

## Vacant and Abandoned Properties Bulletin

### General Overview

The Surrey Fire Service Community Property Safety Team (CPST) has implemented an effective model to address distressed properties, resulting in a reduced number of fires within vacant/abandoned buildings. These properties often attract unauthorized activity, posing significant public safety risks and requiring frequent responses from police, fire, and by-law services. The CPST's objective is to mitigate these risks by engaging property owners, informing them of their obligations, and issuing administrative orders when necessary.

### Definition of Vacant/Abandoned Building

A vacant/abandoned building is defined as a structure that remains unused or unimproved for a consecutive period of 30 days. The CPST collaborates with property owners to ensure compliance with regulations aimed at securing such buildings, thereby reducing fire incidents within Surrey.

### Owner Responsibilities

Owners of properties with vacant/abandoned buildings are subject to City of Surrey *Abandoned Properties Bylaw, 2007, No. 16394*, which outlines the duties of an owner and the specific requirements for securing and safeguarding these properties against unauthorized access, occupation, vandalism, intentional damage, or fire hazards. Given the heightened risks associated with vacant/abandoned properties, adherence to the security standards established by the City of Surrey is imperative.

### Required Actions

Property owners with vacant/abandoned buildings are urged to contact the CPST for guidance on complying with the requirements of Bylaw 16394 and securing their properties. The CPST will provide support and address any inquiries regarding the necessary steps to ensure properties are secured to the City of Surrey standards. For assistance, please reach out to the CPST via email at [CPSTeam@surrey.ca](mailto:CPSTeam@surrey.ca) or by phone at 604-591-4770.

We appreciate your cooperation in mitigating the risk of fires in vacant/abandoned buildings. These risk reduction efforts help to improve fire safety outcomes.

**For information about our program and the bylaws associated with CPST see the links below:**

- [Abandoned Properties Bylaw, 2007, No. 16394](#)
- [Surrey Fee-Setting Bylaw, 2001, No. 14577](#)
- <https://www.surrey.ca/about-surrey/surrey-fire-service/community-property-safety-team>