



December 22, 2017

MEMO TO : Park Board Commissioners  
FROM : Darren Peterson, Recreation Manager  
SUBJECT : **Ammonia Inspection Initiatives**

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Dear Commissioners,

This memo is to update you on ice rink ammonia plant inspections currently underway by WorkSafe BC and Technical Safety BC.

### **Background**

Following the unfortunate and tragic event that unfolded in the City of Fernie in October which resulted in three deaths, WorkSafe BC and Technical Safety BC embarked on focussed inspections of ammonia refrigeration systems facilities across British Columbia.

The Vancouver Park Board operates seven ice rinks, including; Killarney, Sunset, Trout Lake, Hillcrest, Kerrisdale, Kitsilano and West End. Britannia ice rink is operated in partnership by Park Board and the Britannia Community Services Society.

WorkSafe BC was established by provincial legislation as an agency with the mandate to oversee a no-fault insurance system for the workplace. WorkSafe BC partners with employers and workers in B.C. to do the following:

- Promote the prevention of workplace injury, illness, and disease
- Rehabilitate those who are injured, and provide timely return to work
- Provide fair compensation to replace workers' loss of wages while recovering from injuries
- Ensure sound financial management for a viable workers' compensation system

Technical Safety BC is an independent, self-funded organization mandated to oversee the safe installation and operation of technical systems and equipment across the province. In addition to issuing permits, licences and certificates, we work with industry to reduce safety risks through assessment, education and outreach, enforcement, and research.

### **Update**

All eight of our ice rinks have now been inspected. Verbal feedback from the inspection officers has been positive, and both organizations view the Park Board as an industry leader.

However, the inspection reports that we've received back do include a large number of orders that require corrective action. Our team of Maintenance Technicians have reviewed these orders, with assistance from Organizational Safety and REFM, and they are working to correct the violations and report back by an agreed upon date in early 2018.



Most of the orders are related to:

- Monthly ammonia alarm system test required (current practice is quarterly)
- Update documentation to include safe operating procedures for contractors
- Documentation of annual drills
- Install remote shut off valves
- Install other hardware (ventilation, sensor displays, signage, etc...)

Associated costs for repair of physical plant will be covered by REFM.

One of the orders received from Technical Safety BC clarified the requirement for 24/7 staffing at ice rinks that do not have a special plant designation (risk assessed). Currently, only Trout Lake has this designation so our Maintenance Technicians have scheduled 24/7 coverage at the other rinks. Our long term solution is to have all of our rinks risk assessed, achieving the special plant designation, which eliminates the requirement for 24/7 staffing.

Vancouver Park Board staff are committed to the safe operation of ice rinks in Vancouver and are working diligently to rectify everything identified and required as a result of these reviews.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Donnie Rosa", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Donnie Rosa**  
Director of Recreation - Vancouver Board of Parks and Recreation

/dp/dr/ph

Copy to: PB Senior Management Team  
PB Communications