

Update on COVID-19

Chief Pegg, Fire Chief & General Manager of Emergency Management

May 04, 2020 at 3:45 p.m.

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

Good afternoon.

I would like to begin my remarks this afternoon by acknowledging that today is International Firefighters' day and that this week marks the beginning of Emergency Preparedness Week.

In my role as your Fire Chief and General Manager of Emergency Management, I have the privilege of witnessing the service of both our Firefighters and our emergency management professionals every day. Our Firefighters in Toronto respond to emergency incidents more than 300,000 times each year and fulfill our shared commitment to courage, compassion and service in all that they do.

Clearly, Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada this year, brings with it some additional visibility as we all work to manage the COVID-19 pandemic. Our EOC, operating under the leadership of our office of emergency management team, has been operating continuously for 55 days, in response to COVID-19.

I extend my sincere thanks for all that our fire service and emergency management professionals do each day. You make us all very proud.

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.

Our City crews were hard at work over the weekend, repairing more than 7,700 potholes on Saturday. This was the first of three pothole blitzes that are scheduled in the month of May. The next two are on May 9 and May 23.

I am also pleased to advise that our solid waste team will resume regular yard waste collection this week. By fully resuming this seasonal collection, the City is helping residents continue to stay home as much as possible, by enabling gardening and outdoor work.

The resumption of yard waste collection services also coincides with the reopening of garden centres. We are seeing increased levels of yard waste being put out for collection, during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of April 25, our solid waste crews have collected 11,000 tonnes of yard waste.

This is 3,100 tonnes more than what had been collected by this time last year.

Garbage and blue box material collection levels remain fairly stable.

Please put your yard waste out before 7 AM, on your regularly scheduled garbage/yard waste collection day.

If your yard waste is not picked up on the day it is put out, please leave it out until it's collected. There is no need to call 311 to report a missed collection.

Please use a yard waste bag if possible. Otherwise, a rigid, open-top container can be used. Brush and branches should be secured in bundles no longer than 1.2 metres (4 feet), no wider than 0.6 metres (2 feet) and no heavier than 20 kilograms (44 lbs).

As a reminder, as a result of COVID-19, the following Solid Waste Management Services continue to be impacted:

- Drop-off depots are closed to the general public;
- Toxic-taxi services and Household Hazardous Waste drop-off are suspended;
- Bin exchanges are suspended; and
- All community environment days scheduled in April, May and June have been cancelled.

The collection of garbage, recycling, organics, and of oversized and metal items has not been impacted and will continue as scheduled.

In closing, I remind everyone that [Toronto.ca/COVID-19](https://toronto.ca/COVID-19) is the best source for reliable and timely information on COVID-19 in Toronto.

Thank you.

END