

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 22, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

All aspects of EOC operations are continuing and our teams are doing an extraordinary job of ensuring that critical and essential city services are being provided without interruption.

Last evening, our crews responded to what escalated to a 3 alarm fire in a 35 storey residential high-rise condo building, located at 88 Sheppard Avenue East in North York.

This fire occurred as a result of a major electrical system failure in the building's electrical distribution room, located underground.

I am pleased to advise that our fire service crews successfully contained the fire, before it could spread, and that there were no reported injuries.

However, the building did suffer a complete loss of electrical power as a result. Our Emergency Operations Centre team was engaged overnight; alongside our fire, police, paramedic and TTC colleagues; providing both supports and planning in the event that a large-scale evacuation was required.

Fortunately, we were able to allow the residents to remain in their suites, with our teams conducting safety checks throughout the night.

I am pleased to report that, earlier this afternoon, power was restored within the building.

This is a great reminder that, despite our collective focus and attention on the response to, and recovery from COVID-19, our essential and critical services continue to operate around the clock and will be there when you need them.

I would like to both acknowledge and thank our staff for a job very well done last night, and for their collaborative efforts to keep our residents safe.

I would like to remind everyone that there will be a number of major road closures this weekend.

These closures will be in effect from Saturday, May 23 at 6 a.m. until Sunday, May 24 at 11 p.m.

The major road closures are as follows:

- The eastbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard will be closed from Windermere Avenue to Stadium Road.
- The eastbound Gardiner Expressway off ramp to Lake Shore Boulevard, which is exit #146, will also be closed.
- The eastbound lanes of Lake Shore Boulevard will be closed from Coxwell Avenue to Kew Beach Avenue, which is just south of Woodbine Avenue.
- Bayview Avenue will be closed from Mill Street to Rosedale Valley Road, and
- River Street will also be closed from Gerrard Street East to Bayview Avenue.

Those residents who plan to access these closed roads, for cycling or walking, should access these areas by bike or as a pedestrian since nearby parking is limited and no on-site parking is provided.

We know that Toronto is home to more than 2.9 million people and more than 230,000 dogs.

As the weather gets warmer and more people are active outdoors, here are some important reminders.

Dogs must remain on a leash, at all times when in public, unless they are in one of the City's 70 designated off-leash areas.

Dog off-leash areas, located in City parks, are enclosed areas where dogs can socialize and run free.

These areas are also designed to allow for proper-drainage, so that we can keep our parks looking their best.

Our City parks are shared spaces, and everyone needs to be responsible and respectful of each other.

Dog owners are responsible for their dog and for any injuries or damage caused by any dog in their care.

Our by-law enforcement officers are patrolling our parks and will be actively enforcing our by-laws when they encounter off leash dogs in non-designated areas.

The fine for having a dog off-leash, in a non-designated area, is \$365 per offence.

Finally, we are all saddened to confirm that we learned this week, that one of the fox pups at Woodbine beach was killed.

We believe that the fox pup may have been killed by an off-leash dog. The Toronto Wildlife Centre is engaged and an investigation is ongoing.

In order to continue to protect the family of foxes, living under the boardwalk at Woodbine Beach, our City staff have now installed higher fencing.

Both Municipal Law Enforcement officers and Toronto Police officers are continuing to patrol the area, and to educate residents about the need to keep away from the fox family, particularly at dawn and dusk when the foxes are most active.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry is also involved and will make decisions moving forward related to the safety of the foxes.

In closing, I remind everyone that toronto.ca/COVID-19 is the best source for up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

For more information on ActiveTO initiatives, including a detailed listing of upcoming road closures, we encourage you to visit toronto.ca/ActiveTO.

Thank you.