



Administrative Press Release Saturday April 18, 2020

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

On a daily basis, the Southgate Management staff continue to deal with the challenges of protecting our Community through the COVID-19 emergency by ensuring social distancing, changing government legislation and essential business compliance to ensure our public health and safety.

During the social isolation we have all had to endure recently, the Dundalk Fire Department has received several requests on a weekly basis for a fire vehicle to attend homes in Dundalk for birthday parade events. What we have found with these social events, is that while they are well received, it is impossible to deliver on all requests and not possible to provide this service into the rural areas because of distances. We also did not anticipate or consider the noise disturbance we created with this activity for shift workers and others trying to sleep during the day, specifically the Health Care workers in our community that need their downtime.

With the efforts of a group of community members, the Fire Department participated in a 96th birthday parade last night. This was to honour a milestone for a member of the community, whose family has given tremendous dedication, support and leadership to the Dundalk Fire Department for the past 60 years.

Following that parade, with the support of the Southgate Emergency Management Control Group and Council's awareness, the Township has instructed the Dundalk Fire Department to not participate in any further non-emergency events during the COVID-19 declared emergency. We would like to apologize to those who have reached out in the past few weeks to request the fire trucks for an individual youth birthday parade. Continuing to participate in these events is not consistent, feasible or safe during the pandemic.

Children and families will get the opportunity to meet our Fire Volunteers and to see or touch the fire trucks again in the future. Our Fire Department will be there, but only when it is safe to do so in our community. They will again participate in events such as the Fireman's Frolic, Dundalk Fall Fair, community parades to see Santa Claus, to celebrate Community Reunions and Youth Team Successes, when it is safe for us all to gather.

Please refrain from contacting the Fire Department regarding this change in directive. If you have any questions or concerns please contact the Township office directly at 519-923-2110 extension 210. Thank you for your understanding.