

## Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

**April 15, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.**

Members' Lounge, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen St. W

Good afternoon.

All aspects of EOC operations continue on a 24/7 basis, to ensure that both critical and essential services are being provided without interruption.

Our personal protective equipment levels remain stable today, and our team continues to work hard to source the equipment that we need on a go-forward basis.

I would like to respond to a few operational questions that we have received.

Toronto Police are hearing concerns from some business owners who feel that their properties are potentially at risk of criminal activity, given the reduced public traffic and customer flow. In response to these concerns, our Police Officers across the city are engaging with communities, providing advice and education on how to take steps to protect businesses and property.

Additional Police patrols and enhanced Police visibility is also occurring in order to deter crime. The Toronto Police Service continues to adapt to the changes the pandemic has brought about, and is continuing to focus on being where the public needs them most.

As we all know, COVID-19 is placing extraordinary demands on many of our city staff – including our Paramedics.

When someone calls 9-1-1 during a medical emergency, during the COVID-19 situation, the Emergency Medical Dispatcher that you speak to will ask a number of important screening questions to assist in determining the potential presence of COVID-19. In order to provide the right help, it is extremely important that callers clearly and honestly communicate their symptoms to the dispatcher.

When Paramedics arrive, here are a few things to remember to help protect everyone's health and safety:

The arriving paramedics will conduct an initial assessment, from 2 metres away from the patient, in order to determine what specific personal protective equipment is required.

We ask that you do not approach the paramedics until they have had time to complete their screening.

Paramedics may ask the patient and/or others on scene to put on a mask, which they will provide. When this happens, it is done to protect both the patient and the Paramedics.

Please respect physical distancing at all times by staying back at least 2 metres from our Paramedics and other First Responders who are providing care to a patient.

Toronto Paramedic Services continues to respond to medical emergency calls as normal and is committed to providing the best possible care to the community.

If you will permit me to step back into the Fire Chief role for a few minutes, I would like to update you on two tragic fires that occurred since our last press conference.

At approximately 8:30 last night, Toronto Fire Services responded to a high-rise apartment fire on Rosehill Avenue in the Yonge and St. Clair area. Unfortunately, during the course of search and rescue operations on the 29th floor, one occupant was located. Sadly, we received word overnight that this individual died as a result of their injuries.

Further, shortly before 07:30 this morning, our crews also responded to a house fire on Taylor Drive in the Coxwell and O'Connor area of East York. During the course of search and rescue operations at this fire, one occupant was also located inside the home. Tragically, this occupant also died as a result of their injuries.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere condolences to the family, friends and all those impacted by these two tragic fires. As always, comprehensive investigations into the origin, cause and circumstances of both fires are underway, in collaboration with Toronto Police and the Ontario Office of the Fire Marshal.

As a city, we continue to provide the essential and critical services that our residents both need and rely on each and every day in Toronto. I am proud of every member of our City of Toronto team who continues to work hard in support of our residents each day.

Thank you.

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