2017 Wildfire Reports – Recommendations Prioritization and Follow UP

Priority	Recommendations	Source Document			Resources Required	Estimated Start/Completion Date
	The electoral areas should be supported by a Regional Community Emergency Support program that facilitates the community preparation and response to emergencies. This outreach program would be supported and function under the direction of the Regional Emergency Program. This approach would significantly enhance the coordination of community responses in the electoral areas and increase the overall effectiveness of the CRD emergency program.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Fire services in electoral areas need better support and coordination with respect to information sharing and resources from the CRD EOC during emergency response events that overwhelm local services. This could be facilitated through the Regional Community Emergency Support program concept recommended above.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	The emergency programs in the electoral areas should be exercised regularly in conjunction with the CRD EOC and Regional Emergency Program to practice information sharing and coordination processes.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Work closely with the agriculture community to identify the largest and most vulnerable livestock operations and farms. Plans should be developed collaboratively with that community that identify individual site needs and expected lead time necessary to support an effective evacuation of livestock.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	A review and updating of CRD EOC policies and processes should be undertaken to incorporate lessons learned from the 2017 wildfire season activation. Once updated, these should be socialized with staff and practiced as part of an ongoing training and exercise regime.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Based on the experience gained at the EOC during this recent event, it would be important to identify the key liaisons that would be involved in a large-scale event and incorporate those agency representatives into ongoing CRD EOC exercises and training.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				

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	Consider investigating the procurement of situational awareness and emergency management software that will enhance record keeping related to position logs and decisions made in the EOC using electronic forms and allow the establishment of a common operating platform for information sharing between the CRD and stakeholder representatives. This would allow a more effective approach to the collection and sharing of important information thereby enhancing collaborative decision-making efforts. Public facing communications could also be enhanced by this type of software.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Develop and retain in the EOC a series of maps that show the respective jurisdictions for those agencies that do not align with the regional area boundaries i.e., RCMP, Health Authority, BC Wildfire Agency.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Develop a plan in collaboration with key stakeholders for the identification and evacuation of livestock from alert and order areas. This plan should include pre-identifying non-commercial farm operators, potential partnerships and reciprocal agreements with other regions and agricultural operations to receive livestock, and resources for the transport of livestock. This plan should also predict amount of time and the resources necessary to evacuate the identified sites.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	During future EOC activations, staff should be rotated out regularly for a break after 10-14 days on an EOC activation. This is especially the case if the EOC operating hours are extended as they were in the initial stages of this activation.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation	Consider establishing or enhancing regional emergency communication centres using amateur radio operators in the CRD EOC and at key sites within the region as deemed appropriate. This will increase the resiliency and capacity for communication and coordination in the event that normal telecommunication infrastructure is interrupted during emergencies.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Ensure that a CRD EOC representative can be accessed 24/7 during EOC activations. A regional duty officer program during normal periods would enhance regional preparedness and responsiveness if not currently in place.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				

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Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation	All CRD Board members should receive emergency management orientation training for elected officials which should include a guide on their roles during emergencies. This training should be reinforced with tabletop exercises. Where possible the board should be included in regional emergency exercises to gain practice within their scope of responsibility during emergencies.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation	The CRD should enhance staff EOC training and consider partnerships with local authorities and agencies to ensure a three-deep contingency of trained personnel that can be called upon to staff a regional EOC when activated.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation (Community Liaisons)	Train personnel in the electoral areas to support local communities during emergencies through the proposed Regional Community Emergency Support program. The CRD EOC would support these teams during activations and those personnel could be used to support the Regional EOC.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Debriefing and support counselling for all staff and volunteers involved in the event should be considered and accessed early during any EOC activation. This is especially important when personnel staffing the EOC are also potential victims of the emergency. All personnel involved in an emergency of this nature should be offered and encouraged to access post incident support services. This opportunity should be offered to support staff that came from external authorities and agencies to ensure that they are given opportunity for appropriate follow-up post event.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Increase the expansion and enhancement of the CRD's Emergency Notification system to the public. This will improve the ability for the region to get messaging out quickly. Understanding and ability to activate the system should be given to a number of key staff to ensure that it can be utilized in the event that there are staff absences.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation (Community Liaisons)	The EOC should utilize the proposed Regional Community Emergency Support program to gain local knowledge on preplanning for evacuation orders and alerts. This will help ensure consistent messaging at all levels in the region and will decrease confusion and anxiety amongst the areas being impacted by evacuation alerts and orders.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				

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Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation	The CRD should consider pre-identifying and designating evacuation zones for the region. This pre-planning should include access and egress routes, with consistent naming, within CRD electoral areas and communities to improve effectiveness of future evacuations. Once the regional evacuation zones are identified, the public should be educated as to which zone they reside to increase awareness and ease of evacuation alert notice.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Consideration should be given to establishing a protocol with key stakeholders on how the CRD EOC will communicate with evacuees to ensure that displaced persons have ready access to status of their situations. (# 19)	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	The CRD needs to develop and document clear processes to establish and rescind alerts and orders in conjunction with the electoral areas and key agency stakeholders (BCWFS, First Nations, EMBC, RCMP).	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Work collaboratively with agencies such as the RCMP and regional SAR to develop clear and agreed upon roles, processes and approach to evacuations. This plan should be practiced at least annually prior to the fire season to familiarize evacuation teams with their expected responsibilities and actions.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Enhance public education with respect to necessary preparations and processes to improve response to evacuations alerts and orders and to enhance community preparedness and resiliency.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Pre-planning should be undertaken to address the support and re-supply needs of those residents that are in communities on alert or non-alert status that have been cut off from access to supplies by areas under evacuation order. This can be planned based on scenarios using the predesignated evacuation zones model recommended in #19. (this is number 24)	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				

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	Work closely with other adjacent regional districts to enhance collaboration during emergencies. This should include collaborative training and cross jurisdictional exercises. Consider establishing a process whereby staff resources can be shared during single region activations to allow cross pollination of information and processes which would improve coordination during larger events.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	Relationships with First Nations should be developed and enhanced to incorporate First Nations in regional planning and preparedness efforts. This should include joint training and exercises and can be facilitated in conjunction with EMBC efforts to support First Nations preparedness and response under the new agreement with the federal government.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	The Regional Community Emergency Support program should enhance ESS capability in rural areas to support their communities in the event of emergencies. This type of program is often developed through community volunteer initiatives and operates as extensions of the CRD Regional Emergency Program and would be supported by the CRD EOC. These local resources can provide excellent depth for the region as a whole as ESS team members in unaffected areas can be drawn on to provide support depth to any regional response to impacted areas.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
Dealt with by Butterfly Effects Recommendation (Community Liaisons)	Enhance and promote Fire Smart activities in areas that are at the greatest risk of interface fire. This activity should include encouraging the public to adhere to Fire Smart guidelines for personal property.	EOC After Action Report (Carby)				
	EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES (ESS): Two ESS guides - One for ESS staff/volunteers which will provide information on their role and simple flow charts to help them assist residents. The second guide will be for residents and provide them general information which can be updated with specific information related to the emergency.	2017 Wildfire Consultation Report (Butterfly Effects)				

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	Implementing the recovery work plan – consider the actions identified in the incident specific recovery work plan submitted by the CRD Recovery Manager, adjusting activities as required based on emerging trends and resources.	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				
	Emergency preparedness planning - regular CRD Emergency Preparedness Committee meetings could include recovery as a standing agenda item to ensure recovery remains top of mind and informs emergency preparedness planning going forward.	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				
	Hazard, risk, and vulnerability assessment (HRVA) reviews - the next phase of emergency preparedness activities can include post fire HVRA to inform how fire related vulnerabilities and recovery needs may require base emergency preparedness plan adaptations or resource allocations.	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				
	Continuing to support sustainable social and rural development – recovery gap assessments have brought forward the need to repair and build recreational trails to encourage wellness opportunities, and to secure funding for upgrades and repairs to community and fire halls which were used for shelter in place hubs and volunteer coordination. Funding levered through recovery channels may support these works.	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				
	Establishing a Cariboo Regional District business registry *- economic stability is a cornerstone of recovery. Outreach to businesses impacted by the 2017 fire season is complicated by the lack of business registry information in the outlying rural areas. Collecting and organizing this data would assist in future emergency and communications planning, recovery operations, and close potential gaps earlier.*	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				

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	Communication coordination - consider stream lined and simplified early recovery communication to ensure accessibility. Consistent symbols could be used to indicate reception/resiliency centre locations.	CRD Wildfire Recovery Management Report				