



Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Early wildfire detection system testing along Eastside Road this week

Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) would like to advise residents that several small fires are scheduled to take place along Eastside Road this week as part of ongoing testing of SenseNet—an early wildland fire detection system.

The City of Vernon was selected for at scale testing of this emergent technology in 2022. Since this time many sensors, gateways and cameras have been installed throughout Vernon’s higher risk areas to provide a web of early fire detection. A key advantage of the system is its ability to share information with others using the same system, expanding its capacity.

On December 14 and 15, 2023 residents may see smoke from small test fires, which will be approximately one (1) metre by one (1) metre in size. The testing is a cooperative effort with SenseNet, Rider Ventures and VFRS. Please Note: The testing schedule may be adjusted due to weather and site conditions.

“Early detection is a powerful tool in managing fires,” said Fire Chief David Lind. “When we get fuel mitigation and early detection right, and have an adequate response, the fires typically go out while they are still manageable. Early detection is also key for moving people out of the way when fast moving fires do occur. These tests will provide for system validation, in a controlled setting, and for fine tuning as needed.”

“At SenseNet, we want to extend our sincere gratitude to the City of Vernon, especially the Fire Chief and FireSmart Coordinator, for their exceptional work in testing new technologies and consistently staying ahead of the curve,” said SenseNet CEO, Hamed Noori. “In the face of the severe wildfires impacting Canada, their proactive measures are essential in effectively protecting our communities. Our technology is a tool; the real champions are the fire departments who utilize these tools to enhance their capabilities in this new era of increasingly severe wildfires. These situations demand innovative approaches, and Vernon Fire Rescue Services stands out as one of the most forward-thinking departments in Canada. We are hopeful that our technology can make their critical job of keeping the community safe a little easier.”