



## Committee of the Whole Report For the Meeting of November 9, 2023

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**To:** Committee of the Whole **Date:** October 27, 2023  
**From:** William Doyle, Acting Director, Engineering & Public Works  
**Subject:** Confined Space Rescue Services Agreement with Township of Esquimalt

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### RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- Approve the 5-year Agreement between the City of Victoria and the Township of Esquimalt for the continuation of the provision of Confined Space Rescue Services by the Esquimalt Fire Department when City of Victoria crews are completing a Confined Space Entry while working on the drinking water distribution system within the Township of Esquimalt.
- Authorize City of Victoria Administration to be able to renew this Agreement for a second 5-year term, upon review and confirmation from the Township of Esquimalt.

### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The City of Victoria is responsible for the operation, maintenance and repair of the drinking water distribution system within the Township of Esquimalt. Several underground facilities associated with the drinking water system in Esquimalt are classified as Confined Spaces, as per Worksafe BC legislation. Access to these facilities for the completion of maintenance and repair work requires adherence to strict Confined Space Entry procedures, which includes a requirement for the provision of emergency rescue services by trained individuals:

From Worksafe BC legislation:

#### 9.37 Provision of rescue services

- (1) The employer must provide for the services of rescue persons when a worker enters a confined space.
- (2) If the rescue persons are employees of another firm, or an agency such as a fire department, there must be a written agreement detailing the services that are to be provided.

Rescue services have historically been provided by the Township of Esquimalt's Fire Department while City of Victoria crews are working within the Township of Esquimalt in accordance with multi-year Agreements that are signed and renewed by both parties as required. The most recent Agreement expired and both municipalities would like to enter into a new Agreement for another 5-year period and have the ability to renew this Agreement for a second 5-year term.

Attached is the new 5-year Agreement to be signed by both municipalities. The details in the Agreement have been reviewed and approved by the City of Victoria legal department, Underground Utilities Operations, the Township of Esquimalt legal department and the Esquimalt Fire Department.

Respectfully submitted,

Natasha Kinloch  
Manager, Underground Utilities Operations

William Doyle  
Acting Director, Engineering & Public Works

**Report accepted and recommended by the City Manager.**

**List of Attachments**

Attachment A: New Rescue Services Agreement