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Written approval for this by-law was given by Mayoral Decision MDE-2026 04
Dated February 11, 2026

Bill No. 037

CITY OF HAMILTON

BY-LAW NO. 26-037

Being a By-law to Establish, Maintain and Operate Hamilton Fire Department and to Repeal By-Law 19-034:

WHEREAS section 5 of the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4 as amended, permits the council of a municipality to establish, maintain and operate a fire department for all or any part of the municipality;

AND WHEREAS section 8 (1) of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, R.S.O. 2001, c.25, as amended (the *Municipal Act, 2001*) provides that the powers of a municipality shall be interpreted broadly so as to confer broad authority to enable municipalities to govern their affairs as they consider appropriate and enhance their ability to respond to municipal issues;

AND WHEREAS section 9 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*, provides that a municipality has the capacity, rights, powers, and privileges of a natural person for the purpose of exercising its authority under the Act;

AND WHEREAS the City of Hamilton wishes to repeal By-law 19-034 and replace it with a new By-law setting out the roles and responsibilities of the City of Hamilton's Fire Department.

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the City of Hamilton enacts as follows:

1. DEFINITIONS

1.1 For the purposes of this By-law:

“Act” means the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c.4, as may be amended from time to time, and includes any successor legislation and any regulations made thereunder including the Ontario Fire Code;

“Acting Platoon Chief” means a Member designated by the Fire Chief or Deputy Fire Chief to supervise a particular Platoon in the Department in the absence of the regular Platoon Chief;

“Approved” means approved by Council;

“Authority Having Jurisdiction means the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM), who provides policy advice to the provincial government and monitors municipalities to ensure they meet their fire protection responsibilities, has the delegated authority to issue directives to all fire services in the province, and is the sole authority having jurisdiction for issuing firefighter certification in Ontario, testing to National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standards;

“Automatic Aid” means any agreement under which a municipality agrees to provide an initial response to fires, Rescues and emergencies that may occur in a part of another municipality where a fire department is capable of responding more quickly than any fire department situated in the other municipality; or a municipality agrees to provide a supplemental response to fires, Rescues and emergencies that may occur in a part of another municipality where a fire department in the municipality is capable of providing the quickest supplemental response to fires, Rescues and emergencies occurring in the part of another municipality;

“By-law” means this by-law, as amended from time to time;

“Chief Fire Official” means the Assistant to the Fire Marshal who is the Fire Chief or a Member or Members of the Fire Department appointed by the Fire Chief under the FPPA;

“Captain” means the person in command of a Company to which he or she is assigned and is responsible for the proper operation of that crew to the Platoon Chief;

“City” means the municipal corporation of the City of Hamilton or the geographic area of the City of Hamilton as the context requires;

“Collective Agreement” means an agreement pursuant to the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act*, entered into between the City of Hamilton and the trade unions representing Members;

“Community Risk Assessment” is a process that identifies and prioritize local risks, followed by the development of an integrated and strategic investment of resources to reduce their occurrence and impact;

“Company” or “Companies” means a complement of Fire Department personnel operating one or more pieces of apparatus or Equipment;

“Core Services” means the services described in Schedule “A” of this By-law;

“Council” means the council for the City of Hamilton;

“Deputy Fire Chief” means the person(s) appointed by Council to act in place of the Fire Chief in the Fire Chief’s absence, or in the case of a vacancy in the position of Fire Chief;

“Division” means a division of the Hamilton Fire Department as provided for in this By-law;

“Emergency Management Program” means a program developed under section 2.1 or 5.1 of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c.E.9;

“Equipment” means any apparatus, vehicles, tools, devices, or materials used by the Fire Department;

“Exterior Structural Firefighting” means fire suppression operations conducted from the exterior of a building or structure;

“Fire Chief” means the person appointed by Council pursuant to the Act and is ultimately responsible to Council for delivery of Fire Protection Services as defined in the Act;

“Fire Coordinator” means the person appointed by the Fire Marshal, under the authority of the Act to coordinate Mutual Aid for the municipality, or the person appointed by the Fire Marshal to act in the absence of the Fire Coordinator;

“Fire Department” means the City of Hamilton Fire Department, and includes the employees therein authorized to provide Fire Protection Services pursuant to the Act for the City, and reference to “Department” or “Departmental” shall have similar meaning;

“Fire Protection Services” includes:

- (a) fire suppression, fire prevention, and fire safety education,
- (b) mitigation and prevention of the risk created by the presence of unsafe levels of carbon monoxide and safety education related to the presence of those levels.
- (c) rescue and emergency services,
- (d) communication in respect of any matter described in (a) to (c),
- (e) training of persons involved in providing anything described in clauses(a) to (d),
- (f) the delivery of any service described in (a) to (e);

“Firefighter” means any person employed in, or appointed to, a fire department and assigned to undertake Fire Protection Services and includes a Volunteer Firefighter who responds in their community for a nominal pay structure;

“Interior Structural Firefighting” means the physical activity of fire suppression, Rescue, or both, inside of buildings and enclosed structures which are involved in a fire situation beyond the Incipient Stage;

“Incipient Stage Fire” or “Incipient Stage” means a fire which is in the initial or beginning stage and which can be controlled or extinguished by portable fire extinguishers, class II standpipe or small hose systems without the need for protective clothing or breathing apparatus;

“Mutual Aid” means the Province of Ontario Mutual Aid Plan, including the county, regional and district plans developed under the authority of the Act and the direction of the Fire Marshal to facilitate provisions of Fire Protection Services to the residents of the county, district, or region under a coordinated and cooperative provincial plan;

“Member” means any defined full-time and Volunteer Firefighter or employee of the Department;

“NFPA” means National Fire Protection Association. O. Reg 343/22 requires every fire department to certify all fire service personnel to the NFPA standard applicable to those performing roles involving Fire Protection Services, technical Rescue services, communications, fire prevention, public education, and training;

"Occupancy" or "Occupancies" means the use, or intended use, of a building, or part thereof for the shelter or support of persons, animals, or property;

"Officer" means a Member of the Department with the designation of Captain or a more senior position than Captain;

"Owner" means the registered owner of any property or building or any person, firm or corporation having care and control and/or possession of any property or building or any portion thereof, including a property manager, mortgagee in possession, receiver and manager, trustee, and trustee in bankruptcy;

"Platoon" means a complement of personnel operating one or more Companies and pieces of apparatus under the supervision of a Platoon Chief/Acting Platoon Chief;

"Platoon Chief" means a Member designated by the Fire Chief or the Deputy Fire Chief to supervise a particular Platoon in the Department;

"Rescue" means any life and/or property saving activity that is unrelated to fire suppression and/or fire prevention;

"Volunteer Firefighter" means a member who provides Fire Protection Services and who are paid on an on-call basis.

2. ESTABLISHMENT

- 2.1 A Department of the City, to be known as the Hamilton Fire Department, is hereby established and continued under this By-law and the head of the Department shall be known as the Fire Chief.

3. COMPOSITION

- 3.1 In addition to the Fire Chief, the Department personnel shall consist of at least two Deputy Fire Chiefs and such numbers of Officers and Members as from time to time may be deemed necessary by Council.

4. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- 4.1 The Fire Chief is responsible to Council for the proper administration and operation of the Department. The Fire Chief is under the general direction of Council, and:

- a) Shall develop and make available such written by-laws, operational guidelines, policies, general orders, mission statements and Departmental rules as may be necessary for the care and protection of the public, the Department, Department equipment and personnel, and for the efficient operation of the Department, provided that such policies, orders and rules do not conflict with the provisions of any by-laws of the City or other provincial or federal legislation;
 - b) Shall review periodically the policies and procedures of the Department and may establish an advisory committee consisting of such Members of the Department as may be determined from time to time to assist in these duties;
 - c) Shall annually review the Community Risk Assessment to ensure that the level of services being provided are reflective of the needs and circumstances of the community; and
 - d) Ensure recommendations regarding changes or enhancements to service delivery shall be provided to Council based on the inherent community risks and the measures identified that will mitigate these risks.
- 4.2 The Deputy Fire Chief(s) shall be the second ranking officer(s) of the Fire Department and shall be subject to and shall obey all orders of the Fire Chief and shall perform such duties as assigned by the Fire Chief and, in the absence or vacancy of the Fire Chief, shall have all the powers and shall perform all duties on behalf of the Fire Chief.
- 4.3 The Fire Chief and all other Officers of the Department shall protect and guard all property entrusted to their care and the Fire Chief, all Officers and all Members, insofar as lies in their power, shall take proper measures to protect all Members of the Fire Department from accident, injury or death as a result of duty.

5. DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

- 5.1 The Department shall be organized into Divisions such as determined by the Fire Chief on approval from Council.
- 5.2 The Fire Department shall be organized into Divisions such as:
- a) Administration;
 - b) Emergency Dispatch and Communications;
 - c) Fire Operations – Full-Time and Volunteer Firefighters;

- d) Fire Prevention;
 - e) Training;
 - f) Mechanical Maintenance and Stores, and
 - g) Emergency Management
- 5.3 The Fire Chief may re-organize or eliminate Divisions or establish Divisions or may do all or any of these things or any combination of them as may be required to ensure the proper administration and efficient operation of the Fire Department and the effective management of Fire Protection Services for the City with approval from Council.
- 5.4 Each Division of the Fire Department is the responsibility of the Fire Chief and is under the direction of the Fire Chief or an Officer designated by the Fire Chief.
- 5.5 Officers shall report to the Fire Chief on activities within the Division under their supervision and shall carry out all orders of the Fire Chief.
- 5.6 Where the Fire Chief designates a Member to act in place of an Officer in the Fire Department, such Member, when so acting, shall have all of the powers and shall perform all duties of the Officer replaced.

6. RESPONSIBILITIES AND AUTHORITY OF THE FIRE CHIEF

- 6.1 The Fire Chief shall be the head of the Fire Department and is ultimately responsible to Council for proper administration and operation of the Fire Department, including the delivery of Fire Protection Services, and shall have all the rights, powers and duties assigned to a Fire Chief under the Act and shall ensure compliance with the Act.
- 6.2 The Fire Chief, as the Chief Fire Official, shall be authorized to make such general orders, policies, procedures, rules and/or regulations and to take such other measures as the Fire Chief may consider necessary for the proper administration and efficient operation of the Fire Department and the effective management of Fire Protection Services for the City and for the prevention, control and extinguishment of fires, the protection of life and property, and the management of emergencies and, without restricting the generality of the foregoing:
- (a) For the care and protection of all property belonging to the Fire Department;

- (b) For arranging for the provision and allotment of strategic staffing and facilities, apparatus, Equipment, materials, services, and supplies for the Fire Department;
- (c) For the development and implementation of Automatic Aid, Mutual Aid and other fire protection and emergency service agreements within the City's borders and/or within the municipal borders of adjoining municipalities upon the approval of Council;
- (d) For determining and establishing the qualifications and criteria for employment or appointment, and the duties of, all Members of the Fire Department, including but not limited to the standards set out by the Authority Having Jurisdiction;
- (e) For the conduct and the discipline of Members of the Fire Department;
- (f) For preparing, and upon approval by Council, implementing and maintaining a Departmental fire service plan and program for the City;
- (g) For keeping an accurate record of all fires, Rescues, and emergencies responded to by the Fire Department and reporting of same to the Office of the Fire Marshal and any other entity as required by the Act;
- (h) For keeping such other records as may be required by Council, the City, and the Act;
- (i) For preparing and presenting an annual report of the Fire Department to Council;
- (j) For conducting and preparing a Community Risk Assessment at least every five years, and per O. Reg. 378/18, to use its Community Risk Assessment to inform decisions about the provision of Fire Protection Services;
- (k) For preparing and submitting to Council annual budget estimates for the Fire Department for its approval;
- (l) For exercising control over the budget Approved by Council for the Fire Department;
- (m) For adhering to and exercising the provisions and powers of the Act;
- (n) For enforcing this By-law, corporate and Department policies, guidelines, rules or regulations; and
- (o) For signing service agreements within Approved budget allocations under delegated authority.

6.3 The Fire Chief shall be empowered to authorize:

- (a) All necessary actions required to remove or reduce an immediate threat to life which may include the pulling down or demolition of any building or structure to prevent the spread of fire; and
 - (b) The recovery of expenses incurred by such necessary actions for the City in the manner provided through the Municipal Act, 2001 and the Act. Such expenses may include but are not limited to: retaining a private contractor, renting/leasing heavy and/or specialized equipment, and retaining specialized services.
- 6.4 The Fire Chief and the Deputy Fire Chief(s) are authorized to perform the duties of Provincial Mutual Aid Fire Coordinator and Provincial Mutual Aid Alternate Fire Co-ordinator for the City of Hamilton as required.

7. EMERGENCY RESPONSE OUTSIDE OF MUNICIPAL BOUNDARIES

- 7.1 The Fire Department shall not respond to calls with respect to a fire or emergency outside of the limits of the City except with respect to a fire or emergency:
- (a) That, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or designate, threatens property situated outside the City that is owned or occupied by the City;
 - (b) In a municipality with which an agreement has been entered into to provide Fire Protection Services;
 - (c) On property with respect to which an agreement has been entered into with any person or corporation to provide Fire Protection Services;
 - (d) In a municipality authorized to participate in Mutual Aid or any other similar reciprocal program; or
 - (e) On property beyond the City's municipal boundaries where the Fire Chief or designate determines that immediate action is necessary to preserve and protect life and/or property and the appropriate jurisdictional fire department is notified and/or assumes command.

8. LEVELS OF SERVICE

- 8.1 The Fire Department shall provide the Core Services specified in Schedule "A".
- 8.2 The City accepts no liability for delay or inability to supply the Core Services.

8.3 Nothing in this By-law will restrict the Fire Department from providing more than the Core Services. Any amendments to the Core Services will be Approved by Council.

9. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 9.1 Should a court of competent jurisdiction declare a part or whole of any provision of this By-law to be invalid or of no force and effect, then the particular provision or part thereof is deemed severable from this By-law, and it is the intention of Council that the remainder survive and be applied and enforced in accordance with its remaining terms to the extent possible under the law.
- 9.2 Schedule “A” attached to this By-law forms part of it.
- 9.3 The short title of this By-law shall be the “Hamilton Fire Department Establishing and Regulating Bylaw”.
- 9.4 By-law No. 19-034 is hereby repealed as of the day this By-law comes into force.
- 9.5 This By-law shall come into full force and effect on the day it is passed by Council.

PASSED and ENACTED this 11th day of February, 2026.

Andrea Horwath
Mayor

Matthew Trennum
City Clerk

Schedule “A”

Core Services Provided by the Hamilton Fire Department

Fire Prevention and Public Education

As required by the *Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997 (FPPA)*, the municipality must provide the minimum services listed below:

- a smoke and carbon monoxide alarm program with home escape planning,
- a fire safety education program,
- fire safety inspections upon complaint or request, and
- support the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and/or Police fire investigations.

Smoke/Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarm Program

The objective of the smoke/CO alarm program is to promote and enforce the installation and maintenance of working smoke alarms as per the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) in the municipality.

Activities to help achieve this goal include:

- providing advice and/or assistance on the installation of smoke/CO alarms,
 - distribution of pamphlets or other education material,
 - instruction to residents regarding smoke/CO alarms and escape planning,
 - inspection of residences to determine compliance with the smoke alarm provisions of the OFC, and
 - enforcement of the OFC in cases of non-compliance.

Public Education Programs

The Department will provide a variety of fire safety education programs for the residents and businesses in the City of Hamilton. Public education programs will be delivered in a variety of ways designed to meet the needs of the target groups as identified in the Community Risk Assessment.

Community Risk Assessment

The Department will conduct an annual review of the Community Risk Assessment to determine if there is a need for a revision of policies and practices to address changing circumstances.

Fire Code Inspections

It is the requirement by the FPPA and the Fire Prevention Policy of the Department to conduct or arrange for fire prevention/safety inspections of Occupancies in the following instances:

- vulnerable Occupancies,
- upon request,
- upon complaint, or
- through an annual inspection program to assess the occupant/Owner's compliance with the OFC.

Records of inspection, re-inspections, and inspection orders, or tickets issued, etc. will be maintained by the Fire Department. Follow-up on any outstanding violations will be made to obtain compliance or to undertake court action if required.

Fire Investigations

The Department shall arrange for investigations of fires in order to attempt to determine cause and origin and, where required, to request appropriate agencies to undertake such investigations.

Community Emergency Management Program

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E. 9, is the legislative framework under which the City's Emergency Management Program operates. It provides the program with compliance requirements that must be achieved each year These include:

1. Appointment of Emergency Management Program Coordinator
2. Emergency Management Program Committee
3. Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
4. Critical Infrastructure List
5. Municipal Emergency Plan
6. Municipal Emergency Control Group
7. Emergency Operations Centre
8. Emergency Information Officer
9. Public Education
10. Emergency Management Program Annual Review
11. Emergency Management Program By-law

The Emergency Management Program ensures the municipality remains compliant under the legislation and builds a comprehensive Emergency Management Program

utilizing benchmarking and guidelines from organizations such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA).

The Community Emergency Management Coordinator(s) (CEMC) takes a collaborative approach to emergency management, building strategic partnerships across the province in both the public and private sectors. They work with community organizations and partners that are responsible for critical infrastructure, essential services, and public safety. The City uses both an all-hazards and risk-based planning approach to emergency management and business continuity.

While the City's Emergency Management Plan is designed to protect the community from all hazards, it also continually assesses the potential of specific hazards that could impact the City to develop risk-based plans. It identifies key personnel, infrastructure, and critical services, and then develops specific training and exercises for each hazard and evaluates business impacts.

Emergency Response:

The Department will engage in and provide Interior and/or Exterior Structural Firefighting including internal rescue & fire suppression, and pre-hospital emergency medical response in accordance with the Fire Department's NFPA level of training, operational guidelines, Ministry of Labour Occupational Health & Safety Guidance Notes, Medical Directives, and industry best practices, including the following;

- a) Interior Search and Rescue – Shall be provided whenever possible and as appropriate in accordance with the following:
 - Service shall be provided to search for, and rescue endangered, trapped, or potentially trapped persons within the structure.
 - Service shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or most senior Officer in charge, all of the following are true:
 - A scene risk assessment has been completed, and the level of risk reasonably justifies entry into the structure;
 - Building integrity permits entry into the structure;
 - Sufficient trained Firefighter staffing are deployed on the fireground;
 - Reliable water supply with adequate flow can be sustained; and
 - Adequate fireground supervision and support is provided.

- b) Interior Fire Suppression (*Offensive Operations*) – Shall be provided whenever possible and as appropriate in accordance with the following:
- Service shall be provided to contain the fire and prevent further loss of property.
 - Service shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or most senior Officer in charge, all of the following are true:
 - A scene risk assessment has been completed, and level of risk reasonably justifies Firefighter entry into the structure;
 - Building integrity permits entry into the structure;
 - Sufficient trained firefighter staffing is deployed at the fireground;
 - Reliable water supply with adequate flow can be sustained;
 - Adequate fireground supervision and support is provided.
- c) Exterior Fire Suppression (*Defensive Operations*) - Shall be provided when possible and as appropriate in accordance with the following:
- Service shall be provided when, in the opinion of the Fire Chief or most senior Officer in charge, any or all of the following are true:
 - Service shall be provided when Interior Fire Suppression is not possible or appropriate;
 - There can be no expected Rescue component, or in the opinion of the most senior Officer in charge, it is reasonable to believe that no Rescue component is possible;
 - Service shall be provided to prevent fire spread to adjacent areas;
- d) Vehicle firefighting;
- e) Grass, brush, and wild-land firefighting;
- f) Emergency pre-hospital medical care, including:
- Service shall be provided in alignment with approved medical directives from Hamilton Fire Department Medical Director,
 - Tiered response service agreement protocols in force,
 - CPR, defibrillation protocols,

- Incident call determinants as per the agreed level of response that aligns with the Department level of training, and
- The administration of symptom relief drugs such as Epinephrine, Narcan and any other future symptom relief drug administration or enhancements and/or monitoring devices as may be implemented by a change / update to medical directives upon approval by the Hamilton Fire Department Medical Director.

Specialty Rescue and Response Levels

Commonly referred to as *Technical Rescue*, special rescue techniques, equipment, and training are required, based on identified needs and risks in the community. Implementation of training programs and standards, and requisite knowledge and experience provide the basis for the Fire Chief to designate the recommended response levels in this By-law.

Response levels for specialty rescue can be provided at the following tiers:

- “*Awareness Level*” This level represents the minimum qualification for Firefighters who respond to specialty rescue incidents. Awareness Level responders may not be used to identify specific hazards, use equipment, or support / participate in technical operations; however, they may participate in an indirect rescue support role.
- “*Operations Level*” This level of qualification enables Firefighters to respond to specialty rescue incidents and perform scene size-up, identify hazards, use equipment, and participate in direct rescue operations. The Operations level of qualification is a pre-requisite for Technician level certification.
- “*Technician Level*” This level of qualification permits Firefighters to respond to specialty rescue incidents and to participate in direct rescue operations as a technical advisor or member of a Technical Rescue Team. These personnel are qualified to conduct overall scene operations and plan/execute/oversee rescue site activities.

In accordance with industry-accepted practices, applicable legislative requirements, current regulations and/or standards as directed by Council, the Hamilton Fire Department shall maintain a team / teams of Firefighters who are capable of responding to:

- a) Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear incidents at the ***Awareness Level*** and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,

- b) Confined space incidents at the **Technician Level** and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- c) Elevator Rescue incidents to the current Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) guidelines and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- d) Hazardous Material leak/spill incidents at the **Technician Level** and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- e) High/Low angle rope rescue incidents at the **Technician Level** and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- f) Machinery Entrapment incidents according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- g) Surface and Flood Water/Ice Rescue incidents at the **Technician Level** and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines,
- h) Trench Rescue incidents at the **Awareness Level**, and according to applicable operating procedures and guidelines, and
- i) Vehicle collisions, rescues, and extrication incidents, at the **Technician Level** and according to operating procedures and guidelines.

Training & Skill Competency Development

The authority having jurisdiction in the province of Ontario relative to fire departments is the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM). The Office of the Fire Marshall has aligned its training and competency requirements with National Fire Protection Agency (NFPA) standards.

The Ontario government enacted O. Reg. 343/22: Firefighter Certification under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997. The Regulation sets out mandatory minimum certification standards for Fire Protection Services for firefighters in a municipality that align with the following National Fire Protection Standards:

- NFPA 1001 – Standard for Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1002 – Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1006 – Standard for Technical Rescue Personnel Professional Qualifications (includes: Automotive Extrication, Ice Rescue, Surface Water Rescue, Technical Rope Rescue)
- NFPA 1021 – Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1031 – Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner

- NFPA 1033 – Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator
- NFPA 1035 – Standard on Fire and Life Safety Educator, Public Information Officer, Youth Firesetter Intervention Specialist, and Youth Firesetter Program Manager Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1041 – Standard for Fire and Emergency Services Instructor Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1061- Standard for Public Safety Telecommunications Personnel Professional Qualifications
- NFPA 1072 – Standard for Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Emergency Response Personnel Professional Qualifications (includes Hazardous Materials Awareness, Operations and Technician level job proficiency requirements)
- NFPA 1521 - Standard for Fire Department Safety Officer Professional Qualifications

The Hamilton Fire Department will provide training, to an accepted standard, and ensure the continuous upgrading of knowledge and skill competency of all personnel in the latest techniques relevant to their area(s) of expertise and assignment within the Department.

A Training Program will be established and shall include:

- Training for all personnel that conforms to O. Reg. 343/22: Firefighter Certification under the Fire Protection and Prevention Act, 1997,
- Providing access to training facilities and delivering theory and hands on training to staff,
- Providing functional area training by delivering curriculum specific to operational and strategic needs,
- Providing program development services using trainer facilitators, coordinating core curriculum, and providing officer training and development,
- Compliance with the Occupational Health & Safety Act, R.S.O. 1990, c O.1 and applicable provincial legislation and regulations, and
- Implementation and alignment of program parameters with City of Hamilton Fire Department training policies.

Emergency Dispatch & Communications

The Hamilton Fire Department Communications Division provides a public service responsible for effective Next Generation 911 fire call handling and dispatching of required fire resources in order to mitigate emergencies and communicate with emergency responders and the public during an emergency call for assistance.

As a public safety answering point (PSAP) our Communications Division coordinates the response of fire protection resources, manages the flow of incident-related information to and from emergency responders and/or community agency resources while emphasizing the safety of the public and personnel.

Other responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Arranging and/or providing dispatch services from/for Next Generation 911 external partner agency to dispatch appropriate Fire Department resources,
- Liaising with other dispatch centres,
- Providing current municipal information to dispatch centres, including response protocols, mapping, local streets, property and water service information, road closures, and caution notes, and
- Monitoring internal dispatch centre performance and resolving service issues.

Mechanical Maintenance

The Hamilton Fire Department provides a maintenance program that ensures an appropriate quantity, quality, and reliable condition of apparatus (large and small vehicles) and Equipment are available to support the operations of the Fire Department to meet the needs of the community. These responsibilities include, but are not limited to the following:

- Maintaining Fire Department fleet and Equipment (both routine and emergency preventative maintenance and repair),
- Providing periodic inspection and testing programs,
- Maintaining, testing, and calibrating specialized equipment,
- Ensuring compliance with provincial regulations and/or industry and equipment manufacturer requirements,
- Providing annual apparatus pump capacity testing and certification,
- Developing specifications for new apparatus and Equipment, and
- Acceptance testing of new apparatus and Equipment.

Additionally, the Hamilton Fire Department Mechanical Maintenance Division provides preventive maintenance and emergency repair to Hamilton Paramedic Service fleet vehicles. The parameters of this service are quantified in a Service Level Agreement that is reviewed and modified at intervals.

For the purposes of this Establishing and Regulating By-Law, Schedule "A" may be subject to change as per city council approved service delivery levels.