

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

From: Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department

Report Number: SF-24-42

Date of Report: October 16, 2024

Date of Meeting: October 21, 2024

Subject: Tanker Shuttle Certification - Fire Protection Survey Services

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to showcase the significant achievement of Oshawa Fire Services, and its mutual aid partners, in obtaining the accredited Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (STSA) certification. This prestigious recognition, awarded by the Fire Protection Survey Services, ensures the highest level of fire protection for suburban and rural areas, where municipal hydrant systems are not available.

2.0 Recommendation

That the Safety and Facilities Services Committee recommend to City Council:

That Report SF-24-42 dated October 16, 2024, concerning the Tanker Shuttle Certification provided by Fire Protection Survey Services be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Fire Protection Survey Services
- National Fire Protection Association (N.F.P.A.) 1142 Standard on Water Supplies for Suburban and Rural Fire Fighting

4.0 Analysis

Effective firefighting operations rely heavily on a sufficient water supply or alternative extinguishing agents to control and extinguish fires. In areas without access to municipal hydrant systems, firefighting becomes significantly more challenging, often leading to

greater property damage. Ensuring a steady and reliable water source is critical, particularly in rural and suburban areas where hydrants may not be available.

To address this, Oshawa Fire Services, in collaboration with its mutual aid partners; Whitby Fire and Emergency Services, Clarington Emergency and Fire Services, and Scugog Fire and Emergency Services recently participated in a water shuttle testing protocol under the Fire Protection Survey Services (FPSS). As a result, Fire Station 5 achieved the prestigious Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation (STSA) grade 7 with a water flow rate of 2400 litres per minute, the highest certification available for meeting the water supply benchmarks set by the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard 1142. This accreditation is regarded as an equivalent to having municipal hydrant protection, ensuring that even non-hydrant areas can benefit from the same level of firefighting capabilities.

A key factor in achieving this certification was the recent addition of a new tandem axle, 13,600-litre water tanker to Oshawa Fire Services fleet. This tanker shuttle allows the fire service to deliver and maintain a minimum water flow rate of 1,900 litres per minute within just five minutes of arriving on scene. With this enhancement, Oshawa Fire Services has also earned accreditation for Commercial Line insurance grade, representing the highest level of certification for firefighting water supply.

For property owners to benefit from this recognition in terms of fire insurance grading, their properties must meet the following criteria:

- **Commercial Lines:** Properties must be within 5 km of a fire station and 2.5 km of an approved water supply point.
- **Residential Lines:** Properties must be within 8 km of a fire station and 5 km of an approved water supply point.

Property owners in communities with the Superior Tanker Shuttle Accreditation may realize improved property insurance rates, similar to those available in areas with municipal hydrant systems. While the Fire Protection Survey Services does not directly set insurance rates, Oshawa Fire Services rural water supply grade is widely used by insurers across the country to determine premiums.

To ensure rural and suburban residents are aware of this important accreditation, the City of Oshawa will publish the certification on its website. This accreditation remains valid for five years and will play a significant role in enhancing firefighting capabilities and potentially reducing insurance costs for eligible property owners.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this Report.

6.0 Relationship to the Oshawa Strategic Plan

This report responds to the Oshawa Strategic Plan Priority Area “Care: Safe and Sustainable Environment” with the goal to enhance emergency preparedness and response, including preparing for potential climate emergencies and significant weather events.



Stephen Barkwell, Fire Chief,
Fire Services



Adam Grant, Commissioner,
Safety and Facilities Services Department