

## MEMO

**Re:** Covid-19 Response Procedure, Training and Social Distancing  
**To:** Fire Chiefs, Firefighters, Mayors and Municipal Administrators  
**From:** Derek Simmons, Director Fire Services/Fire Commissioner  
**Date:** March 18, 2020

In recent days, the Fire Service Division have received a number of calls regarding response procedures; firefighter training and social functions such as firefighter annual dinners, balls or appreciation events. As the situation regarding the Covid-19 issue is changing daily, we would recommend that you check with the official Government website <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/> on a regular basis.

Firefighters and other first responders should follow the procedures outlined by Health and Community Services “COVID-19, First Responders and the Novel Coronavirus” on the Government website at <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/files/coronavirus-first-responder-march-15-2020.pdf> Fire departments should confirm the type and level of service approved by their municipality or local service district.

With respect to training, please be advised that all training provided by Fire and Emergency Services have been cancelled, including the annual fire and emergency service training school scheduled for May in Gander. Fire departments should review their scheduled in-house training and postpone training that is not critical in nature. Where a training session is determined to be critical, the fire department should follow the recommendation on social distancing provided by Health and Community Services.

Health and Community Services is recommending that all gatherings be postponed to ensure we maintain our social distance of at least two (2) arm’s length from others. In this regard the Fire Service Division is recommending that all firefighter annual dinners, balls or appreciation events be postponed.

For further information please check the Government website <https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/> or the Fire Service Division at (709)-729-1608.