

RE: BURNABY MAJOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council adopt the following resolution:

"WHEREAS by virtue of B.C. Reg. 465/59 made by Order in Council No. 892 pursuant to the Emergency Program Act, being chapter 106 of the Revised Statutes of British Columbia 1979, the Municipal Council may by resolution or by by-law:

- (i) organize, establish, and put into operation any plan or scheme for civil defence;
- (ii) co-operate with and make grants of money to any committee set up to undertake the organization and operation of civil defence;
- (iii) authorize any employee of the municipality to perform any services that the Council may deem to be in furtherance of any such plan or scheme of civil defence;
- (iv) acquire by purchase or otherwise fire, demolition, and other equipment or materials that the Council may deem necessary or useful for civil defence;
- (v) authorize the use of real property or any equipment or chattels belonging to the municipality for the furtherance of any such plan or scheme;
- (vi) authorize any employee of the municipality to demolish or remove any privately owned wall, building, structure, or works made dangerous to the public by enemy action or civil disaster;
- (vii) expend money for any of the purposes of civil defence either from general revenue or from any tax levy made under the provisions of the Civil Defence Act.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT the Burnaby Major Emergency Response Plan is approved and established as the basis for coordination of emergency responses in the event of a civil disaster".

REPORT

A. INTRODUCTION

It is a responsibility of municipal officials to be prepared for disasters, and if they occur, to mobilize resources as may be required to safeguard life and minimize damage to property. The Major Emergency Response Plan, a copy of which is enclosed for Council's information, was developed in response to the need for preparedness and the effective deployment of resources should a major emergency ever occur in Burnaby.

B. BACKGROUND

The content of this Plan is basically a guideline for use by persons who would be called upon to direct a response to emergencies that are of an extraordinary nature (such as earthquake, flood, train derailment and accidents involving the release of radioactive materials or toxic chemicals). Planning for major emergencies presupposes that there may be widespread effects requiring the administration of care to people, evacuation of areas and the need to bring in resources from various agencies and jurisdictions including other municipalities and the senior level of governments.

As noted on page 2 of The Plan, this document is not intended to provide a procedure for every conceivable emergency, major or otherwise. It is merely intended to provide general direction and an operational framework to officials so that they can formulate specific responses to whatever type of crises may arise.

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Some departments (such as Fire, Police, Engineering and Health) have plans for the day-to-day type of emergencies with which they are routinely involved. The Major Emergency Response Plan complements these individual plans, and because of its focus on the broader aspects of emergencies, gives the Municipality a greater and far more effective response capability.

C. ROLES

As noted in The Plan's Emergency Telephone Listing, many persons and agencies could become involved in the response to a major emergency. Following is a brief summary on some of the chief municipal roles (please consult The Plan should additional details be desired):

COUNCIL

Declare a State of Emergency in accordance with Section 290 of the Municipal Act if such an action is deemed necessary.

MAYOR

Would report to the Emergency Command Center and assist with the response effort; acts as the Municipality's chief link with the media.

MUNICIPAL MANAGER

Directly assists in the response effort by giving advice and general direction when on duty at the Emergency Command Center or other locations where his involvement may be required.

OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, RCMP

Is responsible for the overall direction, coordination and control of response activities.

Assignment of the Officer-in-Charge as "commander" of any major emergency response effort is appropriate for a number of reasons:

- (a) The incumbent is professionally trained to deal with emergencies;
- (b) The RCMP operates highly advanced radio equipment which allows for communication on an inter-municipal level;
- (c) The police are almost always the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency;
- (d) It is probable that the "E" Division in Victoria would be designated to coordinate a response involving a large, multi-jurisdictional area such as the GVRD;
- (e) The local detachment maintains the Emergency Command Center in the Justice Building.

EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

Ensure that all emergency plans are activated; serve in a consulting capacity to the Officer-in-Charge and help to mobilize and sustain whatever resources and essential services are necessary for an effective response.

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D. CONCLUSION

Regional emergency planning is now proceeding on a priority basis. The Emergency Planning Coordinators for all municipalities in the Lower Mainland have formed themselves into a group and are meeting once a month with a representative of the Provincial Government. The group's primary objective in 1981 is to test various plans that have been developed.

Upon adoption of the Major Emergency Response Plan, staff will proceed to expand and refine the planning that has taken place to date. Goals for this year also include the development of a more detailed inventory, finalization of identification for persons who might be called upon to serve on a response team and additional meetings with outside agencies to ensure an understanding on how everyone would be expected to interact in an emergency.

A copy of The Plan will be permanently available in the Manager's office for viewing by the public. Copies will also be forwarded to the Library for the convenient reference of persons who may be interested in this matter.

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