



FIRE DEPARTMENT

www.stpaulfiredepartment.com

September 19, 2013

County of St. Paul #19
5015-49 Avenue
St. Paul, AB.
T0A 3A4

Attention Reeve and Council;

We are writing to you today regarding a concern we have regarding the issuance of year-round burning permits within the County of St. Paul, or rather the reluctance of Council to proceed with it.

Our collective memberships find it extremely difficult to understand the rationale, if any, behind not having the County of St. Paul issue year-round burning permits.

Currently, when the fire burn permit season ends (March 1 to October 31), our Departments find themselves responding to numerous "fire or smoke showing" calls which ultimately turn out to be false alarms. Needless to say, these false alarms are a cost to the County, not to mention the amount of stress it creates on our volunteers having to respond to false alarms.

In today's volunteer fire service, our goal is to have fully trained and staffed members to respond to real-life emergencies where lives and property are on the line. These false alarms are creating a nuisance for our volunteer members, and many are beginning to question whether or not to respond, until someone on scene confirms a real fire (wasting precious minutes). Time is of the essence when responding to any kind of emergency.

Ultimately, we would like the County to maintain what we currently have in place during the burn permit season. A burn permit is pulled and the permit holder is instructed to first contact our Dispatch to inform them of their intent to light their fire. If any calls are received through BRFA Dispatch, they first contact the burn permit holder to ensure everything is under control before sending out a Department.

Our collective call statistics show that the occurrence of false alarms is significantly lower during the March to October period over the November to February period.

We encourage Council to seriously consider this request from the Departments that service the County of St. Paul. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Regards,

Joey Duperron
Ashmont Fire Chief

Bryce Bodnar
Mallaig Fire Chief

Trevor Kotowich
St. Paul Fire Chief

Ken Palamarek
Elk Point Fire Chief

5101 – 50 Street
Phone: (780)645-4100

Box 1480
Email: tkotowich@town.stpaul.ab.ca

St. Paul, Alberta T0A 3A0
Fax: (780)645-2942