

RE: FIRE UNDERWRITER'S SURVEY  
MUNICIPALITY OF BURNABY/1980 APRIL 07  
(ITEM 13, REPORT NO. 67, 1979 OCTOBER 09)

On 1979 October 09 Council received a report on a proposal for a Fire Underwriter's survey to be conducted in the Municipality. The additional information that Council requested on this matter is contained in the following report from the Director of Fire Services.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report of the Director of Fire Services be received for information purposes.

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1979 October 11

FIRE DEPARTMENT

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
FROM: DIRECTOR-FIRE SERVICES  
SUBJECT: FIRE UNDERWRITER'S SURVEY  
MUNICIPALITY OF BURNABY/1980 APRIL 07  
(ITEM 13, REPORT NO. 67, 1979 OCTOBER 09)

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with further information on the Underwriter's Survey that is going to be carried out by the Insurer's Advisory Organization in 1980, April (please see Item 13, Report No. 67 which was received on 1979 October 09). It will be recalled that Council requested information on the overall affect that the survey might have on premiums for insurance on properties located in Burnaby.

The basis for the comments that are included in this report was obtained from Mr. J. C. McPherson, Manager, Insurer's Advisory Organization of Canada, Pacific Region, Vancouver.

Notwithstanding the proposed survey to be carried out in Burnaby, there is no expectation that the results will have any bearing on the present tariff structure for single family dwellings. At present Burnaby is enjoying the most favourable tariffs in this particular area by the simple expedient of providing an organized Fire Department and a water supply sufficient in volume and pressure to suppress an advanced fire in a single family dwelling.

The foregoing while appearing somewhat simplistic, will if maintained, ensure our continuation of the most favourable tariff rating for single family dwellings.

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Mr. J.C. McPherson further advised when questioned on the relationship between a municipality's insurance classification and premiums charged for other than single family dwellings that there is no clear cut formula which dictates that for an improved classification rating resulting from the Underwriters Survey, there will be a predetermined reduction in premiums levied. But rather, the classification will be used by the insurance companies as a benchmark in determining what their risk factor is in potentially major loss areas.

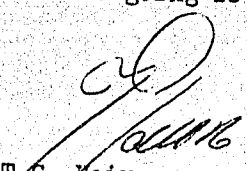
To the consumer this will mean, and dependent on the economic conditions currently prevailing at the time of purchase, he would be in a much stronger position towards obtaining the most favourable tariffs when armed with the knowledge that his community's fire insurance classification falls in the low bracket of 2-4.

NOTE: There is no record of any community being awarded a Class I rating due to the unacceptable cost of attaining this goal.

Apart from the question of insurance tariffs it should be recognized that this survey will produce many positive factors not the least of these being, an assessment of -

- 1) Our ability to prevent loss of life;
- 2) Our ability to maintain property loss at a minimum and reduce industrial down time with its accompanying loss of jobs and municipal taxes;
- 3) Improving the quality of life for the citizens in responding to their physical needs;
- 4) Ensuring the safety of the public when they enter public buildings by enforcing adequate fire prevention standards;
- 5) Guidelines to the Technical Committee when evaluating the Urban Guide for Fire Prevention and Control Master Planning in Burnaby.

The foregoing is submitted for the information of Council.

  
T.G. Nairn  
DIRECTOR-FIRE SERVICES

TGN/mc