



building communities together

2022 Business Plan Emergency Programs and Disaster Resilience/ All Electoral Areas (1385)

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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.

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

2022 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 marked increase in the scope, variety, and scale of emergency events over the past five years directly increasing the resources and time needed to respond effectively. In addition, the Provincial initiative to

- renew/revise the Emergency Program Act will require local governments to deliver on all four emergency planning pillars (preparedness-mitigation-response-recovery).
- Strategy:** Build the necessary internal capacity to respond to the increasing demands by supplementing the current staff to carry out legislated requirements.
2. **Goal:** To develop a flood annex to the CRD Emergency Plan.
Rationale: The CRD EOC has activated for flood emergencies five times in the past four years. Hazard specific annexes will provide appropriate operational guidance during emergency response.
Strategy: Use previously allocated funds to hire an external qualified consultant to work with staff to complete the annex in 2022.
 3. **Goal:** Ensure Cariboo Regional District Emergency Plan is updated annually and that the service is prepared for the implementation of the new Emergency Program Act.
Rationale: The CRD emergency plan will require significant updating as the changes to the Emergency Program Act take effect over 2022 and 2023.
Strategy: Prioritize and implement the Emergency Program Key Findings Report recommendations to ready for the additional demands to the service as required currently and by the new Emergency Program Act.
 4. **Goal:** Review the region's Emergency Notification System for ease of use, regional fit, and cost effectiveness.
Rationale: The region's emergency notification system is undersubscribed and requires significant resourcing to maintain and administer. A review is required to determine if options better suited to regional use exist.
Strategy: Allocate resources to prepare a report and present the findings to the CRD and participating municipalities.

Significant Issues & Trends

The increasing frequency and severity of regional emergency events such as the 2017, 2018 and 2021 wildfire seasons, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021 flooding events, pandemic and the 2020/2021 landslides have had substantial impacts on staffing and the ability to complete workplans within proposed time frames. Ongoing requirements include training staff and volunteers, developing operational processes and procedures, and engaging effectively in pre-event preparedness activities with partner agencies and external stakeholders. Current trends see the CRD EOC activated several times a year, increasing the need to focus on sustaining efforts towards business continuity and workplace safety.

Measuring Previous Years Performance

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

- The pilot program as funded by the Canadian Red Cross Society has been completed.

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.

- Ongoing