



**Tuesday July 2, 2019**

**MEDIA RELEASE FROM THE SIX NATIONS EMERGENCY CONTROL GROUP**

Due to the recent and frequent emergency calls within the Six Nations community, the Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services department is now experiencing a shortage of firefighters, which consequently is causing the emergency response times to increase from the typical average time. The mutual aid fire services are assisting but response times from their station may be an additional 11 minutes to each incident. As a result the public safety is at a heightened risk, and the probability of another fire is high. In past situations, such as the flooding that occurred, which exhausted fire services, neighbouring fire services provided staffing here in Six Nations to allow time for Six Nations Firefighters to recover. As a result from the demonstration occurring over at the Six Nations Central Administration building the surrounding fire services are not comfortable sending firefighters to be stationed at Fire Station #1 in Ohsweken. Due to the increased need to respond to emergency calls the Six Nations Fire and Emergency Services are extremely over-tired, but are still responding. It is important to note that Firefighters perform a very stressful job on the daily basis, wherein sleep is integral to instilling they perform their jobs at optimal ability. As of right now the Six Nations Firefighters are exhausted with no adequate time to recover physically and mentally in relation to the 5 residential house fires that occurred over the past 9 days in the Six Nations of the Grand River Community.

Safety is paramount and we urge all community members to ensure you are proactive about your personal community safety, such as ensuring smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are properly working, when cooking ensuring the food is safely monitored, electrical units are used safely, and other appropriate safety measures. If you are experiencing an emergency please continue to call 911.

A Press Conference is scheduled to occur at the Six Nations Fire Station #1 located at 17 Veterans Lane, Ohsweken ONT. N0A 1M0.

Six Nations Emergency Control Group