

Provincial grant for fire departments in Dufferin-Caledon doubles to \$20 million

Ontario's Fire Protection Grant is providing twice as much money to the five departments across Dufferin-Caledon this year.

The grant has doubled from \$10 million to \$20 million this year. It will be used to enhance cancer prevention measures for firefighters and improve emergency-response capabilities for lithium-ion battery related incidents.

"Our firefighters face new and evolving risks, and our government is committed to giving them the tools they need to stay safe," said Dufferin-Caledon MPP Sylvia Jones. "This expanded funding ensures fire departments across Dufferin-Caledon are better protected, prepared and equipped to respond to emergencies."

This year, several fire departments across Dufferin-Caledon will receive targeted investments, including:

Town of Caledon - Purchasing and installing a self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) air compressor and filling station to support clean-air operations.

Rosemont District Fire Department - Installing a Circul-Air Toro-Decon SCBA, personal protective equipment (PPE) and Hardgoods decontamination unit to reduce carcinogen exposure.

Orangeville Fire Services - Purchasing 40 sets of extrication coats, pants, and belts for use during technical rescue operations, reducing reliance on heavier gear and lowering contamination risks.

Shelburne Fire Department - Purchasing a hose washer and 10 sets of flame-fighter turnout gear to support safer decontamination practices.

Mulmur/Melancthon Fire Department - Purchasing 30 new SCBA facepieces and storage bags and completing minor hall renovations to install a dedicated cleaning station to improve decontamination procedures.

Grand Valley Fire Department - Relocating existing and new PPE extractors to a suitable location in the fire hall, with required structural, plumbing and electrical work, followed by the installation of a new extraction unit to enhance cancer-prevention protocols.

"Dufferin-Caledon's fire services play a vital role in protecting our communities," reads a press release from Jones, announcing the funding.

"This investment ensures local departments can upgrade critical equipment and infrastructure and respond safely to emerging hazards, reducing long-term health risks for firefighters."