

## **Notification of Donation of Decommissioned Equipment to Province of Ontario for Humanitarian efforts in Türkiye**

**Date:** March 31, 2023

**To:** Economic and Community Development Committee

**From:** Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services

**Wards:** All

### **SUMMARY**

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This report seeks to notify City Council of the donation of end-of-life, decommissioned heavy urban search and rescue (HUSAR) equipment to the Province of Ontario. This decommissioned equipment was included as part of an emergency humanitarian effort, coordinated by the Province of Ontario on February 13, 2023 in response to the earthquakes in Türkiye and Syria.

Each of the items donated as part of this humanitarian effort were previously decommissioned and were no longer suitable for use by Toronto Fire Services (TFS).

This donation consisted of various decommissioned HUSAR equipment, including HUSAR tents and heaters, which had not yet been disposed of due to delays as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Province of Ontario engaged TFS on the evening of February 10, 2023 to seek any donations for a delivery scheduled to leave Canada 72 hours later. As a result of the challenges and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, TFS had yet to dispose of a stockpile of decommissioned HUSAR equipment via the normal disposition / disposal processes for these types of equipment. Accordingly, this stockpile of decommissioned HUSAR equipment was made available for emergency donation as part of Ontario's humanitarian donation effort.

Approval from the City Manager was obtained prior to proceeding with the donation of this decommissioned equipment.

TFS routinely receives requests for the donation of other expired equipment, including expired firefighting protective equipment, from various non-profit and humanitarian agencies and organizations, who operate within jurisdictions that are not subject to the equipment expiry guidelines which exist in Ontario.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

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The Fire Chief and General Manager, Toronto Fire Services recommend that:

1. City Council receive this report for information.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

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There are no financial implications associated with the approval of this report. All costs and liabilities associated with the donation of any end-of-life equipment were borne by the recipient of the donated gear.

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

## **DECISION HISTORY**

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City Council has not previously considered this item.

## **COMMENTS**

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On February 6, 2023 a catastrophic and destructive earthquake struck southern and central Türkiye and northern and western Syria, resulting in widespread structural collapse and thousands of injuries and fatalities.

On the evening of February 10, 2023, TFS was contacted by the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal, advising that an emergency shipment of goods was being coordinated by the Province of Ontario via the Turkish Consul General. The Province of Ontario requested that TFS provide any HUSAR related equipment, supplies and provisions that could form part of this emergency humanitarian effort. The Province of Ontario further advised that the deadline for including these items in the shipment of goods was in approximately 48 hours – on the evening of Sunday February 12, 2023.

As a result of the challenges and restrictions associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, TFS had been unable to proceed with the normal disposition / disposal processes for expired and decommissioned HUSAR equipment. Accordingly, TFS was maintaining a significant stockpile of expired / decommissioned HUSAR equipment that was able to be made available for emergency donation as part of Ontario's humanitarian donation effort.

On Monday February 13, 2023, a total of 9,335 kg of expired / decommissioned HUSAR equipment was packaged in 25 shipping containers and six pallets and was delivered to Pearson International Airport by TFS.

The following is a summary of the expired / decommissioned HUSAR equipment that was provided to the Province of Ontario for inclusion in the emergency humanitarian effort to Türkiye:

- Six (6) 20-foot HUSAR emergency shelter tents
- Seven (7) 35-foot HUSAR emergency shelter tents
- Twelve (12) heaters for HUSAR emergency shelter tents
- Eight (8) general purpose tents
- All associated parts and components for each tent
- One thousand, two hundred and ten (1,210) collapsible five-gallon water bottles
- Fifty-two (52) emergency shelter blankets
- Thirteen (13) emergency shelter mattresses

Each of these items had reached their serviceable life or was otherwise unsuitable for HUSAR use in Toronto and had therefore been decommissioned in advance. These items were being stored for disposition or disposal in accordance with normal processes at the time that the request for emergency assistance was made by the Province of Ontario.

## **CONTACT**

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## **SIGNATURE**

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Matthew Pegg  
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