



Staff Report to Council - for Information

Title: Emergency Management in new Industrial Builds

From: Steve Schaus, Director/Chief, Paramedic Services

Date: June 19, 2025

Report Number: PAR-2025-005

Report Purpose:

This report is for information.

Report Summary:

Bruce County Emergency Management has an active role in reviewing and providing input into large-scale industrial infrastructure projects proposed in Bruce County. Projects where Emergency Management staff are currently involved include renewable energy and new nuclear projects. Emergency Management staff input is coordinated through the Community Development Office on these large-scale projects.

There are many smaller-scale projects that are subject to local municipal or provincial approvals where local municipal Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) may be engaged to provide input. As the Emergency Protection and Civil Protection Act does not provide a formal mechanism to provide input on new industrial projects, this engagement would typically occur under the *Planning Act*.

Background/Analysis:

At the March 20th 2025 Council Meeting, a question was brought forward as to whether there is a role for Emergency Management staff to have input, guidance or even some oversight into new industrial developments.

The *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* sets out the responsibilities for local and County level emergency management programs, as well as the powers and responsibilities of the province to plan for, prepare and act during an emergency. It sets out a framework for a program of work that municipalities must develop including:

- Develop an emergency management program
- Create and maintain an emergency plan
- Identify hazards and undertake risk assessments to prepare and respond to emergencies
- Appoint a community emergency management coordinator (CEMC)
- Establish an emergency management program committee
- Conduct annual training and exercises
- Provide public education

- Maintain an emergency operations centre (EOC)
- Report compliance to Emergency Management Ontario annually

The review, input or guidance for new industrial development does not fall within the roles or responsibilities of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* which lays out a municipality's requirements for an emergency management program; however, there may be value in having an emergency management perspective early in the process.

The hazard identification and risk assessment (HIRA) process has typically focused on existing potential hazards that exist across Bruce County. Emergency management programs within Bruce County have not typically had a formal role in reviewing new or expanding industrial uses as part of the HIRA process.

New projects are often subject to applications under the Planning Act, Building Code and Fire Code. Many projects are also subject to provincial approvals through the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA), and the Ministry of Environment as examples.

In several municipalities within Bruce County, the Fire Chief is also appointed as the Community Emergency Management Coordinator, and depending on the size, scale and nature of an industrial project, may be consulted through the Planning Act processes to provide input on a project from a Fire Code and in turn often offer an Emergency Management perspective.

For new developments where a Planning Act application is required, Bruce County's Planning and Development Department has a consultative process where local staff, including local and/or County Emergency Management staff can be engaged to seek their input on a project to address concerns and assist in shaping the project. Engaging local CEMCs or County Emergency Management staff on industrial projects can assist with the proactive assessment of hazards, risks and planning for community safety.

For large-scale projects, such as new renewable energy projects and new nuclear projects, the review and input of emergency management staff is critical to ensuring public safety, as well as establishing the role of both local municipalities and the County in an emergency.

Through the Community Development Office, Emergency Management staff are engaged in providing input on the Bruce C proposal through the formal Impact Assessment process and will work with Bruce Power to provide input on the Emergency Plan that will be prepared for this project. Emergency Management staff were also consulted on the Tara BESS project. County staff will continue to work to support local CEMCs in the review of any large-scale project.

Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT Considerations:

There are no Financial/Staffing/Legal/IT considerations associated with this report.

Interdepartmental Consultation:

Through the Emergency Management Program Committee (EMPC), all County departments are aware of this report. Community Development, Planning and Economic Development staff were consulted in the writing of this report.

Local Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) were also consulted in the preparation of this report.

Link to Strategic Goals and Objectives:

Community and Partnerships - Enhance and grow partnerships

Environment and Climate Change - Build capacity to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change

Link to Departmental Plan Goals and Objectives, if any:

Report Author:

Raymond Lux, Deputy Chief Paramedic Services / CEMC

Claire Dodds, Commissioner Community Development

Departmental Approval:

Steve Schaus, Director Paramedic Services

Approved for Submission:

Christine MacDonald, Chief Administrative Officer

Attachments:

None.