

Board Meeting

JUL 20 2017

CCRD ITEM 21

Courtney E. Kirk

From: Cheryl Waugh CCRD <tlc@ccrd-bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, July 20, 2017 9:58 AM
To: Alison Sayers; BC Ferries Ops/Security; Bella Coola Valley Tourism; CCRD CAO; Cheryl Waugh; Cst Scott Monuik; Ed Backmann; Gunnar Moren; Heather Ross; Heather Ross ; Ken McIlwain; Kristy Stranaghan ; Markus Schieck; Monica Wolgien ; Pat Gunderson ; Roger Harris ; Russell Snow; Samuel Schooner; Sharon Carroll; Steve Dishkin; Stuart Harrison; Wendy Kingsley; Wilma Mack
Subject: CCRD Emergency Mgt

For the information of everyone associated with the Level 1 Emergency Notification List, this is an update on the Central Coast Regional District's (CCRD) current emergency management of the Precipice wildfire, the potential for a westward evacuation from the Anahim Lake areas and the ongoing wildfire situation in the Chilcotin, affecting Hwy 20 travel.

The CCRD emergency program has been monitoring the wildfire and highway closure since Friday, July 7th when a Provincial State of Emergency was declared. On Sunday, July 9th the Precipice/Hotnarko wildfire was identified within the CCRD's boundary and the NE Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre notified that we were to issue an evacuation order for the associated area (The Precipice) due to the immediate danger to life safety. A Task Number was obtained from the province in order to execute the evacuation order. It was at this point the CCRD activated a Level 1 Emergency Operations Centre.

Although the above-described incidents happened over a weekend, the CCRD's emergency preparedness plan incorporates an after-hours coordinator to manage low level events with the authority to arrange for an increased level of management, if required, dependent on the scope, scale, and nature of the event. The current Level 1 EOC activities have consisted of information-gathering on the incidents, regular communication with the agencies directly involved, monitoring of both the local wildfire event and the transportation difficulties along the Highway 20 corridor, assisting with logistics to maintain the flow of essential supplies and the re-entry of key personnel. Our Emergency Social Services staff have also been assisting stranded travelers here and directing community members who cannot return via the highway.

On the advice of Emergency Management BC, a State of Local Emergency was declared by the CCRD on July 15th in support of the Precipice/Hotnarko wildfire evacuation order. This was strictly an administrative process and will be renewed every seven days as needed.

In the event the Precipice/Hotnarko wildfire grows towards Anahim Lake, it would cross the boundary into the Cariboo Regional District (CRD). The CRD would then take over assessment of the need for an evacuation of the population of Anahim Lake, Charlotte Lake and Nimpo Lake. Our understanding at this time is that the CRD would evacuate westward into the Bella Coola Valley. Advance planning is underway at the Central Coast Regional District to coordinate such an evacuation and to receive the population at risk. Professional resources can be called upon from the province to assist in supporting this level of event. Locally, we have secured alternate locations to support a higher level EOC and venues to serve as reception centres and Emergency Social Services centres.

Since the activation of the EOC, I have been acting as the EOC Director. While the CCRD remains active at a Level 1 EOC, the location is at the Bella Coola office, 626 Cliff Street. Current hours of operation are Mon-Fri, 0830-1600. Phone contact is 250-799-5291. After-hours monitoring moves to my personal location at 3825 Hammer Road and contact numbers are 250-982-2424, 250-982-0062 or 250-982-2476. These numbers and my email are the contact points at any time, day or night, and not just for the current event.

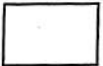
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As in the past, we will message out to those on the list in the event of prolonged service disruption of utilities or communication, road closures or serious transportation incidents.

I trust this communique provides some clarity with regards to the CCRD's emergency planning and management. We welcome any questions or concerns.

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