



## **2021 Business Plan Emergency Programs and Disaster Resilience/ All Electoral Areas (1385)**

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and Disaster Resilience*

***Working in partnership with communities large and small to offer local, sub-regional, and regional services to ensure that the Cariboo Chilcotin is a socially, economically, and environmentally desirable region.***

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### **Department/Function Services**

The Cariboo Regional District Emergency Planning service was created as a result of provincial legislation requiring that Regional Districts develop an emergency management organization and prepare an emergency plan for their jurisdiction.

The CRD Emergency Program was established in 2004, authorized by Bylaw No. 3934. All electoral areas participate in this service and taxation is based on the assessed value of land and improvements. There is no requisition limit.

All Electoral Area Directors, representing Areas A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, I, J, K and L, are responsible for the governance of this service.

### **Business Plan Goals, Rationale & Strategies**

#### **2021 Goals**

- 1. Goal:** Ensure that the service is appropriately resourced to meet the emerging and increasing emergency program/disaster resilience needs of the Cariboo-Chilcotin.  
**Rationale:** The CRD has seen a huge increase in the scope and variety of emergencies over the past years, as well as the resources and time needed to respond effectively. As well, the Provincial initiative to renew/revise the

Emergency Program Act and move to a four pillars (preparedness-mitigation-response-recovery) approach will require more attention.

**Strategy:** To add a new position – a Manager of Emergency Programs and Disaster Resilience.

2. **Goal:** To undertake the development of Landslide and Flood Response Plans for the Spring of 2021.

**Rationale:** The Cariboo Chilcotin continues to experience unprecedented water and landslide concerns. The ground is saturated, and the snowpack is anticipated to be significant.

**Strategy:** Working with already assigned assets from EMBC, Provincial Ministries, First Nations, Municipalities and external stakeholders a Preparedness/Response and Recovery Framework will be developed.

3. **Goal:** Continue to update the Cariboo Regional District Emergency Plan and ensure that we are prepared for the implementation of the new Emergency Program Act.

**Rationale:** The CRD emergency plan will require updating as the changes to the Emergency Program Act take effect throughout 2021/2022.

**Strategy:** To retain a qualified consultant to undertake an independent review of the current CRD Emergency Program and provide a roadmap for transition to the new Emergency Program Act.

4. **Goal:** Complete processes and policies to ensure seamless operations in a dynamic environment.

**Rationale:** Formalization is required to capture all information in relation to the incidents as they occur and increase the ability to transition between events.

**Strategy:** Staff to complete during winter months as operational tempo is lower.

5. **Goal:** Transition the community liaison program to an internal function of staff and continue with the achieved successes.

**Rationale:** To support broad emergency preparedness planning to build resiliency and enhance community communication during emergencies and throughout recovery phases.

**Strategy:** Utilizing the existing team to internalize and operationalize the Community Liaison Program.

6. **Goal:** To develop capacity at the Board and Staff level in understanding flooding and landslide events and how we best resource, prepare, respond, mitigate and recover from these types of events.

**Rationale:** Our recent experiences are largely related to flooding and landslide events. These types of events cross departments and jurisdictions. From the CRD perspective we need to understand how these types of events, and the impacts of climate change, are impacting on our planning, development, building inspection, protective services, communications and emergency program.

**Strategy:** Working with the Planning, Building Inspection, Communications and Protective Services Departments seek out and deliver topical and timely information, reports, presentations to the Board and Staff to guide policy development and operations.

### **Significant Issues & Trends**

The increasing frequency and severity of emergency events such as the 2017 and 2018 wildfire seasons, the 2018, 2019, 2020 flooding events, COVID and the 2020 Landslides have very substantial impacts on staffing and our ability to complete workplans within proposed time frames. Our EOC Team is stressed and we need to focus on increasing our efforts towards business continuity as well as safety. The CRD EOC has been active since the beginning of March and will continue to be operational for the foreseeable future. The EOC will continue to action multiple events for the duration of 2021, both already occurring and anticipated. Continuing efforts will be required to train staff, develop processes and to develop effective working relationships with external stakeholders.

### **Measuring Previous Years Performance**

**Goal:** Update Cariboo Regional District Emergency Plan.

- Ongoing

**Goal:** Continue recovery efforts from the 2017 wildfire season.

- Ongoing.

**Goal:** Investigate emergency communication systems for use during emergencies in rural areas with no cell service.

- Carried over to 2021. If unable to be covered by grant funding, may need to be tabled pending budgetary review.