

TO: MAYOR & COUNCILLORS
FROM: FIRE CHIEF
SUBJECT: **PARKLAND REFINERY INCIDENT COST RECOVERY**
PURPOSE: To identify the feasibility for the City to recover costs associated to the Fire Department and Police deployment of January 21, 2024 to the Parkland Refinery.

RECOMMENDATION

THAT the report titled “Parkland Refinery Incident Cost Recovery”, dated February 12, 2024 be received for information.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is provided to identify the feasibility of the City initiating cost recovery measures associated with the Fire Department and Police response to the Parkland Refinery incident of January 21, 2024.

1.0 POLICY SECTION

The Burnaby Fire Services Bylaw, 2004 contains within it the authority for the Fire Department to recover the costs associated with an incident where personnel and equipment from the Fire Department are required to standby.

1.1 Burnaby Fire Services Bylaw, 2004 – Section 51 Standby

If after responding to an incident involving broken, damaged, or displaced:

- (a) electrical or telecommunications cables, lines or ancillary equipment or works; or*
- (b) natural gas or fuel mains, lines or ancillary equipment or works;*

the Department is requested by the owner or operator of such cables, mains, lines, or ancillary equipment or works, or the member in charge at the incident deems it necessary, to have one or more members at the scene of the incident on standby for a period of more than one (1) hour, the owner or operator of such cables, mains, lines, or ancillary equipment or works shall reimburse and pay to the Department its personnel, equipment, and other related costs, as determined by the Fire Chief, for any members and equipment that remain at the incident thereafter.

2.0 BACKGROUND

The Parkland Refinery located at the northern end of Willingdon Avenue, is one of only two oil refineries in the province of BC. The facility provides close to 25% of the gasoline and diesel used in the province on a daily basis, and 30% of the jet fuel at the Vancouver International Airport. The Parkland Refinery was originally opened in 1936 by the Standard Oil Company, and was significantly increased in size and capacity during World War II, when it was rebranded to Chevron Canada Limited. In 2017, Calgary-based Parkland Fuel purchased the refinery, and has continued operation of the 55,000 barrel per day facility within the City of Burnaby.

3.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

On the morning of January 21, 2024, the Burnaby Department was advised by Parkland Refinery that the facility was experiencing flaring issues and increased smoke discharge arising from a processing unit failure. The fire department was requested to respond and stand-by at the perimeter of the refinery. On arrival, the fire department observed significant black smoke visible, and a strong odor was present discharging from Parkland's Fluid Catalytic Cracking (FCC) Unit.

3.1 FCC Unit Failure

After a several day shutdown to the Parkland refining process due to cold weather, the facility was in the midst of planned re-start operations and experienced a failure in the FCC Unit. This failure caused localized fire conditions at the FCC stack, a release of partially combusted hydrocarbons in the form of heavy dark smoke with a strong sulfur odor, and an increase of discharge from the flare stack.

3.2 Burnaby Fire Department Response

To determine the risk and protect the community during January 21, 2024, the Burnaby Fire Department assigned a 2nd Alarm response with a Hazardous Material Task Force. This response assignment provided a total of thirty-four (34) members of the Fire Department operating from eleven (11) operational vehicles, and two (2) RCMP Constables with vehicles:

- (5) Engine Companies
- (2) Ladder Companies
- (1) Rescue Company
- (3) Command Units
- (2) RCMP Units

The fire department interfaced with facility responders and took up positions as per pre-plan isolating the facility access and monitoring conditions between the facility

and the community. Operations included the integration of RCMP, BCAS and the fire department within a city command structure. Fire department resources were strategically positioned to restrict access to areas in proximity to the facility, and air monitoring at all operating locations was undertaken to identify the air outfall from the facility incident and ensure the public safety. Air monitoring during fire department attendance at this incident identified no elevated levels or warnings.

The fire department arrived at the incident at shortly after 8:00 am and remained active on scene for a period of six (6) hours and fifteen (15) minutes.

3.3 Fire Department Staff Call-Out

To maintain the fire department’s level of service across the City, four (4) Engine Companies, a Command Unit and an additional two (2) Emergency Dispatcher positions were staffed with off-duty members. The department’s level of service was not reduced with regards to fire, medical emergencies and all requests for service were attended during the 2nd Alarm resource commitment to the Parkland Refinery incident.

4.0 COMMUNICATION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Not applicable

5.0 FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

With the guidance and authority provided by the Burnaby Fire Services Bylaw Section 51 for Standby Operations, the City of Burnaby has the opportunity to recover costs incurred for personnel and equipment assigned to the Parkland Refinery incident of January 21, 2024. Within the bylaw section it is specified that cost reimbursement applies for standby operations longer than one (1) hour.

Based on a total operational time of six (6) hours and fifteen (15) minutes, the period of reimbursement would be five (5) hours and fifteen (15) minutes for the 2nd Alarm personnel and equipment.

5.1 Recoverable Cost

The breakdown of cost for the 2nd Alarm response for a period of five (5) hours and fifteen (15) minutes is:

(5) Engine Companies for (5.25) hours	\$14,332.50
(2) Ladder Companies for (5.25) hours	\$8,326.50
(1) Rescue Companies for (5.25) hours	\$1,911.00
(3) Command Units for (5.25) hours	\$4,028.54
(2) RCMP Units for (5.25) hours	\$1,365.00
Total	\$28,963.54

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Bowcock, Fire Chief