

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

*HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS*

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Public Safety Committee, at its Open meeting held on 2022 April 20, received and adopted the attached report providing information on the importance of emergency resilience through preparedness of individuals, households and businesses.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor J. Wang
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Vice Chair

Chief Administrative Officer Acting Chief Financial Officer GM Community Safety GM Corporate Services GM Engineering GM Planning and Development Fire Chief – Burnaby Fire Department Officer in Charge – Burnaby RCMP Risk Manager Emergency Management Coordinator

TO: CHAIR AND MEMBERS
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

DATE: 2022 Apr 14

FROM: GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY
SAFETY

FILE: 23000-202

SUBJECT: EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

PURPOSE: To provide information on the importance of emergency resilience through preparedness of individuals, households and businesses.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** The Public Safety Committee recommend Council receive this report for information.

REPORT**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The world we know is changing. Disasters are no longer a story on the news from an unfamiliar country about people you don't know in a town you haven't heard of. Disasters are happening more and more frequently right here, where we live, work and play.

Small actions, many of which are no or low cost, that can be undertaken today to improve household and business emergency preparedness, will increase individual resilience to emergencies and disasters. An emergency plan helps us stress less when an emergency happens and keeping dedicated emergency supplies at the ready in an easily accessible place keeps us organized during the chaos of an emergency.

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) is a national awareness event supported by Public Safety Canada, Emergency Management BC, First Nations and local governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector. This year, the theme is ***Be Ready for Anything*** intended to encourage individuals, households and businesses to take action to become better prepared for the range of emergencies they could face.

2.0 POLICY SECTION

Goal

- A Safe Community
 - Emergency preparedness – Enhance plans, procedures and services so that we are better prepared to respond to emergencies and are able to maintain City services
 - Emergency services – Provide responsive emergency services
- A Thriving Organization
 - Organizational culture – Ensure that our core values are reflected in our policies, programs and service delivery
 - Communication – Practice open and transparent communication among staff, Council and the community

3.0 BACKGROUND

2020 was dominated by the COVID-19 global pandemic however 2020 also saw record-breaking severe weather in British Columbia. This included 370mm (14.5 inches) of recorded precipitation in the Cowichan Valley from January 30 to February 01 along with 50 to 100 mm of precipitation in Kent which caused severe localized flooding, landslides and rockfalls damaging potable water infrastructure.

2021 could be described as a year of disruption, destruction, and devastation. A triad of punishing heat waves resulted in an unprecedented number of heat-related deaths in our community. The 2021 wildfire season peaked much earlier than usual due in part to extreme drought conditions and the heat waves and was the third worst wildfire season on record in BC. More than 1,600 fires burned nearly 8,700 square kilometres of land. The most notable wildfire was the Lytton Creek wildfire, which devastated the village of Lytton and left two dead. These were followed by two destructive atmospheric rivers that caused landslides, debris flows, record-breaking river heights and flows, damaged dykes, destroyed transportation infrastructure, and resulted in fuel rationing in the lower mainland, and essential food supply disruption.

What our experiences over the past 2-years have shown us is that our best protection against disasters is having a household emergency plan and knowing what to do.

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) has been an annual event for over 25 years. It traditionally takes place during the first full week of May. In 2022, Emergency Preparedness Week will occur Monday, May 02 to Sunday, May 08.

The City of Burnaby recognizes the importance of emergency preparedness of our citizens, businesses, and City. Emergency preparedness is a responsibility shared by all individuals, business and levels of government, and to make our community more resilient to emergencies and disasters we must each take steps to better prepare ourselves.

To: Public Safety Committee
From: General Manager Community Safety
Re: Emergency Preparedness Week
2022 Apr 20..... Page 3

Unforeseen events such as heat waves, wildfires, landslides, oil spills, earthquakes, or cyber-attacks can occur quickly and often without warning. Understanding these risks helps each one of us to be better prepared

Emergency Preparedness Week is an important annual public awareness event aimed to increase public awareness of how everyone can improve their personal preparedness to better cope with emergencies and disasters.

Getting better prepared is as easy as three simple steps:

1. Understanding the risks that could happen;
2. Making an emergency plan; and,
3. Assembling emergency kits.

Supporting resources to enhance your emergency preparedness can be found at www.burnaby.ca/getprepared

4.0 RECOMMENDATION

This report seeks to inform the Public Safety Committee, Mayor and Council, as well as all citizens and businesses in Burnaby to become actively engaged in making our community resilient to emergencies and disasters by recognizing the importance of planning and preparing for emergency situations and taking the appropriate preparedness actions to know the risks, make a plan and get a kit.


Dave Critchley
General Manager Community Safety

DC:cp

Copied to: Chief Administrative Officer
Acting Chief Financial Officer
General Manager Engineering
General Manager Corporate Services
Risk Manager
Emergency Management Coordinator
Officer in Charge – Burnaby RCMP
Fire Chief – Burnaby Fire Department