



A Message from our Industry Members

Dear Director of Fire and Emergency Services Chris Wells,

It has been almost two years since the first case of COVID-19 was diagnosed. Since that initial case, the world changed rapidly as governments across the globe instituted a variety of health and safety protocols in an effort to contain this pathogen. The Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs (OAFCh) has done our best to keep members apprised of important information surrounding COVID-19 and to advocate for the health and safety of the fire service. Some of the initiatives the OAFCh has championed on behalf of the fire service include: access to personal protective equipment (PPE), rapid COVID-19 testing and results, continuance of training (albeit with limited capacity), ensuring organizations that provide products/services to fire services be deemed essential during lockdown periods, and inclusion of firefighters who respond to medical calls in the initial phase of the COVID-19 vaccination rollout.

With the continuation of the pandemic, we want to turn your attention to

another issue that is starting to have a greater impact on all departments in Ontario - increased expenses and longer wait times for equipment and apparatus purchases. By now you have all seen articles and news stories that speak to global supply chain issues. After nearly two years of various states of worldwide lockdowns, the global supply chains that companies and manufactures rely on, are starting to break down.

After speaking with some of our Industry Members, vendors, and partners, we felt it was prudent to ensure our members keep in mind that these global supply chain issues are affecting the fire services supply chains. Our Industry Members informed us that these departments when seeking to purchase new equipment or apparatus, should expect,

1. Increased costs, and
2. Increased delivery times

While not every vendor is affected equally, and some vendors are not yet affected, the general consensus in the sector is that these two issues will continue to affect the procurement process. Due to this, we wanted to ensure that you are aware of what to expect when purchasing new equipment. With this in mind, members should take these issues into consideration when starting the procurement process.

If you have any questions about supply chain issues, and how it may affect your department, please contact Mark Tishman, Program and Policy Analyst by email to mark.tishman@oafc.on.ca or by calling 416-399-0510.

