

To: Safety and Facilities Services Committee

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

Report Number: SF-24-50

Date of Report: December 4, 2024

Date of Meeting: December 9, 2024

Subject: Community Risk Assessment Update

Ward: All Wards

File: 03-05

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of this Report is to provide an overview of the identified risks from the Community Risk Assessment and the recommended treatment options categorized within the Five E's framework:

- Education
- Enforcement
- Engineering
- Economic Incentives
- Emergency Response

These findings provide valuable insights for planning fire protection services. They will serve as a foundation for updating the Community Risk Reduction Plan, ensuring alignment with the requirements of O.Reg. 378/18.

2.0 Recommendation

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

That Report SF-24-50 dated December 4, 2024, concerning Community Risk Assessment Update be received for information.

3.0 Input From Other Sources

- Tayport Limited

4.0 Analysis

4.1 Background

The Community Risk Assessment (CRA) was first initiated in 2020 and subsequently updated in 2022 and 2024 by Tayport Limited to support informed decision making regarding the provisions of fire protection services. The City of Oshawa is committed to complying with O.Reg. 378/18 through annual reviews of the CRA and updates as necessary, with a formal update at least every five years.

The findings from the CRA provide critical insights into risks across geographic, structural, and demographic profiles within Oshawa. The recommended treatment options range from Avoid, Mitigate, Accept or Transfer and are categorized using the Five E's framework.

4.2 Identified Risks

Geographic Risks

- **Traffic Congestion:** Moderate risk of delayed emergency response due to increasing congestion on Oshawa's road network.
- **Motor Vehicle Incidents:** High risk, with 17.3% of historical responses attributed to such incidents.
- **Waterways:** Moderate risk related to the need for specialized ice and water rescues.
- **Port Activities:** Special consideration due to dangerous goods transportation risks.

The treatment for traffic congestion and motor vehicle incidents involves acceptance, with emphasis placed on ensuring robust emergency response capabilities to mitigate the impact of delays. For waterways, a combination of mitigation and acceptance is recommended, supported by public education initiatives and the enhancement of emergency response protocols to address ice and water rescue needs. Activities at the Port of Oshawa, given their complexity, require both mitigation and acceptance through a multifaceted approach involving all Five E's—education, enforcement, engineering, economic incentives, and emergency response.

Building Stock Risks

- **Residential Occupancies:** High risk, representing 92.28% of property stock and associated with 84.8% of structure fires.
- **Older Housing Stock:** High risk, with 58.58% built before modern fire codes.
- **High-Rise Buildings:** High risk, with 52 buildings over 18 meters tall.
- **Large Commercial/Industrial Buildings:** High risk, with 92 buildings exceeding 50,000 square feet.
- **Vulnerable Occupancies:** High risk, with 34 registered vulnerable facilities.

For residential occupancies, older housing stock, and high-rise buildings, treatment focuses on mitigation and acceptance by incorporating public education, enforcement of fire safety regulations, and improvements in emergency response protocols. Large

commercial and industrial buildings also require mitigation and acceptance, using a combination of engineering solutions and enforcement measures alongside public education to address the unique risks. Vulnerable occupancies necessitate a comprehensive approach involving all Five E's to ensure heightened safety measures and preparedness.

Critical Infrastructure Risks

- **Oshawa Executive Airport:** Special consideration due to unique fire risks associated with aircraft, infrastructure, and hazardous materials.

Treatment for the Oshawa Executive Airport involves mitigation and acceptance, with a particular focus on engineering solutions to enhance fire safety infrastructure. Enforcement of safety regulations and robust emergency response measures are also essential to address the complex risks posed by the airport's operations.

Demographic and Event History Risks

- **Seniors:** High risk due to their vulnerability to fire incidents; seniors account for 16.7% of the population.
- **Incident Concentrations:** High risk in downtown areas near Fire Station 1, with frequent medical/resuscitator, false fire, and fire/explosion incidents.

The treatment for risks associated with seniors involves mitigation and acceptance through targeted public education programs, enforcement of fire safety regulations, and emergency response enhancements tailored to the needs of this vulnerable group. For incident concentrations in downtown areas, a combination of public education, enforcement, engineering measures, and emergency response improvements is recommended to address the high volume and variety of incidents effectively.

The Community Risk Assessment findings will serve as a critical foundation for the development of the City of Oshawa's Community Risk Reduction Plan. The plan will incorporate these findings into actionable strategies, ensuring continued compliance with regulatory requirements and the enhancement of community safety.

5.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications related to 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.



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