

**Subject** Protective Services Monthly Report

**Month** April 2020

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### **Fire Services**

All face-to-face fire service training is suspended due to COVID19. Online training modules are delivered remotely, where possible. Fire services are receiving guidance from the BC Fire Chiefs Association to protect personnel and Kelowna Fire Dispatch has modified dispatch procedures to reduce exposure. Personal protective equipment inventories are being carefully managed and additional supplies are being sourced.

### **Columbia Valley Fire**

All Columbia Valley RDEK departments are heavily involved with interior and exterior training for at least another two months. In addition, volunteers will be taking extra weekends to attend wild fire training, team leader training, and electrical awareness and procedure training from BC Hydro. Training in many disciplines have been the focus this winter.

We've had a reasonable turnout of new recruits for this year. However, more members are still needed, as it is very common to gain a new member or two just to lose one around the same time.

Windermere and Fairmont Fire Department will be focusing this year on aerial truck training and operations. This year we will be purchasing a used aerial truck (ladder truck) to accommodate our three and four-story resorts, condos and larger homes. This unit will be stationed at the Windermere Fire Hall. This also renders this unit to be centrally located within the Columbia Valley.

### **Elk Valley South Country Fire**

Jaffray Fire Department Society recently held their 14<sup>th</sup> annual curling bonspiel. The bonspiel was very successful, raising over \$11,000! These funds are earmarked for a side-by-side utility vehicle equipped with wildland firefighting equipment.

The training program has been very busy in the Elk Valley and South Country. In addition to regular weekly training sessions, several members have taken specialized training. Jaffray Fire Department was the host to a hazmat operations training course which saw 22 firefighters from 6 different fire departments participating. 3 fire officers recently travelled to Trail to become certified as Provincial Structural Protection Task Force Leaders and 2 fire officers from Baynes Lake recently attended Fire Service Instructor certification training in Christina Lake.

Recruitment is still a challenge with no new members to report.

2020 Responses to date	Fire Service Areas								Totals
	Baynes Lake	Edgewater	Elko	Fairmont	Hosmer	Jaffray	Panorama	Windermere	
Fire				6			1	3	10
MVA		1	1	1	10	5	1	2	21
First Responder	1	2	1	7	3	7	2	14	37
Ice Rescue									0
Still Water Rescue									0
Swift Water Rescue									0
Embankment Rescue									0
Other	1	1		7	2	4	4	7	26
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>94</b>
Average Attendance for Training	6	7	7	9	6	6	10	9	
Average Attendance for Incidents	4	5	6	5	4	5	5	5	
Volunteer Roster	10	16	15	16	11	16	22	18	

## **East Kootenay Emergency Management Program**

### **COVID 19 Pandemic**

The East Kootenay Regional Emergency Operations Center (REOC) has been activated virtually since March 16, 2020. All municipalities and First Nations in the region are participating in twice weekly coordination calls, along with partner agencies such as Interior Health, School Districts, and first responders.

Protective Services staff have been dedicating a majority of their time supporting this planning and response effort. The key functions of the REOC are; supporting Interior Health, business continuity, information management to residents and stakeholders and REOC support.

### **Emergency Management Training**

All emergency management training has been postponed for the time being and will be re-scheduled for a later date.

### **Regional Functional Emergency Exercise**

Exercise Sunbeam has been postponed. The planning for the exercise is near complete and we will be ready to proceed once we are able to resume larger gatherings.

### **Freshet Flooding Preparedness**

Current snowpack in the East Kootenay is 114% of normal and is considered moderately high for this time of year. While snowpack is one risk factor for freshet flooding, spring weather is also a critical factor in whether flooding occurs or not. Heavy rainfall during the snowmelt period has been a key driver in spring flooding in BC, and can cause flooding irrespective of snowpack levels. Staff are in the process of staging sand and sandbags strategically across the region and working on seasonal preparedness messaging for residents.

### **FireSmart Communities**

RDEK staff are in the process of awarding a contract for a FireSmart Coordinator for the 2020 year. The coordinator will provide overall coordination of the FireSmart activities, deliver and advance the FireSmart Canada Community Recognition Program (FCCRP) and provide outreach/education to residents on the seven FireSmart disciplines.

### **UBCM Grants**

RDEK staff have received notification of a successful grant application this month:

- Indigenous Cultural Safety and Cultural Humility Training - \$25,000.00