

Report to Council January 10, 2022

Report from Councillor Stanton

The Emergency Preparedness Committee met on December 9, 2021.

The Chief updated the committee on the Emergency Program Strategic Plan. 90% of the 2021 deliverables are complete and all the annual deliverables are complete. Completion of work on the Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) has been moved into 2022.

The Committee agreed with the Chief's recommendation that 5 items on the HRVA be removed as they do not apply to the Highlands (Fuel Source Interruption), they have a low likelihood of having a significant impact (Dams and Spillways Failure) or they would have a more regional rather than local impact (Space Weather, Lightning, Animal Disease).

The committee discussed an email received from a resident which references a video about Logan Lake Wildfire Protection. The Chief commented on the differences between Logan Lake and the Highlands and why some of the preventive measures taken in Logan Lake would be impossible to implement in the Highlands. The committee agreed that Fire Smart assessments are the best education for homeowners who want to reduce fire risk. The committee also discussed timely roadside management by our road contractor to reduce ladder growth.

The Impacts of the atmospheric rivers on Highlands Roads could have been much worse. Water course damaged the West Firehall access, and several roads were flooded. Fast action by staff to secure a contractor had the road repairs done in record time.

The Chief reported that the new Public Emergency Alerting Service is up and running (Highlands is part of WESTSHORE ALERT which currently uses the platform ALERTABLE). It was invaluable having current and accurate information during the Atmospheric Rivers. Information about weather, roads closed or reopened, and water quality was shared through the ALERTABLE app. The committee discussed how to inform Highlanders about ALERTABLE and how valuable ALERTABLE was during the Atmospheric River events, and to encourage more residents to sign up for this alert system. Signage will be added to the Fire Risk signs at the entrances to the Highlands and the District's Website will be reviewed to see if improvements can be made on how the information on WESTSHORE ALERT could be made more prominent.