



The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle

Date	April 5, 2019	Report No:	FIRE 19-07
Directed To:	Mayor & Members of Council	Attachments:	
Department:	LaSalle Fire Service	Policy References:	
Prepared By:	Dave Sutton, Fire Chief		
Subject:	Fire Station - Apparatus Floor Water Management		

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that Council approve the recommendation to proceed with treatment of the apparatus floors in the Fire Station to reduce the potential for slip and fall incidents, at an approximate cost of \$35,000.

REPORT:

As Council may recall, there have been on-going concerns regarding pooling and migrating water in the truck bays at the fire station resulting from necessary operational activities. Various "work-arounds" have been attempted, and alternative work processes are required when water is used and during winter months. The primary concern related to this issue however, is for the safety of our staff, other municipal staff and the general public visiting the station, in relation to the potential for slip and fall injuries resulting from standing water on the smooth concrete surface. Despite best efforts to mitigate the hazard by attempting to clear the surface of migrating or standing water as quickly as possible, a number of near-miss slips have been verbally reported over previous years, and the issue has been an outstanding issue of the Joint Health and Safety Committee since August of 2015, as various potential solutions have been investigated and pursued. Submissions in the annual budget process for 2018 and 2019 to address drainage of the floors were not approved. Since January of 2019 there have been 3 documented incidents of slips on the wet floors. To date there have been no reported injuries resulting from slips or falls.

Working with water, and the environmental elements of snow & road slush is an unavoidable reality of our operations. Elimination of the problems encountered involves addressing solutions for two separate but related issues of inadequate drainage, and slippery concrete surface. Addressing either issue in isolation of the other is unlikely to eliminate the hazard.

In consultation with Public Works and Facilities staff, as well as industry contractors, several solutions have been considered to improve drainage of the floors in the individual truck bays, which would reduce or eliminate standing and migrating water over the floors.

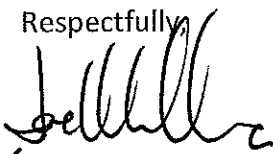
Estimates for this work have been in the range of \$30,000 – \$50,000 per truck bay. Although improving drainage of excess water, implementation of this solution may not completely mitigate the issue related to the slipperiness of the smooth concrete surface when floors are wet.


Alternative solutions have also been investigated to reduce the slipperiness of the floor surface. An industrial quality floor coating has been determined to be a viable solution to address the slip and fall hazard. The epoxy treatment has an anti-slip texture component, but still allows the ability to squeegee and clean the surface as needed. A quote of approximately \$35,000 has been received to prepare the surface and apply the coating to the entire apparatus floor area.

In investigating potential solutions, another area fire service indicated that due to several slip & fall incidents on smooth concrete floors when wet, the same product was applied approximately 3 years ago. In their experience, there have been no further slip and fall incidents reported, the product is proving to be durable, and appears to be withstanding the heavy truck traffic.

Application of the anti-slip coating appears to be an effective hazard mitigation measure to reduce the potential for slip and fall incidents, however it should be noted that this solution will not address the issues of standing or migrating water that cannot effectively drain away. Therefore there is no certainty that, in some cases, accumulation of standing water may reduce the effectiveness of the anti-slip epoxy coating. It is recommended that administration be authorized to proceed with the anti-slip coating as an immediate and most cost-effective measure to the level of safety for staff and visitors. Performance of this solution will be evaluated, and if necessary further works to improve drainage of accumulated water in the truck bays may be required in future capital budgets. There is currently sufficient funding in the fire reserve account to fund this \$35,000 initiative.

Respectfully,


by Dave Sutton
Fire Chief / C.E.M.C

Reviewed by:							
CAO 	Treasury	Clerks	Env. Services	Planning	Parks & Rec	Building	Fire