



SHUSWAP EMERGENCY PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

TO: Chair and Committee Members

SUBJECT: Communications update

DESCRIPTION: Report from Tracy Hughes, Communications Coordinator, dated March 25, 2025

RECOMMENDATION: THAT: the report be received as information

BACKGROUND:

To provide an update on the efforts with SEP communications since the last executive meeting.

Communications Training

Stemming out of the Bush Creek East After Action Review, there was a specific request for additional training to enhance general skills as well as boost the capacity of the Public Information Officers (PIO) roles in the Emergency Operation Centre.

- A 3.5-hour training session on crisis communications was held for elected officials (CSRSD, District of Sicamous and City of Revelstoke) and a 3.5-hour effective media and messaging training for staff (CSRSD, City of Salmon Arm, District of Sicamous and City of Revelstoke).
- An Alertable refresher training exercise has been organized for users of the system around the region. Sign off on the training exercise must be completed before April 14.
- The Communications Coordinator attended a Public Information Officer refresher session hosted by the Regional District of Central Okanagan on March 12. This brought together PIOs from around the region including CSRSD, RDOS, TNRD, RDCO and some municipalities. The group considered ways to build capacity. RDCO has the greatest capacity for Info officers and is eager to have their staff get real world experience in an EOC. We discussed sharing resources and using a "job shadow" model for some of their staff to help in the SEP EOC. This would assist with our capacity in an emergency.

Improved internal government communications

Also noted in the After-Action Review was looking for ways to improve communications between local governments (Regional Districts, municipalities) as well as First Nations for improved information-sharing during an emergency that crosses boundaries.

- The Communications Coordinator created and coordinates a monthly communications roundtable meeting for local area communications staff. This includes representatives from the Town of Golden, City of Revelstoke, District of Sicamous and City of Salmon Arm.
- CSRSD communications staff also attend a monthly Regional District Communications Group formed after the fire season of 2023. There are approximately 30 representatives who attend regularly. This is a chance for communications staff to discuss a wide range of topics, but emergency communications features prominently in conversation.

Enhanced emergency knowledge for residents

A major project for SEP this winter was the development of the Community Evacuations Guides for the public. More detailed information on this project can be found in the section of the meeting involving evacuation route planning.

NEXT STEPS:

To be received as information.

Report Approval Details

Document Title:	2025-03-25_SEP_CS_Communications.docx
Attachments:	
Final Approval Date:	Apr 2, 2025

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

No Signature found


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