiction/organization.

22.3 UNIFIED COMMAND

Unified Command structures are used on rare occasions when incident decision-making is complex and inter-dependent and a single command cannot be established. Organizations work together through their designated members on the “*Unified Command Team*” to establish a common set of objectives and strategies for a single Incident Action Plan.

The Unified Command Team will agree on one “Spokesperson” to represent it when necessary. Under the Unified Command Model there is only one *Operations Section Chief* appointed by agreement from the organization with the greatest jurisdictional and/or functional involvement. He/she will implement the Incident Action Plan, as coordinated by the Planning Section Chief and approved by the Unified Command Team.

The act of “assuming command” means taking overall responsibility for the managing of the incident and providing overall leadership for incident response. Having assumed Command, the Incident Commander should ensure that all response organizations that are likely to be involved are advised of the incident. Command must be established in an unmistakable fashion at the beginning of an incident and be maintained until the end of an incident.

22.4 ESTABLISHING INCIDENT COMMAND

Incident Command should be established at the level, and in the manner that will allow it to be effective and efficient. Where incidents are site-specific, or geographically designed, the first emergency responder present at the emergency site will assume the function of Incident Commander. In scenarios where the incident is not site-specific, the highest level of jurisdiction in which the incident is occurring, may need to assume Incident Command.

Rank, grade and seniority are not the only factors used to determine who exercises the function of Command. Qualifications and experience with the specific type of incident that is occurring, are key factors in determining who assumes the Command function.

22.5 RESPONSIBILITY FOR ESTABLISHING INCIDENT COMMAND

Depending upon the nature and location of the emergency, the responsibility for establishing incident command is not restricted to any single organization or jurisdiction. Any of the jurisdictions listed below, having the requisite capabilities may establish incident command. They include:

- Responding organizations
- Municipal governments
- First Nations governments
- Provincial government agencies
- Federal government agencies

A response agency that is the first unit to arrive at an incident shall establish Incident Command and maintain it until Command is assumed by a more appropriate authority. The *Municipal Control Group* will ensure that incident command is in place and that the most appropriate individual is designated as Incident Commander for each emergency site for municipal emergencies.

Provincial government ministries/agencies may be responsible for establishing incident command, depending on the nature of the emergency. Every Ministry is required to establish a Ministry Action Group (MAG) that may operate from a Ministry Emergency Operations Centre to manage the Ministry's response to an incident. During specific incidents the MAG may assume the command function, depending upon incident requirements or Provincial directives. At this point the Ministry EOC could either become the Incident Command Post, or a separate ICP would be established.

22.6 PROVINCIAL/FEDERAL INCIDENT COMMAND

The *Emergency Management & Civil Protection Act* allows the Commissioner of Emergency Management, Chief Medical Officer of Health, a Minister, the Premier, or the Lieutenant Governor in Council to exercise command functions in certain situations. There may be cases in declared emergencies where the Ontario government may determine that it is more effective for incident command to be established at the Provincial level (i.e. nuclear emergency). The Federal government is responsible for responding to and commanding incidents of international conflict and war.

22.7 INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INCIDENT COMMANDER

Individual responsibilities of the Incident Commander may include:

- Assessing the incident and determining the goals, strategies, objectives and priorities appropriate to the level of response
- Establishing appropriate command structures using the Incident Management System (IMS)
- Coordinating overall incident activities and coordinating the activities of other levels of response
- Establishing an operational planning cycle on site
- Developing and approving Incident Action Plans and managing all incident resources.
- Authorizing the release of emergency information to the public in coordination with other levels of response (Site EIO to EIO @ MCG to media/public)
- Ordering incident de-mobilization and termination of the emergency

22.8 INCIDENT ACTION PLANS (IAP's)

Incident Commanders assist in the development, approval and implementation of Incident Action Plans. Each plan will cover one “operational period”, but not longer than 24 hours. The IAP may be verbal, or in written form and contain the following:

- ✓ Statement of Objectives
- ✓ Clear strategic direction
- ✓ Tactics to be employed
- ✓ List of resources employed
- ✓ Organizational structure or chart
- ✓ Safety guidelines

Command Staff may include a Safety Officer, Emergency Information Officer and a Liaison Officer. The Command Staff reports to and assists the Incident Commander.

22.9 SAFETY OFFICER

The *Safety Officer* reports directly to the Incident Commander and monitors safety conditions on-site and develops appropriate safety measures. While each person who is assigned a leadership role is responsible for the safety of personnel working under their leadership, the Safety Officer is tasked with creating systems and procedures related to the “overall” health and safety of all incident responders. The Occupational Health and Safety Act takes precedence over the Emergency Management Act therefore, the Safety Officer is bound to inform the Incident Commander of all safety issues arising as part of the response to the emergency. It is the duty of the Incident Commander to employ tactics to reduce or eliminate occupational hazards and exposures.

22.10 TRANSFERRING INCIDENT COMMAND

Although there is only one Incident Commander per incident, the function may transfer from one person/team to another or from one level to another. The transfer of Incident Command should be documented. This transfer may be triggered by:

- An expansion or evolution of the incident beyond the authority of the in-place person/team/level
- A contraction of the incident to within capabilities of another person/team or level
- On direction

A full briefing is required for all in-coming Incident Command Staff. Notification to all personnel is also required to establish that a change in command is taking place.

22.11 TERMINATING INCIDENT COMMAND

Command must remain in place until the incident is completely de-mobilized. Command should always be terminated by providing the necessary briefings and de-briefings. All reports should be completed, and the de-mobilization of all resources should be completed and verified.

The Incident Commander should report the termination of the emergency to:

- Head of Council
- Municipal Control Group
- All responding agencies and organizations

22.12 EOC's and INCIDENT COMMAND

Incident Command reports to the authority that appointed it. In municipally declared emergencies the Municipal Control Group is that authority. Incident support is dependent on having a facility with capabilities that enable senior officials to monitor the emergency and to communicate with Command. This is coordinated through an Emergency Operations Centre. There will still only be one Incident Commander per incident, however, large scale emergencies with multiple emergency sites may dictate the need for multiple Incident Commanders. All Incident Commanders may receive assistance from one or more EOCs as needed.

“Area Command” is an expansion of the incident command function, primarily designed to manage multiple incidents and multiple Incident Management Teams. It can be established whenever incidents are so close that oversight direction is required to avoid conflicts. Area Command's functions are to develop broad objectives for the impacted area and coordinate the development of individual incident objectives and set priorities for the use of critical resources allocated to the incidents assigned to that area.

23. Tele-Communications Plan

It is imperative that communications links are established and remain operational throughout the incident. The EOC must be able to communicate with all emergency sites, municipal operations and all response organizations involved. The CAO/Clerk-Treasurer, as EOC Manager, is responsible for establishing the Tele-Communications Plan and ensuring that a primary communications network is operational, and for providing a secondary method of communications should the primary system experience failure. If all communications fail, then messages will be delivered by the use of “runners” (individuals who will hand-deliver communications).

24. Emergency Information Plan

Upon implementation of the Municipal Emergency Response Plan, it will become necessary to coordinate the release of accurate information to the public and media regarding the emergency. The MCG may have to issue specific instructions to the public to ensure public safety including the following:

- ✓ Issuing specific watches, warnings, bulletins, orders, or specific instructions to follow in threatening situations.
- ✓ Ordering persons to evacuate or shelter-in-place.
- ✓ Warning of imminent danger, yet to occur (i.e., tornado warnings)
- ✓ Issuing boil water advisories, air quality advisories and health safety messages
- ✓ Other instructions, as critical situations demand

It will also be necessary to respond to, or re-direct, individual requests for information concerning the emergency, hold press conferences and liaise with the media and public via the *Emergency Information Plan*. Refer to Annex # 9 for details.

24.1 EMERGENCY INFORMATION CENTRES & STAFF

The *Emergency Information Centre* is located in the Emergency Operations Centre but separate from the Municipal Control Group. It is staffed by the *Emergency Information Officer* (EIO) who is specially trained in media relations. Emergency information staff members report to the EIO and assist him/her in the delivery of emergency information.

Emergency Information Staff may include:

1. Incident Commander:
The I.C., at the emergency site, is responsible for providing information in the early stages of an incident. All information from the site must be verified by I.C. before its release. Once the *Site Information Officer* (SIO) is on-scene, then the SIO assumes the duties of forwarding information from the scene.
2. Site Information Officer:
The SIO gathers, verifies and forwards accurate emergency information from the scene. Each emergency site may have its own Site Information Officer who reports to the Emergency Information Officer at the EOC.
3. Citizen Inquiry Supervisor:
The CIS responds to, and re-directs, inquiries from the public/media concerning individuals who have been affected by the emergency. The CIS supervises staff operating the switchboards and will develop public information and inquiry lines. The CIS forwards all such inquiries to the Emergency Information Officer for processing.

Major emergencies attract a large degree of media attention and a “media centre” may have to be established by the MCG. Radio, television and print mediums have different technical requirements and work to different broadcast deadlines, so it is important that media centres be established as soon as the need for media management becomes apparent. The Municipal website www.southalgonquin.ca and Facebook page will be used to convey information to the public via the internet. The Municipal Emergency Response Plan (and other emergency management information) is found under the “Emergency Services” section.

- ❖ Go to www.southalgonquin.ca . Click on Departments.
- ❖ Click on Fire & Emergency Services.
- ❖ Scroll down to Documents at the bottom of the page.
- ❖ Click on desired documents to view information.

24.2 MEDIA CENTRES

Media Centres should be capable of hosting formal press conferences and providing reporters with workstations and access to communications. Due to the influx of media at the emergency site, it may also become necessary to establish a Media Centre adjacent to the emergency site itself. This area, if established, will be authorized by the Incident Commander and will be staffed by the *Site Information Officer*. The SIO is responsible for the coordination and registration of all media at the emergency site, including arranging interviews with first responders and for arranging the media to have access to the emergency site, as approved by Incident Command.

As previously mentioned, the mayor will act as Municipal Spokesperson when dealing with the media. The mayor will approve press reports prior to their release. As a senior member of the *Emergency Information Team*, the CAO/Clerk-Treasurer may also assist the mayor with “corporate communications” and the delivery of emergency information, as appropriate.

24.3 SPOKESPERSONS FROM OUTSIDE AGENCIES

In complex emergencies several groups may release statements to the media and public. Releases often fall outside of municipal control and other agencies may hold their own press conferences. Where multiple jurisdictions are involved, it is recommended the municipality establish a *Joint Information Centre (JIC)*. This Centre provides a single location for the dissemination of emergency information to the public. Joint press conferences allow for multiple jurisdictions to provide information to the public in a consistent and controlled atmosphere.

The Emergency Information Officer would coordinate such activities and is responsible for monitoring all media reports and correcting any erroneous reports immediately.

25. Distribution List

The *Municipal Emergency Response Plan* is a generic, framework document which outlines the specific duties and responsibilities of municipal officials in an emergency. It outlines the necessary coordinated efforts to be taken to mitigate any type of community emergency. Copies of the emergency plan may be distributed to the following:

- ✓ General public, media, industry and business
- ✓ Emergency response organizations and social service agencies
- ✓ Municipal government officials
- ✓ Provincial government officials
- ✓ Local stakeholders, program partners, community groups and volunteer agencies
- ✓ Non-governments agencies (NGO's), faith-based groups
- ✓ Neighbouring communities
- ✓ Others, as requested.

According to guidelines issued by Emergency Management Ontario, copies of the plan should be numbered (for administrative purposes only) prior to distribution. An electronic copy of the Municipal Emergency Response Plan can be viewed at any time on South Algonquin's municipal website at www.southalgonquin.ca . A copy of the plan is also available for viewing at the Municipal Office, 7 Third Avenue, Whitney, Ontario during normal business hours.

The Community Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that a distribution list is maintained and reviewed annually and that all relevant agencies receive a copy of the plan.

26. Program Review

The Community Emergency Management Coordinator is responsible for ensuring that an annual review of the Municipal Emergency Response Plan is completed and that the Emergency Management Program Committee for the Township of South Algonquin conducts an annual program review and submits recommendations for program improvement, as required.

All Ontario municipal emergency management programs are subject to approval from the Office of the Fire Marshal & Emergency Management (OFMEM). Each municipality shall forward a completed program verification package to OFMEM prior to December 31st of each calendar year. Program verification forms must be signed off by the CEMC and the Head of Council.

27. Public Consultation

Public participation in the emergency management process is vital to its success. Volunteer opportunities are presently available on the Emergency Management Program Committee. Please contact the municipal office for more information.

For more information on the Emergency Management Program for the Township of South Algonquin, please direct all inquiries to:

Community Emergency Management Coordinator

Township of South Algonquin

P.O. Box 217, 7 Third Avenue

Whitney, Ontario.

K0J 2M0

613 – 637- 2650

28. Annexes & Supporting Plans

Risk-specific emergency plans, supporting documents and operating guidelines to the Municipal Emergency Response Plan are contained in *Annexes*. These Annexes are confidential and not for public view due to their sensitive nature and informational content. This supporting material may be used to assist in the mitigation of any emergency as needed. The Municipal Emergency Response Plan, and its supporting Annexes, are maintained by the CEMC and are in the EMO storage cabinet at the CEMC office at the Madawaska Works Depot # 24808 Highway 60. Annexes include the following:

- Annex 1 EM Contacts / MCG / EM Program Committee Contacts
- Annex 2 Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment
- Annex 3 Critical Infra-structure Identification
- Annex 4 Emergency Response Capabilities
- Annex 5 Tabletop Exercise and Gap Analysis / Annual Program Review
- Annex 6 Municipal By-Laws
- Annex 7 Mutual-aid Information
- Annex 8 Mutual Assistance Agreements/MOU's/MOA's
- Annex 9 Emergency Information Plan
- Annex 10 Public Education & Awareness Campaigns/ EP Week
- Annex 11 Community Safety & Well Being Plan
- Annex 12 Municipal Evacuation Guidelines
- Annex 13 Emergency Operations Centres (EOC's)
- Annex 14 Recovery Plans & Disaster Financial Assistance Programs
- Annex 15 Communication Systems / Information

28. Annexes & Supporting Plans

- Annex 16 Training Program
- Annex 17 Boards of Education / School Emergency Plans
- Annex 18 EMO Program Verification Requirements
- Annex 19 Emergency Planning for Seniors/Persons with Disabilities
- Annex 20 Municipal Emergency Management Resource Guide
- Annex 21 Emergency Shelter Services Program / Red Cross J.I.T. Agreement
- Annex 22 Pandemic & Influenza Planning
- Annex 23 Human Health Emergencies
- Annex 24 Provincial Emergency Response Plans
- Annex 25 Dam Failure & Flood Emergency Plans & Information
- Annex 26 Mass Casualty Response Guide
- Annex 27 Highway Emergencies, Plans & Information
- Annex 28 Power Outage Plans
- Annex 29 Wild-fire Response Information
- Annex 30 Hazardous Materials Response (HAZMAT)
- Annex 31 Severe Weather Emergencies & Climate Change
- Annex 32 Municipal Animal Care Emergency Plan
- Annex 33 Health & Safety / W.S.I.B. / Fire Safety Plans
- Annex 34 Enhanced Emergency 9-1-1 System Information

