

Subject Protective Services Monthly Department Report

Month June 2025

RDEK Fire Services

RDEK Fire Departments continue to prepare for the upcoming wildfire season, ensuring staff and equipment are ready to respond.

Columbia Valley Fire (CV)

Weather events presented challenges with various call types and simultaneous incidents last month. In June, during a moderate wind event, Windermere FD was dispatched for a marine rescue involving two people separated from their watercraft, alongside responding to multiple downed hydro lines, including one arcing/fire in a campground. We thank our members; their response is crucial in managing these incidents.

CV Training

- CV Fire hosted a First Responder Instructor Course held over two weekends in June. The new/recertifying instructors will have to complete a co-teach with another certified instructor as the last step in their training.
- CV Fire has wrapped up the annual Exterior and Interior FF training programs.
- Two Panorama FD members took part in Swiftwater Rescue Training along with CVSAR members and delivered by Rescue Canada.

Elk Valley South Country Fire (EVSC)

Fire Chief Michael Hockley excelled in the accelerated (3-year) Bachelor of Applied Business in Emergency Services program at Lakeland College, graduating with distinction while he maintained his full-time role as Fire Chief for RDEK Elk Valley & South Country Services. This program equipped him with valuable tools essential for handling the diverse operational and administrative demands of today's dynamic fire service.

EVSC Training

- Fire Chief Hockley, Assistant Fire Chief Engelhardt, and Protective Services Manager Carbrej attended the BC Fire Chiefs Conference June 8 – 12, 2025, where they attended the Fire Chiefs Association of BC AGM and attended various education sessions providing knowledge on the latest industry trends.
- EVSC Fire conducted 1 of 2 of Annual Water Shuttling exercises. The exercises include all four of the EVSC Fire Departments and Fernie Fire Department.

	Fire Service Areas								
	Baynes Lake	Edgewater	Elko	Fairmont	Hosmer	Jaffray	Panorama	Windermere	
2025 Responses to date									Totals
Fires: Structure, Chimney, Vehicle, Garbage, etc.	5	1	3	2	3	4		3	21
Fires: Forestry, Brush, Grass, Interface, etc.	1		1			1		1	4
MVI/Extrication	5	1	5	2	10	16	1	6	46
First Responder	8	8	11	38	5	17	8	24	119
Tech Rescues; Embankment Ice/Swift/Water				1				3	4
Electrical Emergencies: Hydro/Telus; Downed Lines, Pole Fires, etc.	2					2	1	4	9
Natural Gas/Propane Carbon Monoxide	1			2			1	2	6
Alarm Activation: Good Intent, Malicious, Accidental/Faulty.	1	1		2	1		6	5	16
Burning Complaints, Bans, Fireworks, etc.	1		1	2				8	12
Public Service/Other Misc Incidents		1		3		1		1	6
EMCR, Other Tasks (sandbagging, EOC, etc)									
Totals	24	12	21	52	19	41	17	57	243
Average Attendance for Training	5	9	10	16	4	6	8	18	
Average Attendance for Incident	4	4	6	3	3	5	3	6	
Volunteer Roster	10	14	14	20	10	14	16	22	

East Kootenay Emergency Management Program (EKEMP)

The regional Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) project has begun, aimed at helping residents and decision-makers understand potential regional risks and hazards. Since the RDEK's last HRVA in 2011, both the risk landscape and our communities have evolved significantly. This updated analysis will offer accurate, up-to-date information to enhance local and regional emergency planning and resilience. The project is scheduled to run from summer 2025 through early 2027.

Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)

A private member's Bill received its first reading in May 2025, which would amend section 6 of the EDMA to require the establishment of a BC Volunteer Corps Committee. Local governments are still awaiting regulations related to the local authority provisions of the EDMA—particularly concerning risk assessments, emergency planning, business continuity, indigenous engagement, and multijurisdictional coordination. These regulations are expected in fall 2025.

Building on Knowledge - Training

EKEMP has been actively preparing for the upcoming response season. Three Emergency Support Services (ESS) training sessions were held, in Windermere, Elkford, and Cranbrook.

A two-day Information Officer course for EKEMP partners focused on best practices in handling sensitive information and responding to media inquiries.

The Regional EOC conducted two days of Emergency Operations Centre training, including an "EOC in a Day" refresher and a simulated functional response exercise. All EOC functions were activated to manage a complex, multi-jurisdictional emergency scenario.

EKEMP also collaborated with local search and rescue teams to familiarize themselves with new evacuation software designed to streamline processes and procedures.

FireSmart

The FireSmart team has been very busy attending events and working with new and continuing FireSmart Champions to improve wildfire resilience across the region.

Sloane More has been hired as our new Emergency and Disaster Mitigation Coordinator (*formerly the Wildfire Resilience Supervisor*) and will be joining the team on Monday, July 14th, 2025. CV Local FireSmart Representative (LFR) Steve Levitt has wrapped up his position with the RDEK, and staff are in the process of onboarding a replacement LFR.