

Subject Protective Services Monthly Report

Month March

Fire Services

Staff are reviewing the draft RDEK Fire Strategic Plan prepared by FireWise Consulting. Volunteer recruitment and retention is an ongoing, priority need for all RDEK fire departments and will be one of the areas of focus in the strategic plan.

Columbia Valley Fire

Interior and exterior training occurs jointly between all four halls on weekends, and separately on weeknights. Invermere Fire has new members training with RDEK Fire. This joint approach builds capacity across departments and ensures familiarity of equipment and personnel.

Fairmont Fire assisted Canal Flats Fire with a structure fire in the fabrication shop at the old planer mill.

South Country Fire

An *Elk Valley South Country Training Committee* has been formed. The objective of the committee is to provide a platform for developing training programs using input from all departments.

Baynes Lake and Jaffray Fire Departments are now amalgamating training nights. This is to continue team building, improve interagency operability, and to provide more effective training sessions.

The Elko Volunteer Fire Department Society held a very successful community dinner to help raise funds for the fire department.

2020 Responses to date	Fire Service Areas								Totals
	Baynes Lake	Edgewater	Elko	Fairmont	Hosmer	Jaffray	Panorama	Windermere	
Fire	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
MVA	0	1	0	1	8	1	1	2	14
First Responder	0	2	1	2	2	5	0	6	18
Ice Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Still Water Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Swift Water Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Embankment Rescue	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	1	0	1	2	3	1	2	11
Totals	1	4	1	5	12	9	2	13	47
Average Attendance for Training	6	7	7	9	6	6	10	9	
Average Attendance for Incidents	4	5	6	5	4	5	6	5	
Volunteer Roster	10	16	15	16	11	16	21	18	123

East Kootenay Emergency Management Program

Emergency Management Training

Emergency Management BC (EMVC) courses have been approved for 2020/2021. The East Kootenay Emergency Management Program will host eight courses, providing staff from across the region an opportunity to learn together, fully funded by EMBC.

Regional Functional Emergency Exercise

RDEK awarded a contract for services to facilitate the Regional Emergency Operations Centre exercise in April 2020. The exercise will provide an opportunity for staff from the across the region to practice site support functions in the event of an emergency.

Regional Collaboration

The Protective Services Manager has been reaching out to partner municipalities and First Nations to gain a better understanding of overall roles and responsibilities between the RDEK, municipalities and First Nations within the region. These discussions will likely result in revisions to the East Kootenay Emergency Management Plan.

Evacuation Planning

Staff are updating the East Kootenay Evacuation Strategy, which will include detailed Evacuation Route Plans for each municipality. Funding is currently available through the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. To maximize efficiencies, the RDEK is requesting that municipalities and First Nations consider resolutions to support the RDEK in providing overall coordination of the project and grant.

BC Emergency Program Act Modernization

Staff provided EMBC with feedback on the discussion paper *Modernizing BC's Emergency Management Legislation*. The feedback will help to inform the new act; anticipated to be introduced in the fall 2020 legislative session.

FireSmart Communities

The RDEK is currently soliciting applications for a FireSmart Coordinator to fulfill a one-year contract. The coordinator will provide coordination of FireSmart activities, deliver and advance the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program (FCCRP) and provide outreach/education to residents. The communities of Grasmere, Newgate and Fairmont Hot Springs are in the process of applying for national recognition under the FCCRP.

Grants

RDEK staff have received notification on some successful grant applications this month:

- Community Resiliency Investment Program - \$150,000
- Wildfire Education Program, Columbia Basin Trust - \$50,000