



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 15.3.1

Request for Council's Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor
Date of Council Meeting: June 10, 2025		
Subject: Blasting & Carbon Monoxide		
Motion for Council to Consider:		
<p>That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Summarizes the events surrounding the April 14, 2025 carbon monoxide incident and overnight evacuation affecting several homes on Marketway Lane, Timberlea, and assesses the adequacy of the current HRM Blasting By-law in addressing newly identified risks; andb) Recommends a communication protocol with residents on unanticipated matters related to blasting and community safety.		
Reason:		
<p>On April 14, 2025 a carbon monoxide detector on Marketway Lane Timberlea detected high levels in a home on Marketway lane in Timberlea. Halifax Fire and the RCMP attended, and four home homes were evacuated overnight due to elevated carbon monoxide levels. It was determined that the carbon monoxide was due to blasting as there were no other possible sources in the affected homes. This is a newly identified risk and thus the reason for the request to review the adequacy of the blasting by-law and its related fines.</p> <p>On April 15 NS Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration initiated a work stoppage and placed conditions before the construction company would be permitted to resume work. The conditions were met and work resumed but there have been continued violations of the conditions resulting in further DoL imposed work stoppages and on May 29, 2025, HRM revoked their blasting permit for failure to comply with the permit terms and conditions.</p> <p>Since this issue began there has been a lack of clarity about who is responsible to ensure residents are informed about the situation and have a contact number for further information. NS Department of Labour has the jurisdiction over the worksite and occupational health and safety, but they did not have the role of keeping the public informed when safety incidents extend beyond the worksite. A vocal group of residents have expressed that they expect both levels of government to provide updates more proactively on safety around blasting sites.</p>		

Outcome Sought:

Staff recommendation on the adequacy of HRM blasting by-law to mitigate newly identified risks.

Staff recommendations on HRM and provincial government roles and responsibilities to communicate with the public on work-site related safety issues that extend beyond the worksite.

Councillor Steele

District 12