



# ELBURN & COUNTRYSIDE FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



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May 8, 2020

To our valued residents and visitors of the Elburn Fire Protection District,

First of all, THANK YOU to those community members who have offered their support and kindness to the members of our Fire District during this pandemic. We are grateful for your kind words, gestures, and spiritual intentions.

During this pandemic we deemed it necessary to alter our normal operations by pulling back most of our "routine" responsibilities. These responsibilities include conducting annual business inspections, hydrant maintenance, hose testing, multi-company training, company compliance drills, and other required "Readiness" actions. While these events were placed "on hold", we enjoyed being part of YOUR milestone celebrations by participating in "Drive-by" parades and appropriate physical distancing compliant activities. We enjoyed seeing our communities coming together and supporting each other during these challenging times. We hope our participation helped raise the spirits and improve the "mental health" of those who were restricted due to the Governor's "Protect in Place" order.

Our number one priority is to be prepared to meet the emergency needs of our community. We accomplish this through readiness, response, and recovery actions. During this pandemic nearly all of our efforts were geared toward response and maintaining the safety of our crews so we could help others. We are now preparing to begin the "recovery and restoration phase" for the pandemic. In this phase our Initial Response Force members (duty crews) must focus on restoring the many required readiness activities that were temporarily placed on hold. The afore-mentioned phase of our plan is slated to begin on Monday May 18<sup>th</sup> and will progress in incremental steps - while remaining in compliance with recommendations from Federal and State Health agencies during this next phase.

Although we look forward to returning to some semblance of "normal", we also recognize that we have to discontinue some of the "fun" activities that we very much enjoyed including participating in the drive-by events. It is our intent to honor the requests that have been made for events through and including May 17, 2020 (emergency calls and urgent Fire District matters permitting). We will not be able to schedule or participate in events following this date. We know that this will be disappointing to many of our residents but we have MANY activities that are required to be completed on an annual (or more frequent) basis and we simply need to "catch up".

We do look forward to seeing you out in the community soon and want to let you know that being of service to your families and neighbors remains our genuine honor and privilege.

In the interest of life and safety,

Joseph Cluchey  
Fire Chief