



STAFF REPORT ACTION REQUIRED

Federal Training Opportunities for the City's Heavy Urban Search And Rescue (HUSAR) Team

Date:	April 9, 2010
To:	Community Development and Recreation
From:	Fire Chief and General Manager
Wards:	N/A
Reference Number:	p:\2010\ClusterB\FIR\cd1016\doc

SUMMARY

Toronto Fire Services has a Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team that can respond to large-scale structural collapse and other urban emergencies in an organized and timely way. Currently, the Province pays for equipment and training to respond to emergencies in Toronto and throughout Ontario, as needed. City Council has authorized an agreement for the deployment of the City's HUSAR team, outside of Toronto, on a full cost recovery basis by the Federal Government and Province. This report seeks authorization for the HUSAR team to participate in Federal training opportunities on a full cost recovery basis, resulting in increased training opportunities for the City's HUSAR team at no cost to the City.

Council's approval of the recommendations will ensure the HUSAR team will receive the training opportunities available to the Vancouver, Alberta, Manitoba and Halifax teams.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Fire Chief and General Manager recommends that:

1. City Council authorize the Fire Chief and General Manager to participate in Federal training opportunities provided in relation to heavy urban search and rescue, as described in this report.
2. City Council delegate authority to the Fire Chief and General Manager to negotiate and enter into any agreements, in a form which is satisfactory to the City Solicitor, as required for the Federal Department of Public Safety to provide reimbursement to the City for all costs associated with the City's participation in

Federal training opportunities related to heavy urban search and rescue, and that the Fire Chief be authorized to execute any required agreements or related documents on behalf of the City.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If there is an opportunity for training organized by the Federal Government for the HUSAR team, there will be no financial impact on Toronto Fire Services. The Federal Department of Public Safety will reimburse all costs of training the team for Federally-operated training exercises.

The Deputy City Manager and Chief Financial Officer has reviewed this report and agrees with the financial impact information.

DECISION HISTORY

In April 2002, Council approved an initial agreement with the Public Safety Division of the Ontario Ministry of the Solicitor General. The Ministry agreed to pay up to \$300,000 a year to set up, train, and equip a HUSAR team and keep them in a state of readiness. City Council renewed this agreement with the Province at its September 2006 meeting.

City Council on February 5, 6, 7, 2007, authorized an agreement with the Federal Government that will ensure full cost recovery when the Toronto HUSAR team deploys anywhere in Canada outside Toronto boundaries.

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COMMENTS

HUSAR is a multi-disciplinary team that specializes in saving lives and reducing the impact on property and the environment when there is an urban emergency, such as a building collapse or flooding from extreme weather. The HUSAR team enhances public safety in the Province of Ontario and the City of Toronto by ensuring that a competent, multi-disciplinary team is available on a province-wide basis to respond to large-scale or complex natural or humanly-caused heavy urban search and rescue emergencies in a planned, co-ordinated and timely manner. In addition, the team can be deployed when activated through Federal protocols to eliminate or reduce the impact of disasters on human lives, property and the environment.

The ongoing training of a HUSAR team is complex and necessary to assist the team to train for the most hazardous and extreme rescue missions. To assist with the complex training the Federal Government institutes training exercises at no cost to the city. The Toronto HUSAR team needs to participate in upcoming training events in the future to ensure the team is in a state of readiness to respond to disasters in Toronto, Ontario, Canada or in connection to an international deployment, if required.

The training opportunities for the Toronto HUSAR team through the Federal Government provide significant training exercises to equip the team with skills to respond to urban emergencies at no cost to the City.

CONTACT

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SIGNATURE

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