



Fire/Rescue Services  
Staff Report to Council

**DATE:** September 15, 2014  
**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief  
**SUBJECT:** **Clandestine Lab Fire Update and Related Discussion**  
**ATTACHMENT(S):** Appendix A - Email dated September 6, 2014 from the Fire Chief to Council and the Chief Administrative Officer Regarding a Clandestine Lab Fire

This report is provided for information purposes only. No staff recommendation accompanies this report and Council action is not required.

**PURPOSE:**

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of a Clandestine Lab Fire that took place on Saturday, September 6, 2014.

**BACKGROUND:**

On Saturday, September 6, 2014 the Fire/Rescue Service responded to a report of a structure fire at a commercial building at the corner of Glasgow Avenue and Horne Street. Subsequent investigation revealed the presence of a clandestine drug operation at the site. Attached for Council's information is an email dated September 6, 2014 from the Fire Chief which provided an overview of the situation (Appendix A). Staff will be in attendance at the September 15, 2014 Regular Council meeting to provide an update on more recent events related to this matter and to answer any questions that may arise.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no financial implications directly associated with this report.

**COMMUNICATION:**

No communication action is required.

**SIGN-OFFS:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Larry Watkinson".

Larry Watkinson, Fire Chief

Comment from Chief Administrative Officer  
Reviewed.

## APPENDIX A

### **Email from Fire Chief Dated September 6, 2014:**

-----Original Message-----

From: Larry Watkinson

Sent: September-06-14 8:16 PM

To: Council Mailing List

Cc: Ken Bjorgaard; Ted Adlem

Subject: Clandestine lab fire

Today at approximately 12 PM the Mission Fire/Rescue Service responded to a report of structure fire at a commercial building at the corner of Glasgow and Horne Street across from Chances Casino. On arrival, engine one found heavy smoke coming from the structure and made entry as we would on a commercial structure fire. When the crew made entry, they found large barrels of acetone and different chemicals, and red phosphorus that is known as clan lab products. The captain at that time ordered the crew to exit the structure and started emergency decontamination and defensive operations as per our standing operating procedures. The Fire Chief arrived on scene and established command and recognized the incident as a possible clan lab and, at that point, he requested the Abbotsford hazardous materials team to respond to Mission, and the RCMP clan lab special operations team. After Abbotsford arrived on scene and set up decontamination for the entry teams, and the RCMP clan lab team arrived on scene, we were able to make entry to confirm what exactly we were dealing with. The RCMP clan lab team made entry and found numerous containers of different chemicals and product that was used to create methamphetamine drugs and clan lab operations, The RCMP clan lab team reported this was a very large clandestine lab at a very high scale, with the finished product and large amounts of hazardous materials. The RCMP entry team reported that the fire was created from the chemical chain reaction. The team then exited the building and we set up a security perimeter with RCMP overnight and we will continue our operations with a warrant Sunday. Due to the hazardous materials involved in this incident Abbotsford fire rescue services hazardous materials team will be contracted to set up the decontamination system while Mission Fire/Rescue Service will be on scene for fire suppression operations, and the RCMP Clan lab team will be on scene executing the mitigation of the drug paraphernalia. As you may have found, the city of Mission was very congested with traffic throughout Saturday afternoon, as we needed to set up a complete fire zone within one block radius of this incident due to be highly flammable, explosive, and toxic situation we were dealing with. We needed to close down all axis points to that area which then of course made traffic congested throughout the city. All of the commercial buildings, restaurants and businesses were evacuated for their safety East of Mershon St. including chances Casino.

Unfortunately, one of our firefighters had to be transferred to hospital due to chemical exposure and minor facial chemical burns, but she is recovering well and will be back to work next shift.

The entire Mission Fire/Rescue Service was used to mitigate this problem; we also relied on our mutual aid contracts with North Fraser fire dept. for city coverage.

I will personally be on scene overseeing this project into Sunday and possibly Monday or as required, as this is a very complex situation.

Larry Watkinson, CFO

Fire Chief

Dist. of Mission

Sent from my iPad