July 11, 2018

Your Request for Access to Information under Part 2 of
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act
Our File No.: 18 05 457

On May 10, 2018, the City of Winnipeg received your request for access to the following records:

Please provide documentation/copies of any correspondence from Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service Deputy Chief Tom Wallace that discusses brush fires/wildfires from Friday May 4 to Wednesday May 9.

On June 8, 2018 we notified you that the 30 day period for responding to your request was extended for an additional 30 days in order to consult with a third party pursuant to s. 15(1)(c) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA).

I am pleased to inform you that your request has been granted in part. The records on the enclosed DVD have been severed under the following provisions of FIPPA:

Disclosure harmful to a third party’s privacy
17(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant if the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party’s privacy.

Determining unreasonable invasion of privacy
17(3) In determining under subsection (1) whether a disclosure of personal information not described in subsection (2) would unreasonably invade a third party’s privacy, the head of a public body shall consider all the relevant circumstances including, but not limited to, whether (e) the personal information has been provided, explicitly or implicitly, in confidence.
(i) the disclosure would be inconsistent with the purpose for which the personal information was obtained.

Subsection 17(1) is a general mandatory exception that protects the personal information of third parties (third parties are considered to be neither yourself as the applicant or city employees in their employment responsibilities). This general clause is used in conjunction with clause 17(3)(e), which is applied to information that was provided, explicitly or implicitly, in confidence, and clause 17(3)(i), which is applied to information that was not collected with the intent of disclosing it publicly.

As required by section 7(2) of the Act, we have severed information that is excepted from disclosure and have provided you with as much information as possible.

Subsection 59(1) of The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act provides that you may make a complaint to the Manitoba Ombudsman about the City’s response to your request. You have 60 days from the receipt of this letter to make a complaint on the prescribed form to:

Manitoba Ombudsman
750 – 500 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1
(204) 982-9130

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 204-986-8397.

Yours truly,

[Signature]

André Bérard,
Assistant Chief of Service Quality

AB/mw

Enclosure
Good evening,

Incident updates:

Crews are putting out hotspots at this location. They are located at the end of Devonshire. Crews utilized handlines, ATV and portable water packs to extinguish the fires. The rail line is CP and we received reports that there were delays in shutting down the rail line activity. Crews are monitoring this situation. Winnipeg police were also on scene ahead of fire crews at one location and were able to extinguish some hotspots with shovels. No properties were threatened with this incident. Some crews are now being returned to quarters. AIR 1 is being utilized to rule out additional hotspots.

College Ave.

This fire is reported as being knocked down. Crews are conducting overhaul.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-2500
Mobile: 204-806-7695
Email: twallace@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 2nd Floor, 185 King Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1J1

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This incident is under control. Crews are dealing with some deep seated heat in a forested area. In speaking with dispatch some of the businesses were evacuated as a precaution. No reports of damage to structures. No injuries.

Good evening,

Crews are on scene of a grass fire at Day St./Gunn Rd. No level of activation indicated, but looks like level III based on apparatus assigned. AIR 1 on scene. Command post on Gunn and Day. No BIR provided at this point. 2485 Day St. is the address of the business that the grassfire is burning up against (Plasti-fab), right across from Griffin Industries. Crews are in offensive mode.

Tom Wallace  
Deputy Chief  
Fire Paramedic Service  
City of Winnipeg  
Phone: 204-986-2500  
Mobile: 204-806-7695  
Email: twallace@winnipeg.ca  
Website: winnipeg.ca  
Address: 2nd Floor, 185 King Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1J1

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This fire has been declared under control.

Good evening,

Crews are on scene of a fire at this location where a number of large pallets have been placed against a fence and are on fire. This was originally reported as a grass fire, but this does not seem to be the case. Crews are in offensive mode.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-2500
Mobile: 204-806-7695
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Good morning,

Crews have this incident under control. No damage to structures. One FF with eye injury as a result of hitting tree branch while walking through the dark. Currently being assessed by a paramedic crew.

Crews returning to quarters.

Hi Chief Schmidt & Chief Wallace,

There is another wildland fire @ the bio-reserve same as we had last night, it’s on TC5. If you require any more information please give me a call.

Shawna Terletski
CCSS Platoon 2
WFPS, Communications
Phone: 204 986-6336
Email: sterletski@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 700 Assininboine Park Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N9

Connect with us:  

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Good evening,

IC at this incident has declared this incident under control. Most apparatus being returned to quarters. Remaining crews managing hotspots and ensuring extinguishment.

No evacuations, no property damage, no injuries.

Good afternoon,

Crews currently on scene for a Level III wildland fire at this location. Offensive operations in play using booster tanks. Tanker 23 is on scene.

Updates as available.
Good afternoon,

Crews are currently on scene of a grassfire in the area of Ft. Gibraltar in St. Boniface. Most of the hot spots have been extinguished. Apparatus are cycling through with full tanks of water to ensure sufficient supply to ensure fire is kept under control. At the fire is on both sides of the rail line, WFPS Communications has contacted CN to suspend any rail traffic to allow crews to stretch hoselines across the track.

Will advise when incident is closed.

Tom Wallace  
Deputy Chief  
Fire Paramedic Service  
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-2500  
Mobile: 204-806-7695  
Email: twallace@winnipeg.ca  
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From: Wallace, Tom  
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 6:59 AM  
To: Schmidt, Christian  
Cc: Holowczynsky, Ihor; Sneath, Ryan; Shaw, Jason; Drohomereski, Russ  
Subject: Re: WUI fire situation and strategy

Sounds good

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2018, at 6:51 AM, Schmidt, Christian <ChristianSchmidt@winnipeg.ca> wrote:

Let’s start with coffee in the boardroom at 08:30 for those who are in the office at that time. Ihor will be back at the end of the day so it would be a good idea to close out the day with a re-cap session.

Some good thoughts below as well as in Jay’s message from yesterday afternoon.

Christian Schmidt | Deputy Chief  
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service  
Office: 204-986-4077 | Cell: 204-226-2230

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On May 6, 2018, at 23:58, Wallace, Tom <twallace@winnipeg.ca> wrote:

Good evening,

Given the current conditions and WUI fire activity over the past two weeks I propose that we find time to meet tomorrow to discuss options for mitigating the risk, and explore potential scenarios. This would be not limited to the following;

-additional equipment purchase  
-pre-planning for Assiniboine park and other high risk/high value areas  
-staffing  
-training  
-emergency measures by council

Looking at calendars all are busy, but I think this is sufficiently important to take priority.

I’m open to suggestions.

I will be in at 0800h tomorrow and will likely be addressing the media at 1000h. I can reschedule anything else.

<image001.jpg>  
Tom Wallace  
Deputy Chief  
Fire Paramedic Service
From: Wallace, Tom  
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2018 12:53 PM  
To: Schmidt, Christian; Lane, John  
Cc: Holowczynsky, Ihor  
Subject: RE: Request for assistance from Station 26

At the PIA last night the Capt. at Station 26 indicated that dispatch had been pressuring them to go back into service following wildland events. He conveyed this to P1 who committed to sending addition crews for rehab and preparing equipment for service.

I can’t see Alex’s note, but if you run the Fire utilization plot for last night, while there were two brief WUI incidents early in the evening, most crews were in quarters for the duration of the night after midnight.

I think something is getting lost in translation. There was a lot of discussion at the PIA that we can unpack next week.

I will speak with dispatch early tonight to look at some strategies in the event things are busy tonight.

From: Schmidt, Christian  
Sent: Saturday, May 5, 2018 12:41 PM  
To: Lane, John; Wallace, Tom  
Cc: Holowczynsky, Ihor  
Subject: Re: Request for assistance from Station 26

I’ve spoken with Tom Wallace in regards to this and he will monitor through the weekend assist with getting the message through to the PCs as appropriate as events occur through the weekend.

We will follow-up further on this next week. Based on some of the issues that have arisen this past week there are going to be some meetings at HQ.

Christian Schmidt | Deputy Chief  
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service  
Office: 204-986-4077 | Cell: 204-226-2230

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reply to the message and then delete and destroy any copies of it.**

On May 5, 2018, at 11:59, Lane, John <JLane@winnipeg.ca> wrote:

Christian & Ihor,

I received this note from Alex this morning.

Chief. The crews are going full guns on the grass fires and especially 26 station. All 4 captains said they need help from other crews after the wild land event in rehab and cleaning up and packaging. Can you pass this on to the Platoon Chiefs that 26 station alone should not be doing all the cleanup and such as they also need to rehab. They are going out fighting the grass fire and returning to station for a couple hours of clean up and repackaging and then they are called out. They are pretty exhausted but hope they can get machines from other stations to help in between Wild land events.

John A. Lane, BSc, PBDM
Chief
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service
Scott,

Can you make it to HQ?

Chief
Tuesday at 15:00 is good on my end.
I will bring Richard.
We will see you at your office tomorrow unless we hear otherwise?
Thanks
Scott

Scott Wilkinson
Senior Academy Officer
Training Academy
Fire Department/Fire Paramedic Service
P: 204-986-8294
M: 204-795-7117

The sooner the better, how is Tuesday at 1500h? or Wednesday at 0830?

Chiefs
We will certainly get this information but prior to moving on this I would recommend a meeting to discuss this equipment and our tactical plan for wildland fires.
This equipment might not be the answer to current issues and we will need to understand where they would be deployed and how/when they should be utilized within a good tactical plan. Richard has indicated concern with uneducated use of these in the wrong settings without other appropriate resources and understanding. I would suggest a meeting that would include Richard as well to consolidate the training and equipment approach for wildland before moving too quickly on equipment purchasing. For your consideration.

Thanks
Scott

**Scott Wilkinson**  
Senior Academy Officer  
Training Academy  
Fire Department/Fire Paramedic Service  
P: 204-986-8294  
M: 204-795-7117

---

**From:** Hunter, Jonathan  
**Sent:** Monday, May 7, 2018 2:21 PM  
**To:** Wallace, Tom  
**Cc:** Drohomereski, Russ; Enders, Brad; Wilkinson, Scott  
**Subject:** RE: Additional Wildland info

Hi Chief,

We will have someone get the model # for you asap.

---

**Jonathan Hunter**  
Academy Director  
Winnipeg Fire Department, Winnipeg Fire & Paramedic Service  
City of Winnipeg  
Mobile: 204-232-0291  
Email: jonathanhunter@winnipeg.ca  
Website: winnipeg.ca  
Address: 2546 McPhillips St., Winnipeg, MB R2P 2T2

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Jon,

I have an additional ask of Richard Thomas. Could he identify what Stihl blower model no. we use. Please share this with EMSB, I would like them to get quotes on an additional 12 of these units at this time. We will look at deployment once we get through procurement.

Thank you.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg
Phone: 204-986-2500
Mobile: 204-806-7695
Email: twallace@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 2nd Floor, 185 King Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1J1

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Our A/Chief of Emergency Management has a request to meet in with CN and we are waiting to hear back. Please feel free to pass my contact information to Kate if this would expedite the meeting.

Thank you.

Can we advance the time for communications with the rail line? I'm in comms with Kate Fenske from CN

Good morning Councillor Allard,

I was on scene for many of these incidents yesterday. The train in question was halted in Oakbluff to assess for any mechanical concerns s/a a fixed brake. We spoke with CN operations staff at the scene yesterday and will be touching base later this week to discuss options s/a slowing w/o braking as they approach the city, and any other measures to mitigate this risk.

Thank you.

Hi Councillor,

Unfortunately I am out of town at the moment. I have copied your question along to Deputy Chief Tom Wallace who is currently on call. We are actively
trying to limit other sources of ignition through the fire ban.

I'm glad to hear of the positive outcome of the Gabrielle Roy Place incident.

John

From: Allard, Matt
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 9:22 AM
To: Lane, John
Subject: Fwd: Brush fires

Hi Chief, would you please advise? The neighbours are saying sparks for the wheels from the trains are causing these fires. Is there anything other than responding the city can do?

-------- Forwarded Message --------
Subject: Brush fires
Date: Mon, 7 May 2018 01:58:08 +0000
From: mattallard@winnipeg.ca <mattallard@winnipeg.ca>

Hi Matt,

I'm sure you heard there were brush fires behind Gabrielle Roy Place houses between the train tracks today. I wanted to share with you that the firefighters that attended the scene were very efficient and courteous. With the warm and dry wearing not seeming to let up I am wondering what kind of precautions CN or the city is taking to ensure no more fires occur near the train tracks. We are lucky this happened on a Sunday when folks were outside in their back yards and noticed the smoke.

Hope you had a good weekend with your family.

Merci

Sent from my iPhone
Looks good.

From: Driedger, David  
To: City-MediaInquiry 
Cc: Wiltshire, Felicia; Wallace, Tom; Reshaur, Mark; Lane, John  
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 11:36 AM 
Subject: RE: City of Winnipeg News Release - Wildland fire update

The recommended tweet is good.

And if you could program a couple of these a day until further notice, it would be greatly appreciated.

"WFPS reminds residents that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve."

Thanks,

David Driedger  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
P: 204.986.6976  
M: 204-612-8837

Are you wanting social for this? Or waiting until the emerg prep NR goes out? If not okay with this for social?:

“Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents this past weekend. For more information: http://ow.ly/fFpb30jSauH “

Thanks,

Corporate Communications  
Corporate Communications  
P: 204-986-6000

Dawn Hoover  
Corporate Web Services Specialist  
Corporate Support Services  
M: 204-390-2404

http://winnipeg.ca/cao/media/news/nr_2018/nr_20180507.stm#1
Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents this past weekend, including:

**Charleswood Road**
At approximately 20:07 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews responded to a report of two fires southwest of Charleswood Road. The first crew arrived to find multiple spot fires, including one in a farmer’s field nearby. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, no evacuations required. The cause is under investigation.

**1500 block of Regent Avenue West**
At approximately 23:15 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews and Winnipeg Police responded to a report of a small brush fire at the rear of businesses in the 1500 block of Regent Avenue West. Two adult males were located in the field suffering from significant burns. The two males were transported to hospital; however, both succumbed to their injuries. The Winnipeg Police Service (WPS) is investigating.

**70 Block of Promenade Des Intrepides**
At approximately 14:59 on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the area of Fort Gibraltar in St. Boniface. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, no evacuations required, and the cause is under investigation.

**Wilkes Avenue**
At approximately 15:09 on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a large grass fire along the rail line on Wilkes Avenue, which extended from Kenaston Boulevard to the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported. Several hydro poles, a fence and building materials were damaged. No damage estimate is available. The cause is under investigation.

**2000 Block of Hoka Street**
At approximately 22:45 on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of the Transcona Bioreserve. Crews aided Winnipeg Police General Patrol Members, as well as Winnipeg Police’s Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. No injuries reported, no evacuations required, no damage to structures, and the cause is under investigation.
Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

WFPS and WPS encourage all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911. Do not approach active fire incidents – it is dangerous to do so, and you put yourself at great risk as conditions can rapidly change.

-30-

Media inquiries should be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at 204-986-6000 or via email at City-MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.

Follow us on Facebook: facebook.com/cityofwinnipeg

Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/cityofwinnipeg
Thanks Kalen,

I don’t believe an investigation was opened for the Dugald fire. I’ve included our FI Coordinator for his comments. The rest of the statement is accurate.

Tom

Received this lengthy request from CTV searching for more updates on wildfires. Sifting through her questions here, I’ve pulled together a proposed response based on your earlier feedback and comments from Mark Reshaur on Friday.

Wondering if we can add anything about our investigation into the Dugald fire? That investigation ongoing?

For the reporter:

Conditions remain extremely dry for the City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services continue to advise Winnipeg residents to abstain from having any open fires on their property. This recommendation will remain in place until conditions improve. WFPS encourages Winnipeg residents to be safe and also be active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911.

Today is Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, which is a day dedicated to making Canadian communities more resilient to the effects of wildfire. It brings groups together across the country to participate in local mitigation projects that reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes and community. While here in Winnipeg we do not face the same degree of wildfire risk as many remote communities, wind driven ground fire still poses a significant hazard. The WFPS is focusing public attention on the first 10 meters around a home or vulnerable property. The goal is to raise awareness among property owners regarding the risk of wind driven ground fire and the steps that can be taken by property owners to protect their property.

The WFPS participated in this national effort today by having on-duty fire operations members visit homes located in at risk areas of the city and delivering pamphlets containing information on how to protect your property. Members of the public can request a pamphlet at their local Fire Paramedic Station. Information regarding wildfire hazards are also posted online at winnipeg.ca/FPS.
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services were dispatched to approximately 85 wildfire incidents in 2017. While the 2018 stats aren’t currently available, WFPS has attended a number of very significant wildfire incidents over the last several weeks.

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer
Corporate Communications
M: 204-391-0903
E: kqually@winnipeg.ca

---

From: S.17(1)&17(3)(e)
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2018 7:09 PM
To: City-MediaInquiry
Subject: CTV Request - Grass fires for Sunday

Hi there,
Wondering if you can give us a bit of an update for tomorrow.
How many grass fires have there been this spring to date?
Is it an unpresented grass fire season? More than in past years?
Do you know the cause of any of these fires?
Heard there was one in Charleswood recently started by children with candles?
What about the one last Sunday on Dugald Road? Was that cause determined yet?
Any other fires you can shed light on? Worth getting a message out there about safety?
Any other help / insight would be greatly appreciated.
Thanks so much,
S.17(1)&17(3)(e)
From: Wallace, Tom
To: Driedger, David; Lane, John; Reshaur, Mark; Schmidt, Christian
Cc: Jack, Michael; Wiltshire, Felicia; Qually, Kalen; Shaw, Jason
Subject: RE: FOR REVIEW -- News Release -- Wildland fire update
Date: Sunday, May 6, 2018 7:07:00 PM

David,

I’m fine with this. I was on call this weekend and would be prepared to speak to this issue. The issue of the “burn ban” will come up and we will need to speak frankly about it. I have some messaging in mind.

From: Driedger, David
Sent: Sunday, May 6, 2018 6:29 PM
To: Lane, John; Wallace, Tom; Reshaur, Mark; Schmidt, Christian
Cc: Jack, Michael; Wiltshire, Felicia; Qually, Kalen; Shaw, Jason
Subject: FOR REVIEW -- News Release -- Wildland fire update
Importance: High

Hi -

Given the number of wildland fires over the weekend, I would like to issue a news release on **Monday morning at 10 a.m. if possible.** Taking a page out of the WPS playbook, I want to provide a recap of the fires we attended, and provide to all media at the same time.

I would suggest we continue this practice on weekdays while the open-air burn ban is in place, especially given the volume of fires and media inquiries.

We should also be prepared to have a spokesperson speak to fire safety/prevention in a scrum setting if required on Monday. Please let me know who might be available and we can make arrangements as required.

Below is a draft news release - please let me know whether any changes are required, or if it’s good to go. I will touch base first thing Monday morning to see if any additional changes are required.

I will also connect with the Winnipeg Police Service's Public Information Office regarding the release so they are aware, and can provide feedback as required.

If you have any questions/concerns with this approach, please let me know.

Thanks,

______________________________

DRAFT

Monday, May 7, 2018

**Wildland fire update**

**Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service crews respond to 4 [PLEASE**
Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents this past weekend, including:

**Charleswood Road**
At approximately 20:07 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews responded to a report of two fires southwest of Charleswood Road. The first crew arrived to find multiple spot fires, including one in a farmer’s field nearby. No injuries reported, no damage to structures. The cause is under investigation.

**1500 block of Regent Avenue West**
At approximately 23:15 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews and Winnipeg Police responded to a report of a small brush fire at the rear of businesses in the 1500 block of Regent Avenue West. Two adult males were located in the field suffering from significant burns. The two males were transported to hospital; however, both succumbed to their injuries. The Winnipeg Police Service is investigating [INFO FROM POLICE RELEASE, WILL CONFIRM THEY ARE FINE WITH US SHARING AGAIN].

**Wilkes Avenue**
At approximately 15:09 on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a large grass fire along a rail line tracks on Wilkes Avenue, which extended from Kenaston Boulevard to the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported. Several hydro poles and a fence were partially burnt. No damage estimate is available. The cause is under investigation.

**Fort Gibraltar**
At approximately XX:XX [INSERT TIME] on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the area of Fort Gibraltar in St. Boniface. No injuries reported [PLEASE CONFIRM], and the cause is under investigation.

A total of XX [INSERT #] firefighters were deployed to combat these wildland fires [WILL INCLUDE ONLY IF INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE].

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban has been extended to fires in approved outdoor receptacles on public or private property. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

WFPS encourages all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911.
Media inquiries should be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at 204-986-6000 or via email at City-MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.

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David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

p: 204.986.6976
c: 204.612.8837
e: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
w: winnipeg.ca
David,

I will be in at 0800 tomorrow morning. I will start to compile the information on these incidents tonight. Let me know what time you want to meet.

Hi -

Given the number of wildland fires over the weekend, I would like to issue a news release on Monday morning at 10 a.m. if possible. Taking a page out of the WPS playbook, I want to provide a recap of the fires we attended, and provide to all media at the same time.

I would suggest we continue this practice on weekdays while the open-air burn ban is in place, especially given the volume of fires and media inquiries.

We should also be prepared to have a spokesperson speak to fire safety/prevention in a scrum setting if required on Monday. Please let me know who might be available and we can make arrangements as required.

Below is a draft news release - please let me know whether any changes are required, or if it’s good to go. I will touch base first thing Monday morning to see if any additional changes are required.

I will also connect with the Winnipeg Police Service’s Public Information Office regarding the release so they are aware, and can provide feedback as required.

If you have any questions/concerns with this approach, please let me know.

Thanks,

______________________________

DRAFT

Monday, May 7, 2018

Wildland fire update

Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service crews respond to 4 [PLEASE CONFIRM #] wildland fires over weekend
Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents this past weekend, including:

Charleswood Road
At approximately 20:07 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews responded to a report of two fires southwest of Charleswood Road. The first crew arrived to find multiple spot fires, including one in a farmer’s field nearby. No injuries reported, no damage to structures. The cause is under investigation.

1500 block of Regent Avenue West
At approximately 23:15 on Friday, May 4, WFPS crews and Winnipeg Police responded to a report of a small brush fire at the rear of businesses in the 1500 block of Regent Avenue West. Two adult males were located in the field suffering from significant burns. The two males were transported to hospital; however, both succumbed to their injuries. The Winnipeg Police Service is investigating [INFO FROM POLICE RELEASE, WILL CONFIRM THEY ARE FINE WITH US SHARING AGAIN].

Wilkes Avenue
At approximately 15:09 on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a large grass fire along a rail line tracks on Wilkes Avenue, which extended from Kenaston Boulevard to the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported. Several hydro poles and a fence were partially burnt. No damage estimate is available. The cause is under investigation.

Fort Gibraltar
At approximately XX:XX [INSERT TIME] on Sunday, May 6, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the area of Fort Gibraltar in St. Boniface. No injuries reported [PLEASE CONFIRM], and the cause is under investigation.

A total of XX [INSERT #] firefighters were deployed to combat these wildland fires [WILL INCLUDE ONLY IF INFORMATION IS READILY AVAILABLE].

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban has been extended to fires in approved outdoor receptacles on public or private property. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

WFPS encourages all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911.
Media inquiries should be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at 204-986-6000 or via email at City-MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.

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David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

p: 204.986.6976
c: 204.612.8837
e: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
w: winnipeg.ca
Those maps are fantastic, yet terrifying. Mark will you please share with the pre-planners?

From: Shaw, Jason
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 2:09 PM
To: Schmidt, Christian; Wallace, Tom; Reshaur, Mark
Subject: maps of charleswood high risk area for Ops/Prevention use.
That sounds good.

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2018, at 1:16 PM, Qually, Kalen <KQually@winnipeg.ca> wrote:

Thanks for this, Tom.

One reporter from CTV is checking on whether the fire ban remains, and if conditions have improved. I presume the answer would be...

“Conditions remain extremely dry for the City of Winnipeg and WFPS continues to advise Winnipeg residents to abstain from having any open fires on their property. This recommendation will remain in place until such conditions improve.”

Let me know if that’s accurate for now.

Kalen,

Here is some additional information:

Saturday, May 5, 2018 is Community Wild Fire Preparedness Day. This day has been dedicated to making Canadian communities more resilient to the effects of wildfire. It brings groups together across the country to participate in local mitigation projects that reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes and community. While here in Winnipeg we do not face the same degree of wildfire risk as many remote communities, wind driven ground fire still poses a significant hazard. The WFPS is focusing public attention on what is referred to as zone 1, the first 10 meters around a home or vulnerable property. The goal is to raise awareness among property owners regarding the risk of wind driven ground fire and the steps that can be taken by property owners to protect their property.

The WFPS is participating in this national effort in a few ways:

• A wildfire drill will be held at station no. 26. At 10:00 there will be a media event at station no. 26 to coincide with this drill. Media will be invited to observe the ongoing
drill and the equipment the WFPS has dedicated to the Wildfire program. • Information pamphlets containing information on how to protect your property will be sent to all stations. Stations located near areas of risk will be sent the bulk of the pamphlets. The public will be informed that they can request a pamphlet at their local Fire Paramedic Station. Please supply a pamphlet to members of the public when requested. • Information regarding Wildfire hazards will be posted online. • Some homes located in at risk wildland / urban interfaces will have pamphlets delivered by on duty Fire Operations members. This activity will take place from 13:30 to 15:30 on May 5. Information will be provided to the affected stations.

From: Qually, Kalen
Sent: Saturday, May 5, 2018 10:29 AM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Driedger, David
Subject: Media Inquiry - CBC - Fire prevention visits
Importance: High

Hi Tom

Following up a request this morning from a CBC reporter, who is inquiring about the property visits by fire officials today. I’ve advised that it isn’t possible for them to accompany officials today, but I wanted to send some info about the operations.

Based on comments from Mark Reshaur yesterday. Let me know if you’d add anything...

“As part of our fire prevention efforts, Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services are focusing on properties at the edges of the city where homes have large brush and grass adjacent to them. We’re urging people to take a good look at their yards and clean up any objects or materials that could start or spread a fire. Fire officials are visiting homes in targeted areas of the City today to hand out information and to talk to home owners.”

Thanks

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer
Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg
Mobile: 204-391-0903
Email: kqually@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 2nd floor, 510 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Connect with us: <image001.jpg>  Kalen Qually  <image002.gif>  winnipeg.ca  <image003.gif>

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disclosure of this message and attachments, in whole or in part, by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender and permanently delete the complete message and any attachments. Thank you.
In addition winds are NE 30 km today which prohibits burning in the best of conditions.

Sent from my iPhone

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Thanks for this, Tom.

One reporter from CTV is checking on whether the fire ban remains, and if conditions have improved. I presume the answer would be...

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Let me know if that’s accurate for now.

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drill and the equipment the WFPS has dedicated to the Wildfire program.

Information pamphlets containing information on how to protect your property will be sent to all stations. Stations located near areas of risk will be sent the bulk of the pamphlets. The public will be informed that they can request a pamphlet at their local Fire Paramedic Station. Please supply a pamphlet to members of the public when requested.

Information regarding Wildfire hazards will be posted online.

Some homes located in at risk wildland / urban interfaces will have pamphlets delivered by on duty Fire Operations members. This activity will take place from 13:30 to 15:30 on May 5. Information will be provided to the affected stations.

From: Qually, Kalen
Sent: Saturday, May 5, 2018 10:29 AM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Driedger, David
Subject: Media Inquiry - CBC - Fire prevention visits
Importance: High

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Following up a request this morning from a CBC reporter, who is inquiring about the property visits by fire officials today. I’ve advised that it isn’t possible for them to accompany officials today, but I wanted to send some info about the operations.

Based on comments from Mark Reshaur yesterday. Let me know if you’d add anything...

“As part of our fire prevention efforts, Winnipeg Fire and Paramedic Services are focusing on properties at the edges of the city where homes have large brush and grass adjacent to them. We’re urging people to take a good look at their yards and clean up any objects or materials that could start or spread a fire. Fire officials are visiting homes in targeted areas of the City today to hand out information and to talk to home owners.”

Thanks

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer
Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg
Mobile: 204-391-0903
Email: kqually@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 2nd floor, 510 Main St., Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Connect with us: <image002.gif>  <image003.gif>

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Kalen,

A call came in at 2007h last night for a report of two people lighting fires southwest of Charleswood Rd. spreading south.

First crew arrived at 2020h to find multiple spot fires. Comments show a large hay fire was also located on a farmers field nearby. Unsure if these incidents were related or not. Three engines and a Tanker were able to extinguish the fires. Crews were clear by 2133h.

-----Original Message-----
From: City-MediaInquiry
Sent: Saturday, May 5, 2018 2:17 PM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Driedger, David
Subject: Media Inquiry - CTV - Fires on Charleswood Road, Regent Ave

Tom

CTV asking about separate incidents, one near Charleswood Rd / Wilkes and the other near Regent Ave.

I have info on the Regent fire overnight. Are you aware of any incidents in area of Charleswood/Wilkes?

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer
Corporate Communications
M: 204-391-0903
E: kqually@winnipeg.ca

-----Original Message-----
From: S.17(1)&17(3)(e)
Sent: Saturday, May 05, 2018 1:56 PM
To: City-MediaInquiry
Subject: RE: CTV Request

Thank you for this information!

One more thing if you don't mind.

I saw there were two wildland fires overnight. One near Charleswood Road and Wilkes, and the other near the 1500 block of Regent.

If you're able to share any information from those I would really appreciate it.

Thanks!

S.17(1)&17(3)(e)
Conditions remain extremely dry for the City of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Services continue to advise Winnipeg residents to abstain from having any open fires on their property. This recommendation will remain in place until conditions improve.

Today is Community Wildfire Preparedness Day, which is a day dedicated to making Canadian communities more resilient to the effects of wildfire. It brings groups together across the country to participate in local mitigation projects that reduce the risk of wildfire damage to their homes and community. While here in Winnipeg we do not face the same degree of wildfire risk as many remote communities, wind driven ground fire still poses a significant hazard. The WFPS is focusing public attention on the first 10 meters around a home or vulnerable property. The goal is to raise awareness among property owners regarding the risk of wind driven ground fire and the steps that can be taken by property owners to protect their property.

The WFPS is participating in this national effort by having on-duty fire operations members visit homes located in at risk areas of the city and delivering pamphlets containing information on how to protect your property. Members of the public can request a pamphlet at their local Fire Paramedic Station. Information regarding wildfire hazards are also posted online at winnipeg.ca/FPS.

Thanks

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer
Corporate Communications
M: 204-391-0903
E: kqually@winnipeg.ca
I'll get you an update very shortly, as well as comment on the fire prevention exercises going on today.

Thanks

Kalen Qually
Communications Officer - Corporate Communications
M: 204.391.0903

Sent from my iPhone

On May 5, 2018, at 10:52 AM,

Hi there,

I was wondering if there was an update on fire conditions in the city - still extremely dry? High risk of fires?

Are firefighters going to door-to-door in high risk areas to educate people on what they should and should not be doing?

Any other information you could provide would be much appreciated.

Thanks,

CTV Winnipeg
From: Wallace, Tom  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 2:34 PM  
To: Driedger, David  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael; Schmidt, Christian; Reshaur, Mark; Lane, John  
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg

Looks good. I will follow up with Mark to see where we are at with numbers of these events.

From: Driedger, David  
Sent: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 1:30 PM  
To: Wallace, Tom  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael; Schmidt, Christian; Reshaur, Mark; Lane, John  
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg  
Importance: High

Hi Tom,

Are you comfortable with the following responses:

**Proposed response for CTV:**

“Since the beginning of 2018, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service responded to XX wildland fires to date. This compares to XX wildland fires during the same period last year.

We aren’t able to breakdown how many instances are potentially related to rail activity. Please note that wildland fires are dynamic and have the potential to spread rapidly. Winds can also carry embers to different locations, creating additional hotspots. Determining causes of such fires can be challenging. With that said, we do encourage residents to report any suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911.

WFPS is meeting with CN officials this week to discuss issues surrounding Sunday’s events, and to determine possible measures that may be put in place to mitigate risk.

All fire fighters within the city respond to wildland fires. WFPS uses specialized equipment in the event of a wildland fire, including compressed air-foam wildland truck, pumper tankers for water supply, and quads to access otherwise difficult to reach locations rapidly. Crews are deployed such that there is adequate coverage throughout the city.

As dry conditions persist, all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited to mitigate the risk of dangerous fires such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.”

**Proposed response for CBC:**
“WFPS is meeting with CN officials this week to discuss issues surrounding Sunday’s events, and to determine possible measures that may be put in place to mitigate risk.

All fire fighters within the city respond to wildland fires. WFPS uses specialized equipment in the event of a wildland fire, including compressed air-foam wildland truck, pumper tankers for water supply, and quads to access otherwise difficult to reach locations rapidly. Crews are deployed such that there is adequate coverage throughout the city.

As dry conditions persist, all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited to mitigate the risk of dangerous fires such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.”

Please let me know if any changes are required, or if it’s good to go. Once I have the stats, I’ll slot that into the response.

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
P: 204.986.6976
M: 204-612-8837
From: Wallace, Tom  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 1:00 PM  
To: Driedger, David; Reshaur, Mark; Lane, John; Schmidt, Christian  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael  
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg

David,

We meet with CN tomorrow. No meetings with CP yet. Discussions surrounding Sunday’s events and what measures may be put in place to mitigate risk.

From: Driedger, David  
Sent: Tuesday, May 8, 2018 12:33 PM  
To: Reshaur, Mark; Wallace, Tom; Lane, John; Schmidt, Christian  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael  
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg  
Importance: High

To add to this, we just received the following inquiry from CBC:
Has the city made contact with railways about the risks of grass fires near train tracks in the city? Has the city done anything itself to try to mitigate fire risk near the train tracks? Are fire crews on high alert right now, watching for grass fires after passing trains?

It’s my understanding that the meeting with rail officials – can you please confirm whether this is CP, CN or both – is precisely to determine the best approach to mitigate potential wildfires. Or is WFPS currently adjusting tactics to deal with rail activity?

Thanks,

David Driedger  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
P: 204.986.6976  
M: 204-612-8837
If you could provide a comparison, that would be good.

Thanks,

David Driedger  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
P: 204.986.6976  
M: 204-612-8837

From: Reshaur, Mark  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 12:07 PM  
To: Driedger, David; Wallace, Tom; Lane, John; Schmidt, Christian  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael  
Subject: RE: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg

I have a previous data request that will cover this for all of 2017. I can pull 2018 to date and request the numbers from 2017 for the same time frame so we have a comparison.

Mark Reshaur  
Assistant Chief  
Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service  
P: 204 986-2569  
M: 204 794-4604

From: Driedger, David  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 11:57 AM  
To: Wallace, Tom; Lane, John; Reshaur, Mark; Schmidt, Christian  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Jack, Michael  
Subject: FW: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg  
Importance: High

Hi Tom,

Please see media inquiry below from CTV.

Proposed response:
“In 2018, Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service responded to XX [Are you able to pull up stats on wildland fires to date?] wildland fires to date. We aren’t able to breakdown how many instances are potentially related to rail activity. Please note that wildland fires are dynamic and have the potential to spread rapidly. Winds can also carry embers to different locations, creating additional hotspots. Determining causes of such fires can be challenging. With that said, we do encourage residents to report any suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911.

WFPS will be meeting with rail company officials this week [CN & CP?] to determine ways to mitigate potential wildfires in the city. Please note, the cause of yesterday’s fire along Wilkes is undetermined [Is this accurate? We don’t necessarily need to include this sentence].

All fire fighters within the city respond to wildland fires. The City uses specialized equipment in the event of a wildland fire, including compressed air-foam wildland truck, pumper tankers for water supply, and quads to access otherwise difficult to reach locations rapidly. Crews are deployed such that there is adequate coverage throughout the city.

As dry conditions persist, all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited to mitigate the risk of dangerous fires such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.”
If you could provide stats to date, it would be greatly appreciated (we can add that to our daily releases as well). Please let me know if there are any concerns with the proposed response, changes required for accuracy, or if it’s good to go.

On a related note, regarding Ryan Thorpe’s interview request, I would suggest sticking to similar messaging as above and what was discussed in yesterday’s scrum/interviews. With that said, what time would you be able to accommodate an interview?

If you have any questions, please let me know.

Thanks,

David Driedger  
Manager, Corporate Communications  
P: 204.986.6976  
M: 204-612-8837
From: City-MediaInquiry  
Sent: Tuesday, May 08, 2018 10:49 AM  
To: Driedger, David  
Cc: Wiltshire, Felicia; Driedger, David; Finley, Michelle; Hildebrand, Jonathan; Davis, Jeremy; Dryburgh, Matt; Forlanski, Tamara; Qually, Kalen; Schmidt, Joelie  
Subject: Media Inquiry - WFPS - CTV - Fires in Winnipeg

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<tr>
<th>Date Received</th>
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<th>Outlet</th>
<th>Inquiry Topic</th>
<th>Inquiry Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-May 10:47 AM</td>
<td></td>
<td>S.17(1) &amp; 17(3)</td>
<td>CTV</td>
<td>Fires in Winnipeg</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Reporter sent: Seeing on other media some numbers about there being 42 fires in the last 3 weeks.
- Can you confirm this number? How many of them are wildfires?
- How many of these are believed to be linked to rail activity?

- Yesterday, I asked Deputy Chief Tom Wallace if trains in the city were doing anything to mitigate risk during this dry season. He said they were continuing to come through the city. Has anything changed since yesterday?
- He said WFPS was meeting with CN tomorrow. What will the city be requesting? Please explain.
- There are CP tracks in the city as well. Any conversations happening with them? Any issues?
- We are also hearing there will not be rain for some time. What is the city doing to prepare to fight more fires as this dry spell continues? Any resources being added? What and how much is the prep costing?
- Thanks so much for your help and look forward to your reply.
Corporate Communications
Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-6000
Email: city-mediaenquiry@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 510 Main St, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1B9

Connect with us:  

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Thanks Shawna,

I have been monitoring. Sounds like they are just about done.

---

Hi Chief Schmidt & Chief Wallace,

There is another wildland fire @ the bio-reserve same as we had last night, it’s on TC5. If you require any more information please give me a call.

Shawna Terletski
CCSS Platoon 2
WFPS, Communications

Phone: 204 986-6336
Email: sterletski@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 700 Assiniboine Park Drive, Winnipeg, MB R3P 2N9

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David,

I am working on these requests now.

I am fine with listing 5 incidents over the weekend. It is important to note that yesterday the fires at Gabrielle Roy Pl, Forks Market, Kenaston, Shaftesbury and Wilkes are likely all related and associated with rail activity. I am including our Wildland operations memo for information on the number of resources required. Yesterday afternoon was a Level IV incident.

Hi Tom,

Attached is the updated news release for your review/input.

WPS provided some information/vetted content related to their involvement which is reflected in this version.

I’m in the office at the moment, happy to talk now, or we can wait until 9 a.m. when we scheduled time.

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-6976
Mobile: 204-612-8837
Email: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 510 Main Street, Winnipeg, MB R3E 1B9

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Thanks David,

Again, the “burn ban” is for outdoor fires requiring permits, fireworks etc. These permits have been cancelled. There is no jurisdiction for us at this point to direct no burning in approved fire pits. Legal services has suggested this would take a Council directive. My perspective is any burning at this point is irresponsible. Our crews are being directed to uphold the existing regulations on burning in approved receptacles to the letter.

See attached for latest release.

Kelly / Tom – We’re starting to see inquiries related to Alex Forrest’s tweet. I’ve included some messaging in the release reminding residents to stay away from active fires, as it’s dangerous and conditions can rapidly change (highlighted). Aiming to get this release out by 9:30 a.m.

If any changes required, please let me know.

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
P: 204.986.6976
M: 204-612-8837
1514 Kenaston BV
1515 Elmhurst /Wilkes Ave

This was a Level IV incident
Damage to fence and building materials.
No evacuations

2245 Hoka/CNR Pine Falls (Transcona Bioreserve)
No damage to structures
No evacuations
Springfield was patched in to our radio communications in the event they were required but was not operationally involved within the COW limits.

Incident Level not declared

18 operational fire apparatus
Incident command
Safety officer
and 2 paramedic units

From: Driedger, David
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 8:05 AM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Wiltshire, Felicia
Subject: Updated - Draft News Release
Importance: High

Hi Tom,

Attached is the updated news release for your review/input.

WPS provided some information/vetted content related to their involvement which is reflected in this version.

I’m in the office at the moment, happy to talk now, or we can wait until 9 a.m. when we scheduled time.

Thanks,
Thanks David,

You beat me to it. We will discuss means of automatically generating daily reports for these incidents this morning.

---

Hi -

Updated with information from the media sheets. Please let me know if any additional changes are required or if it's good to go:

Wildland fire update

**Winnipeg, MB** – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents on Monday, May 7, and overnight on Tuesday, May 8, including:

**Roblin Boulevard & Perimeter Highway**
At approximately 17:19, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of Roblin Boulevard and the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, and the cause is under investigation.

**Victoria Row**
At approximately 18:44 on Monday, May 7, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire on Victoria Row, near Harris Park. No injuries reported. A detached garage and its contents sustained damage. No damage estimate is available, and the cause is under investigation.

**Day Street**
At approximately 20:04 on Monday, May 7, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire
near the intersection of Day Street and Gunn Road. Crews were aided by Winnipeg Police Service’s (WPS) Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. No injuries were reported. While no damage to structures was reported, some of the area businesses were evacuated as a precaution. The cause is under investigation.

**Whiteshell Avenue**
At approximately 00:49 on Tuesday, May 8, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of the Transcona Bioreserve. Crews were aided by Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. One firefighter sustained minor injuries and was treated on scene. No damage to structures, no evacuations required, and the cause is under investigation.

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

“These are unprecedented, tinder dry conditions, and we urge members of the community to work with us and refrain from starting any open-air fires, even in approved receptacles such as fire pits,” said Tom Wallace, Deputy Chief of Support Services with WFPS. “Unless you’re using an outdoor natural gas appliance such as a barbecue, we urge you to not start an open-air fire as dry conditions and winds increase the risk of wildland fires.”

WFPS and WPS encourage all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911. Do not approach active fire incidents – it is dangerous to do so, and you put yourself at great risk as conditions can rapidly change.

-30-

Media inquiries should be directed to the City of Winnipeg Media Inquiry Line at 204-986-6000 or via email at City-MediaInquiry@winnipeg.ca.

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Follow us on Twitter:  twitter.com/cityofwinnipeg

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

p: 204.986.6976
c: 204.612.8837
e: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
w: winnipeg.ca

From: Wallace, Tom
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 10:13 PM
Hi Tom,

The following is a draft news release for tomorrow morning. Please advise if any changes are required for accuracy, or if I’ve missed any fires. Also, if you could provide times for the fires, it would be greatly appreciated. I'll run the section regarding Air-1 with WPS in the morning.

I've drafted a quote for you. It's similar to what you said today in the scrum, but let me know if any changes are required.

Let me know if any changes are required, or if it's good to go.

Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents yesterday, May 7, including:

**Roblin Boulevard & Perimeter Highway**
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of Roblin Boulevard and the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, and the cause is under investigation.

**Victoria Row**
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the [Address??] block of Victoria Row, near Harris Park. No injuries reported. A garage sustained some fire damage. No damage estimate is available, and the cause is under investigation.

**Day Street**
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the area of Day Street and Gunn Road. Crews were aided by Winnipeg Police’s Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. No injuries were reported. While no damage to structures was reported, some of the area businesses were evacuated as a precaution. The cause is under investigation.

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires,
such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

“These are unprecedented, tinder dry conditions, and we urge members of the community to work with us and refrain from starting any open-air fires, even in approved receptacles such as fire pits,” said Tom Wallace, Deputy Chief of Support Services with WFPS. “Unless you’re using an outdoor natural gas appliance such as a barbecue, we urge you to not start an open-air fire as dry conditions and winds increase the risk of wildland fires.”

WFPS and WPS encourage all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911. Do not approach active fire incidents – it is dangerous to do so, and you put yourself at great risk as conditions can rapidly change.

-30-

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Follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/cityofwinnipeg

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

From: Driedger, David
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 6:50 PM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Schmidt, Christian; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Lane, John
Subject: Re: Wildland updates

Agreed.

If you’re able, can you send me wildland incident reports for today? I can work on a draft release tonight for your review, and we can touch base in the morning to add any additional information.

I’d like to send to media in the morning, preferably before EPC.

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
P: 204.986.6976
C: 204.612.8837

Sent from my iPhone

On May 7, 2018, at 5:58 PM, Wallace, Tom <twallace@winnipeg.ca> wrote:

   Good evening,

   We are just finishing up at a wildland incident at Roblin and the Perimeter. Given the frequency of these events, I am wondering if we should release daily reports of these incidents to media as regular updates (electronic release)?

   Open to suggestions.

   Tom.
David,

One change for these reports would be to remove the “under investigation” trailer. Our FI staff will not be investigating all of these incidents. Where applicable we will provide these comments.

Thanks.

Hi -

Updated with information from the media sheets. Please let me know if any additional changes are required or if it's good to go:

Wildland fire update

Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents on Monday, May 7, and overnight on Tuesday, May 8, including:

Roblin Boulevard & Perimeter Highway
At approximately 17:19, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of Roblin Boulevard and the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, and the cause is under investigation.

Victoria Row
At approximately 18:44 on Monday, May 7, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire on Victoria Row, near Harris Park. No injuries reported. A detached garage and its contents sustained damage. No damage estimate is available, and the cause is under investigation.

Day Street
At approximately 20:04 on Monday, May 7, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire
near the intersection of Day Street and Gunn Road. Crews were aided by Winnipeg Police Service’s (WPS) Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. No injuries were reported. While no damage to structures was reported, some of the area businesses were evacuated as a precaution. The cause is under investigation.

**Whiteshell Avenue**

At approximately 00:49 on Tuesday, May 8, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of the Transcona Bioreserve. Crews were aided by Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. One firefighter sustained minor injuries and was treated on scene. No damage to structures, no evacuations required, and the cause is under investigation.

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires, such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

“These are unprecedented, tinder dry conditions, and we urge members of the community to work with us and refrain from starting any open-air fires, even in approved receptacles such as fire pits,” said Tom Wallace, Deputy Chief of Support Services with WFPS. “Unless you’re using an outdoor natural gas appliance such as a barbecue, we urge you to not start an open-air fire as dry conditions and winds increase the risk of wildland fires.”

WFPS and WPS encourage all residents to be safe and also active in reporting suspicious or irresponsible behaviour by phoning 911. Do not approach active fire incidents – it is dangerous to do so, and you put yourself at great risk as conditions can rapidly change.

-30-

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David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

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e: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
w: winnipeg.ca

From: Wallace, Tom
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 10:13 PM
To: Driedger, David  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Schmidt, Christian; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Lane, John; Reshaur, Mark  
Subject: RE: Wildland updates

David,

This looks great. I will confirm details when I get in at 0800h.

From: Driedger, David  
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2018 9:43 PM  
To: Wallace, Tom  
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Schmidt, Christian; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Lane, John; Reshaur, Mark  
Subject: RE: Wildland updates

Hi Tom,

The following is a draft news release for tomorrow morning. Please advise if any changes are required for accuracy, or if I've missed any fires. Also, if you could provide times for the fires, it would be greatly appreciated. I'll run the section regarding Air-1 with WPS in the morning.

I've drafted a quote for you. It's similar to what you said today in the scrum, but let me know if any changes are required.

Let me know if any changes are required, or if it's good to go.

________

Wildland fire update

Winnipeg, MB – Winnipeg Fire Paramedic Service (WFPS) crews responded to a number of significant wildland fire incidents yesterday, May 7, including:

Roblin Boulevard & Perimeter Highway  
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a wildland fire in the area of Roblin Boulevard and the Perimeter Highway. No injuries reported, no damage to structures, and the cause is under investigation.

Victoria Row  
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the [Address??] block of Victoria Row, near Harris Park. No injuries reported. A garage sustained some fire damage. No damage estimate is available, and the cause is under investigation.

Day Street  
At approximately XX:XX, WFPS crews responded to a grass fire in the area of Day Street and Gunn Road. Crews were aided by Winnipeg Police’s Air-1 to aerially locate hotspots. No injuries were reported. While no damage to structures was reported, some of the area businesses were evacuated as a precaution. The cause is under investigation.

Please note that all open-air fires are temporarily prohibited due to the extreme dry weather conditions in the Winnipeg area which increases the risk of dangerous fires,
such as grass, brush, and wildfires. The ban will be lifted when environmental conditions improve.

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Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications
City of Winnipeg

p: 204.986.6976
c: 204.612.8837
e: ddriedger@winnipeg.ca
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From: Driedger, David
Sent: Monday, May 07, 2018 6:50 PM
To: Wallace, Tom
Cc: Shaw, Jason; Schmidt, Christian; Madden, Erin; Wiltshire, Felicia; Lane, John
Subject: Re: Wildland updates

Agreed.

If you’re able, can you send me wildland incident reports for today? I can work on a draft release tonight for your review, and we can touch base in the morning to add any additional information.

I’d like to send to media in the morning, preferably before EPC.

Thanks,

David Driedger
Manager, Corporate Communications  
P: 204.986.6976  
C: 204.612.8837  

Sent from my iPhone  

On May 7, 2018, at 5:58 PM, Wallace, Tom <twallace@winnipeg.ca> wrote:  

   Good evening,  
   
   We are just finishing up at a wildland incident at Roblin and the Perimeter. Given the frequency of these events, I am wondering if we should release daily reports of these incidents to media as regular updates (electronic release)?  
   
   Open to suggestions.  
   
   Tom.
Good afternoon,

Crews are on scene for a grass fire at the intersection of Shaftesbury and Sterling Lyon Parkway. A train is currently moving through this area impeding crews access to the fire. There is a hydro pole involved as well. There are reports the nearby retirement facility on Shaftesbury has begun evacuating residents. This is not at the behest of the WFPS. Communications is attempting to contact the facility to indicate that this is not required at this time. It sounds like this train has sparked all along the line and ignited along the way.

I am en route.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg

Phone: 204-986-2500
Mobile: 204-806-7695
Email: twallace@winnipeg.ca
Website: winnipeg.ca
Address: 2nd Floor, 185 King Street, Winnipeg, MB R3B 1J1

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Good afternoon,

Crews attended to fires at 4 locations along the CN rail line running from Kenaston to the Perimeter along Sterling Lyon Pkwy./Wilkes Ave. The call came in initially for Shaftesbury where there was a grassfire that had consumed a number of trees, grass, a fence and some building materials. It quickly became apparent that there were fires along this rail line from Shaftesbury to Elmhurst and west of Liberty Road. Once the fire was under control on Shaftesbury, IC moved west to Liberty where there was significant fire extending north from the rail line through a field and into a small forest. Crews deployed several hand lines from apparatus on Wilkes across the CNR. Wildland crews and equipment were also deployed including portable water packs and blowers, rakes, and brooms along with the hand lines. These strategies were effective in containing the fire. Tanker 23 also deployed their two portable tanks which it filled 3 times to continue to supply two apparatus. CN ceased all rail activity to allow crews to safely operate in this area.

At the time of my departure at 1720h crews were extinguishing the last of the hotspots and the majority of crews had been returned to station.

Tom Wallace
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Good evening,

There are two concurrent incidents ongoing at this time:

Transcona Bioreserve-

Report of a wildland fire at the location of Koka St./CNR Pine Falls line. This is partly within the City of Winnipeg boundaries, and partly in the RM of Springfield. Crews currently in offensive mode. CNR notified to suspend rail operations during fire ops.

College Ave-

Mattress on fire on front porch, whole house now involved. Primary search indicates all occupants out of building. No extension into interior of building at this time. Crews in offensive mode.

Updates as available.

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Good morning,

Crews are back on scene on Devonshire for a report of a grassfire in the Transcona Bioreserve. Crews are in offensive mode using portable water back packs heading into the park. AIR one is on scene to assist.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg

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Good evening,

Crews are on scene of a fire on Victoria Row. This incident has been declared under control. This was a grassfire that began outside the garage and spread to the structure. GA 30 en route. This property backs on to Harris park on the river. Crews remain on scene to conduct overhaul.
David,

Station 1 received a call from Ryan Thorpe from the WFP asking for an interview re: wildland fires and train activity. He provided his phone number for a callback 204-570-1610. I’m prepared to give him a call if you are okay with it, or if you would like to speak with him first.

Tom Wallace
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Inter-Office Memo

TO: All WFPS Personnel  FROM: Christian Schmidt
Deputy Chief, Operations and Communications

DATE: September 21, 2017

SUBJECT: WILDLAND FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE - REVISED

Wildland areas within the City of Winnipeg boundaries, as well as designated rural areas within our jurisdiction, will frequently see vegetation fires that expand rapidly in complexity and resources needed to successfully mitigate the incident. These incidents are responded to by the Winnipeg Fire Department (WFD) creating low frequency, high risk operations for our personnel. Life hazard and property conservation remain the critical priorities with incidents of this nature. Firefighter and civilian safety, as well as property preservation will be the primary operational objectives for all wildland grass and brush fire incidents.

Resources responding to grass and brush fire incidents will initiate Incident Command as per established WFPS Emergency Operating Procedures. Resources will be prepared to work in sector/group assignments as tasked by the Incident Commander. Any grass or brush fire expanding to a Level III (working grass/brush) status or greater will be deemed to be ‘wildfire status’, requiring the WFPS Communications Centre to transmit an alert to all stations, and broadcast over all talk groups that this condition exists.

Wildland fires are extremely dangerous and unpredictable, demanding a significant command and support presence to provide efficient and effective fire ground management. On occasion resources will be required from external agencies such as Winnipeg Police Service (traffic/crowd control, helicopter recon), the RCMP, the Office of the Fire Commissioner, other fire departments, private contractors and/or the Provincial or Federal governments. Command will be responsible for requesting all required resources as needed.

Resource Response for Grass/Brush Alarms

The WFPS Communications Centre typically receives the initial calls for service in regards to grass or brush fires. Call takers will triage information being received and resources will be dispatched to an incident scene accordingly. Dispatch of resources to grass/brush incidents will be categorized as follows:
LEVEL I - STILL-GRASS/BRUSH ALARM (minimum risk as per Communications Centre triage)

- 2 Engines/ Rescue-Pumper

(MINIMUM RESOURCE RESPONSE)

Should additional information be received by call takers indicating the incident is rapidly expanding and requires increased resource response, and/or the Incident Commander with the first arriving unit requests additional resources be dispatched, the resource response will automatically be upgraded to meet the minimum on-scene apparatus requirement for a Level Two Grass/Brush Alarm. Incident Commanders may return resources at their discretion following on-scene confirmation that the incident has stabilized.

LEVEL II - GRASS/BRUSH ALARM (elevated risk as per Communications Centre triage or upgrade to Level 11 request from initial IC)

- 3 Engines/ Rescue-Pumper
- 1 Squad
- 1 Water Tanker
- 1 District Chief (Command Function)
- 1 Safety Officer (Safety Sector Function)
- 1 Wildland Fire Emergency Response Unit (includes ATV 26 with pump and roll function)

(MINIMUM RESOURCES REQUIRED ON SCENE)

LEVEL III - WORKING GRASS/BRUSH ALARM (high life and property risk)

- 5 Engines/ Rescue-Pumper
- 1 Squad
- 1 Tanker
- 1 District Chief (Command and Sector Functions)
- 1 Safety Officer (Safety Sector Function)
- 1 Platoon Chief (Senior Advisor)
- 1 Snuffer (pump and roll function)
- 1 Wildland Fire Emergency Response Unit (includes ATV 26 with pump and roll function)
- 1 Paramedic Unit
- 1 Medical Supervisor
- 1 Rehab Unit
- 1 Trailered ATV (ATV 24) - no water or pump capacity (Station 24)

(MINIMUM RESOURCES REQUIRED ON SCENE)
LEVEL IV - GREATER ALARM GRASS/BRUSH (second alarm or greater)

- 10 Engines/Rescue-Pumper
- 2 Squads
- 2 Tankers (consider mutual aid/private water contractors)
- 2 District Chiefs (Command and Sector Functions)
- 1 Safety Officer (Safety Sector Function)
- 1 Platoon Chief (Senior Advisor and/or Command Function)
- 1 Superintendent EMS
- 1 Snuffer (pump and roll function)
- 1 Wildland Fire Emergency Response Unit (includes ATV 26 with pump and roll function)
- 1 Paramedic Unit
- 1 Medical Supervisor
- 1 Rehab Unit
- 1 Trailered ATV (ATV 24) - no water or pump capacity
- 1 MIRV (optional)
- 1 7-11 Unit (optional)
- 1 Duty Executive Officer

Transport of Unstaffed Wildland Units

Wildland Fire Emergency Response Unit: Radio Call Sign – Wildland 1 (one)
Location - Station 26

Wildland 1 can be requested by an Incident Commander at any time during a grass/brush event. However, Wildland 1 will be dispatched automatically to all Level III and Level IV wildland incidents. The unit will be transported to the scene by an Engine Company in tandem-code 3 status. The apparatus stated below will be proposed for transport in the following priority sequence, if available, due to enhanced crew training:

- Engine 26
- Engine 231
- Engine 23
- Closest available Engine Company
Wildland All-Terrain Vehicle (ATV 24)
Location–Station 24

The wildland all-terrain vehicle (ATV 24) is a trailered unit assigned to Station 24. This unit is equipped with a minimum of assigned forestry fire suppression equipment and does not have pumping capacity. Primary utilization of this unit will be for the transport of personnel and equipment into off-road wildland areas which are inaccessible to standard department vehicles. When assigned to an incident, this vehicle will be transported to the scene by the closest available District Chief.

Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD)

The CAD system is currently being updated to reflect revised wildland, brush and grass dispatch determinant parameters as outlined above. This process is anticipated to be completed in approximately two weeks. In the interim, Communications Centre personnel will override the current CAD dispatch proposals for these incident types, while manually assigning apparatus to meet resource requirements for the determined level of response.

HQ Authorization

CS/sj
Good morning Jon,

Russ and I attended the PIA for 4900 St. Mary’s Rd. on Friday evening. There were several issues that came up, one of which was the wildland coveralls stocking the wildland response unit. We were informed of NFPA 1977 standard for wildland operations PPE. As I understand Richard Thomas is assuming responsibility for this file, would you please have him look into what is required, what is the cost and availability of these items locally. Once we have this information we can make a decision on how to procure and deploy.

Please contact me with any questions.

Thank you.

Tom Wallace
Deputy Chief
Fire Paramedic Service
City of Winnipeg

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Open to suggestions.

Tom.