

Fire Services Bylaw 5-2021 and Outdoor Fire Bylaw 4-2021**Report Purpose**

To provide Council with information in support of approving Fire Services Bylaw 5-2021 and corresponding Outdoor Fire Bylaw 4-2021 replacing existing Emergency Services Bylaw, 68-2000 and Stubble Burning Bylaw 50-2003.

Recommendation

THAT Bylaw 5-2021, the Fire Services Bylaw, be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw 5-2021 be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw 5-2021 be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw 5-2021 be given third reading.

THAT Bylaw 4-2021, the Outdoor Fire Bylaw, be given first reading.

THAT Bylaw 4-2021 be given second reading.

THAT Bylaw 4-2021 be considered for third reading.

THAT Bylaw 4-2021 be given third reading.

Our Prioritized Strategic Goals

Goal 8 - Foster an environment for safe communities

Report

The Emergency Services Bylaw 68-2000 was passed on September 12, 2000. Current practises have changed since the bylaw was implemented. An update to the bylaw is necessary to ensure Strathcona County stays current with the expectations of our residents, business owners and industrial partners. The Emergency Services Bylaw is being separated into two bylaws, the Fire Service Bylaw and the Outdoor Fire Bylaw.

The Fire Services Bylaw has been drafted to allow Strathcona County firefighters to provide fire prevention and fire services. Changes from the Emergency Services Bylaw include:

1. Removal of ambulance services requirements as Alberta Health Services is responsible for the provision of emergency medical services in Alberta. Strathcona County Emergency Services provides emergency medical services through a contract with Alberta Health Services.
2. Changes in reporting requirements. The Emergency Services bylaw required all dangerous goods releases to be reported to Strathcona County. The draft Fire Services bylaw requires reporting dangerous good releases to Strathcona County in conformance with national and provincial legislation. This alignment makes consistent reporting requirements for our industrial partners.
3. The draft Fire Services bylaw requires reporting of fire protection system inspections to Strathcona County to ensure systems are free of deficiencies and functioning properly. Consistent reporting of fire protection inspections required by the National Fire Code – Alberta Edition will increase the safety of our community and allow Emergency Services to complete fire inspections more efficiently.
4. Clarity on the actions that Emergency Services can take and offences that create an obstruction during an emergency event. This will enable Emergency Services to perform operations safely and efficiently.

The Outdoor Fire Bylaw has been drafted to establish rules governing burning and outdoor fires within Strathcona County. Changes from the Emergency Services Bylaw include:

1. Clarity on the types of material that can be burned in a burn barrel fire, fire pit, fireplace, solid fuel appliance, smudge fire, stubble burning fire, and clarity on the conditions related to allowed fires.
2. Clarity on who can declare a fire ban, the factors considered when declaring a fire ban and actions that can be taken when an individual builds, ignites or allows an outdoor fire during a fire ban.
3. Incorporate the Stubble Burning Bylaw into the Outdoor Fire Bylaw. This will improve efficiency as stubble burning will only require a fire permit versus a stubble burning permit and a fire permit under the existing Bylaw.

Emergency Services, together with Legislative and Legal Services have completed broad research of other municipal bylaws. The proposed bylaws have been drafted to ensure Strathcona County Emergency Services is operationally effective and outside fires are only permitted in a safe environment.

Other Impacts

Policy: N/A

Legislative/Legal: Section 7 of the Municipal Government Act permits Council to pass bylaws for municipal purposes in relation to the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property, and to create offences and impose fines and penalties.

Interdepartmental: Legislative and Legal Services, Enforcement Services

Master Plan/Framework: N/A

Enclosures

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| 1 | Bylaw 5-2021 Fire Services |
| 2 | Bylaw 4-2021 Outdoor Fire |
| 3 | Bylaw 68-2000 Emergency Services |
| 4 | Bylaw 50-2003 Stubble Burning |