

Fire Department Operations, Municipal Responsibilities, & Questions and Answers



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Fire Department Operations

Today we will discuss:

- Legislative requirements-
 - Why things have to be done
 - Municipal Act
 - Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act
 - Workplace Safety and Health Requirements
 - Employment Standards Requirements
- Operational requirements-
 - How things can be done
- Your Questions and Concerns



Legislative Requirements

- Municipal Act, Section 264
 - “every municipality must provide fire protection services...”
 - You do have options of how this is done.
 - You can charge for this service
 - You can contract this service out
- Municipal Act Section 265, 266, 267, 268 are all applicable as well.
 - Section 267 allows for charging for services
 - Section 268 allows for provision of other services such as rescue etc.



Legislative Requirements cont'd

- **Fires Prevention and Emergency Response Act and associated regulations**
 - **Local Assistants must;**
 - Investigate fires and call for help in certain situations
 - Conduct fire inspections on certain prescribed buildings
 - This act provides all the authority necessary to do this!
 - Report on form provided, all fires in their area (computerization)
 - **Municipality must;**
 - Adopt the Manitoba Fire Code in their Municipality
 - Ensure inspections are happening—can hire out this service
 - Provide info annually regarding services provided by their department



“Local Assistants”

23(1) The following persons are local assistants under this Act:

- a) The chief of the fire department of a local authority, or for a local authority that does not have a fire department;
 - i) The chief administrative officer, in the case of a municipality;
 - ii) The community administrative officer, in the case of an incorporated community established or continued under The Northern Affairs Act



“Local Assistants”

- i) The person designated by the minister responsible for the administration of The Northern Affairs Act, in the case of an area in Northern Manitoba that is not within the boundaries of an incorporated community;
- ii) The resident administrator, in the case of a local government district
- b) A person designated in writing as a local assistant by the fire commissioner



Responsibilities and authorities of Local Assistants

- Carry out specific provisions of the FPER Act.
 - Investigate fires
 - Conduct fire inspections
 - Notify Fire Commissioner of certain types of fires
 - Report on every fire in their jurisdiction
- All other authorities and responsibilities must come from local by-laws



Legislative Requirements cont'd

- Workplace Safety and Health Act and associated regulations;
 - Volunteer or Part time fire fighters are employees of municipalities
 - Employer is required to provide training and equipment necessary to do the job
 - Regulation requirement respecting team in-team out when conducting live fire operations or technical rescues



Legislative Requirements cont'd

- Employment Standards Legislation and associated regulations;
 - Employees eligible for call-out pay based on municipal policies



Operational Requirements

- Municipal support/involvement regarding what services the Fire Department will provide.
 - Firefighting, Various types of Rescue, EMS etc.
- By law governing Fire Department operations
- By Law authorizing participation in Mutual Aid
- Regular two-way communications
- Finance and Budgeting appropriate to service level
- Fire Department Policies and Operating Guidelines
- Fire Inspections being carried out as required



Fire Inspections - Why

Manitoba Fire Losses – 2002 – 2006

	#of Fires	Estimated Loss	Deaths	Injuries
2002	5,376	\$83.1 m	21	258
2003	6,188	93.5 m	12	252
2004	5,276	85.7 m	19	331
2005	5,300	115.7 m	18	388
2006	6,035	115.1 m	17	376
		<u>\$493.1 m</u>		



Fire Inspections

- Annually
 - Elderly persons housing units or hostels
 - Child Care Centers
 - Personal Care Homes
 - Residential Care facilities
 - Hospitals



Fire Inspections

- Once every three years;
 - Licensed premises
 - Public or private schools
 - Recreation centers, community centers, arenas
 - Hotels or motels
 - Restaurants located in a building with one or more dwelling units in the same building



Fire Inspections by the OFC

- Assists your local authority on conducting inspections
- All Government buildings
- Any other building not being inspected by your fire inspector



Fire Investigations by the OFC

- Where there is a death or injury
- Where the fire was a result of an explosion
- Where there is no doubt the fire is suspicious
- Where the local authority cannot find the cause
- Where the fire is of a significant loss to the municipality

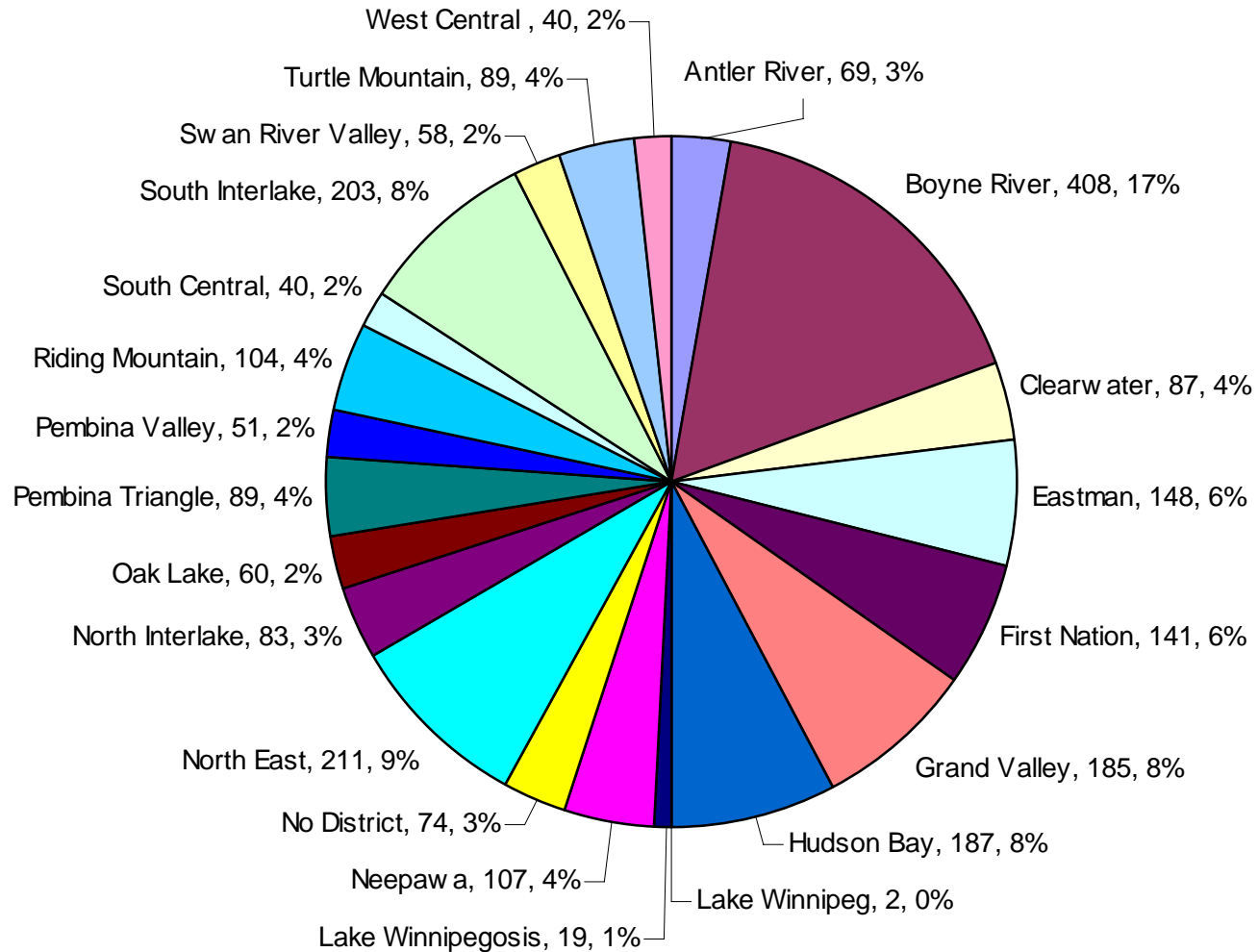


Pro-Active Approach to Suspicious Fires

- Allocation of resources to areas of the Province where there is need as a result of increased suspicious fires.



2007 Incendiary Fires by Mutual Aid Districts (2007 prelim)



Assisting Law Enforcement with homes used for drug operations

- OFC has a responsibility to provide assistance to the policing authority with respect to drug houses
- Includes doing inspections and writing orders under the FPER Act as well as the Buildings and Mobiles Homes Act during the raid
- Results in homes not becoming available for sale to unknowing citizens
- Reduces serious threat to firefighters who may be involved in a fire response to building



Training

- Training requirements should be linked to the services being provided in your municipality. Workplace Safety and Health Regulations require that the employer ensures the appropriate training is provided for their employees.
- All training for **Municipal** fire fighters is provided **tuition free** through the Manitoba Emergency Services College.
- Each Mutual Aid District is eligible this year for up to \$13,000. in training support. Of this amount, up to \$3000.00 can be used to offset travel costs associated with training.

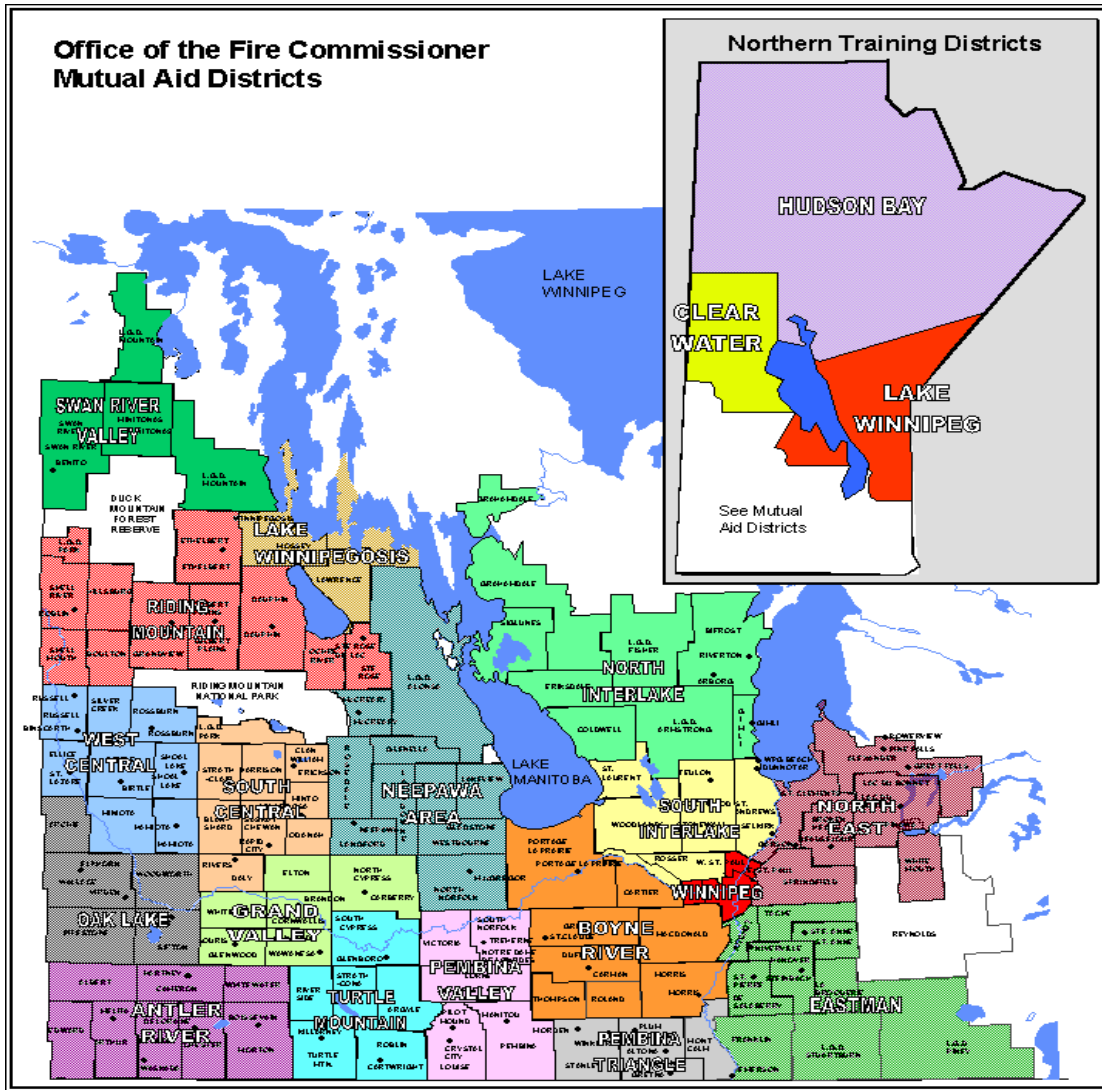


Mutual Aid

- A reciprocal no charge arrangement between municipalities through their Fire Departments to assist each other when incidents occur that are too large for their normal resources to handle.
- The OFC provides their support to the Mutual Aid District system through the training incentives as well as supply and maintenance of breathing air compressors.



**Office of the Fire Commissioner
Mutual Aid Districts**



Response to Emergencies

- Every municipality must have an Incident Management System in place for dealing with emergencies
- This system must not be inconsistent with that used by the OFC
- The Fire Commissioner has a responsibility to ensure that an effective system is in place and in use at all emergency sites.



Emergency Response System

- OFC, as well as many other response agencies use the Incident Command System of emergency management
- Currently, other systems can be used as long as the same important criteria is met.
- NPFA 1561 is the guide to follow



Emergency Response System

1. Have you designated an Incident Commander (IC), and if so, who and what Agency(s) have assumed command?
2. Have you implemented a Personnel Accountability System (PAS) and are ALL emergency responders accounted for?
3. Have you developed an Incident Action Plan (IAP) for the first operational period, and if so, what is your plan?
4. Have you initiated, or are you considering an evacuation? If so, how many and where will the reception centre be located?
5. Do you require any assistance from the OFC or any other Provincial department or Agency?



Questions?

