

To: CAO for the Electoral Area Services Committee

Date: 2019-07-09

From: Reg Dyck, Manager of Electoral Area Emergency Services

File No: 7200-01

**Subject: Electoral Area Emergency Services – Department Activity Report**

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### **INTENT**

This report is intended to advise the Electoral Area Services Committee of information pertaining to activity within the Emergency Services Department. Staff are not looking for a recommendation and has forwarded this information should members want more clarification to discuss the item further.

### **STRATEGIC AREA(S) OF FOCUS**

Provide Responsive & Effective Public Services

### **DISCUSSION**

The following is a brief overview of the activity for the Electoral Area Emergency Services Department between January 2019 and June 2019:

#### **Volunteer Fire Departments:**

#### **ECOMM Transition:**

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, the FVRD Dispatch Centre closed and all dispatch duties went to ECOMM. There were some initial challenges with the transition with the fire department adjusting to the new system however, the fire departments have adjusted well and are comfortable with the new processes.

#### **Training and Conferences:**

Several firefighters from various halls attended the 2019 Wildfire Symposium held in Penticton the first weekend in May. Here they learned about new wildfire mitigation tactics and methodology and had the opportunity to network with other firefighters from around the province. The BC Fire Expo was

held the first week of June. This conference provided an opportunity for me and several of our Chiefs to learn about new technology and equipment as well as the latest safety concerns for both our citizens and our firefighters. Firefighter mental health was a key focus of the conference.

### **Individual Fire hall Activities:**

#### **Jan 2019 June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019**

##### **Boston Bar / North Bend:**

- Responded to 25 calls for service
- 1 resignation

##### **Chilliwack River Valley**

- Responded to 71 calls for service
- 2 resignation, 1 leave of absence
- Acquired 3 new recruits and a junior firefighter
- New rescue truck RFP awarded

##### **Columbia Valley**

- Responded to 23 calls for service
- 3 resignations and 1 leave of absence

##### **Hemlock Valley**

- Chief Marty McKinney resigned on May 6<sup>th</sup> and Ken Harbord was appointed Chief.
- Responded to 7 calls for service
- Acquired 2 new recruits and had 1 resignation
- Held a "Meet the Fire Department" event in April.

##### **North Fraser**

- Responded to 251 calls for service
- Acquired 2 new recruits and 1 returning fire fighter
- Held a live fire training exercise on June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Hosted a community Pancake Breakfast which included a Show and Shine and kids activities on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### **Popkum**

- Responded to 96 calls for service
- 3 resignations
- Held a live fire training exercise in April with Yale and District VFD in attendance.
- Hosted a community Pancake Breakfast on June 1<sup>st</sup>.

##### **Yale and District**

- Responded to 18 calls for service
- Acquired 1 Junior Fire Fighter

**Emergency Support Services:**

Our ESS Area Coordinators are actively working on securing sites for reception centres and group lodging. To that end they are working with local businesses to build their supply resources lists for food and lodging of evacuees. It is imperative that we grow our ESS teams so that we have the capacity to ensure proper support to the members of the public. We are reliant on our neighboring ESS groups for support as we do not have the manpower in some of the Electoral Areas.

**Emergency Program:**

The FVRD hosted the EMBC Spring Readiness Workshop on April 10<sup>th</sup> with representatives from several provincial and local government entities available to answer questions from the participants. The workshop was well attended with just over 50 people from the FVRD, other local governments and First Nations taking part.

On May 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the EMBC Conducting Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis course. This was well attended by several staff members as well as members from other local governments and First Nations.

Also, on June 5<sup>th</sup>, we hosted the EMBC EOC Planning course which was also well attended by staff and members from other local governments.

We have had 3 more staff members successfully complete a course in EOC Essentials.

Two community information sessions have been attended by the Emergency Services Department, April 4<sup>th</sup> for Area C and May 11<sup>th</sup> for area E, two more are scheduled for area H on Saturday July 6<sup>th</sup> at the Cultus Lake and Columbia Valley fire halls.

**Auditor General for Local Government Performance Audit "Emergency Management in Local Government":**

Members of the AGLG Audit team have been interviewing members of the Board and Staff and reviewing various documents and plans since early February. The final report should be ready late this year.

**COST**

There are no costs associated with this report.

**COMMENTS BY:**

**Tareq Islam, Director of Engineering & Community Services:** Reviewed and supported.

**Mike Veenbaas, Director of Financial Services:**

No further financial comments.

**Jennifer Kinneman, Acting Chief Administrative Officer:**

Reviewed and supported.