



# SHUSWAP EMERGENCY PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

**TO:** Chair and Committee Members

**SUBJECT:** Season Outlook

**DESCRIPTION:** Report from Tom Hansen, Emergency Program Coordinator, dated March 27, 2025.

**RECOMMENDATION:** THAT: this report be received for information only.

## **BACKGROUND:**

The snowpack in our area (South Thompson Basin) was reported as 78% of normal at higher elevations from the March 1, 2025, Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletin. The provincial average was reported as 73% of normal. There has been some significant snowfall in March that has bumped that number up slightly however.

[https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/river-forecast/2025\\_mar1.pdf](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/river-forecast/2025_mar1.pdf)

The Shuswap Lake level is around normal for this time of year.

<https://www.salmonarm.ca/DocumentCenter/View/240/Shuswap-Lake-Level-History?bidId=>

Widespread flooding is not expected by the Province during Freshet this year. It is important to note that flood hazard associated with extreme rainfall and rain-on-snow during the freshet period remains a hazard regardless of snowpack levels.

Possible drought and increased wildfire risk is a concern.

The Structure Protection Unit (SPU) trailer storage building has been completed, and all four trailers have been moved in along with deployment equipment and spares. The CSRD is nearing the final stages of equipment reconciliation and cost recovery with the BC Wildfire Service Structure Protection representatives. All four Type 2 SPU Trailers have been inspected by BC Wildfire Service Structure Protection representatives and passed as complete for possible 2025 provincial deployment if needed. The gradual replacement of older Mark 3 fire pumps purchased in 2012 over the next several years is in process with the purchase of 5 new pumps recently. The hose drying rack will be moved from the previous temporary SPU trailer storage location over to the new location this spring as weather conditions improve. Completion of a proper fuel storage solution (separate, vented and secure container) for the 56 fuel containers will be completed later this spring. Annual SPU Deployment Team refresher training has been scheduled for May 3, 2025.

The Bush Creek East Post Wildfire Geohazards, identified in recent reports, are a major concern in our area as we head into the Freshet. The provincial contract with Stantec Engineering Ltd. to monitor geohazard risk using their Slope Manager system has expired. Local First Nation's Guardians are out on the land monitoring the area and looking for any signs of increasing geohazard risk. SEP staff continue to monitor local conditions along with provincial updates to determine if there is a heightened risk of a

geohazard event occurring. Residents have been notified previously of the increased post wildfire geohazard risk.

The risk to private properties from erosion on Newsome Creek remains. The Province has indicated that the Ministry of Transportation and Transit (MOTT) will be moving ahead with their plans for the upgraded Newsome Creek crossing of the Trans Canada Highway and would like to partner with the CSRD to resolve the erosion issues below the highway. They have suggested the CSRD should apply for grant funding; however, there is still no current fund available that would be appropriate for the required scope of the project. Discussions with the Province are ongoing.

Many residents that were impacted directly by the 2023 Bush Creek East wildfire continue working through the long process of recovery. Some residents and businesses have rebuilt while others are still in the process of rebuilding with support from the CSRD Development Services team, their insurance companies, and non-profit organizations.

The North Shuswap Disaster Relief Society was formed by North Shuswap Residents and collaborated with the Shuswap Community Foundation to provide more than \$800,000 in donation funding to those most in need. The Shuswap Economic Recovery Taskforce supported businesses that needed assistance. The Mennonite Disaster Services constructed four homes and repaired another four in addition to assisting others with small home projects and yard work.

SEP staff is supporting CSRD Community Services with Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) claims for eligible recovery costs to repair wildfire damaged infrastructure on the Mt Baldy Trails and Scotch Creek Hlina Trails.

**NEXT STEPS:**

SEP staff will continue to monitor the weather, Snow Survey and Water Supply Bulletins, and lake levels during Freshet to be prepared for any increased risk of flooding or landslides.

**Report Approval Details**

Document Title:	2025-03-27_SEP_CPS_Season_Outlook.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 2, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:

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