

CITY OF BURNABY

EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

Re: STATUS OF PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** Council receive this report for information.

REPORT

The Emergency Planning Committee, at its meeting held on 2001 September 12, received and adopted the attached report to respond to Council's request for information on the relocation of the Provincial Emergency Service from the E-Comm office at 3301 Pender Street, Vancouver to Surrey. The report also provides a status report on the Provincial Emergency Program.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor D. Evans
Chair

Councillor N. Harris
Vice Chair

Councillor N. Volkow
Member

<p>: COPY - CITY MANAGER - DEP. CITY MGR.- COORP. SERV. - OFFICER-IN-CHARGE, R.C.M.P. - FIRE CHIEF</p>
--



TO: EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE 2001 SEPTEMBER 04

FROM: EMERGENCY COORDINATOR

SUBJECT: Status of Provincial Emergency Program

PURPOSE: To respond to Council's request for a information on the accuracy of reports that the Provincial Emergency Service has permanently moved out of the E-Comm office at 3301 Pender Street, Vancouver and relocated in Surrey and the request for a status report on the Provincial Emergency Program.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Council as requested.

R E P O R T

**1. RELOCATION OF PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM
SOUTHWEST REGIONAL OFFICE**

The Southwest Regional administration office of the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) has permanently relocated from the E-Comm Office at 3301 Pender Street, Vancouver to the Green Timbers facility at 9800-140th Street, Surrey as of February 27, 2001. The Provincial Ministry of Health 24 hour NurseLine now occupies the office space in E-Comm.

PEP has identified the establishment of permanent Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs), capable of immediate activation following a sudden unexpected emergency in any of its five regions, as one of its current strategic objectives. During major events (i.e. forest fires, flooding, earthquake), a PREOC is established to coordinate, facilitate and manage information, policy direction, and provincial resources to support local authorities and provincial agencies responding to an emergency or disaster. While the office space at E-Comm met the operational requirements for the day to day functioning of the South West Regional administration office, it was not suitable for the expanded requirements of a lower mainland PREOC. A fully activated PREOC consists of approximately seventy personnel. The office space at E-Comm could accommodate only ten staff. As additional space was not available in the E-Comm

building, an alternate location was secured at Green Timbers for both the administration offices and the expanded requirements of the PREOC. PEP is now engaged in discussions with the Ministry of Forests, concerning required building improvements.

2. **ROLE OF PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM AT THE REGIONAL EMERGENCY COORDINATION CENTRE**

Burnaby is a participating member in the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre (RECC) located on the ground floor of the E-Comm building in Vancouver. In the event of a major emergency or disaster, trained representatives from each member agency will convene for the purpose of gathering and correlating information on the effects of an event and the impact on the Greater Vancouver area.

The Provincial Emergency Program will continue to be involved in the operation of the RECC in two ways (1) as Co-Chair of the RECC Committee and (2) as Facilitator when the RECC is operational. During an emergency, the RECC Facilitator acts as a conduit to provincial and federal resources and oversees the smooth running of the RECC when activated. Each position is the responsibility of one of the two regional managers for the South West Region.

3. **PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PROGRAM - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

The Provincial Emergency Program, now a part of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, has identified the following five strategic objectives in its November 2000 Strategic Objectives Status Report:

Strategic Objective #1 Improve the Emergency Response Capability of the Province

This strategic objective is composed of four separate components.

Emergency Information Management System

Objective: Customize and introduce new EM2000 emergency command, control and communication software system for the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs). This is a multi-year objective.

Status: EM2000 is now operational in the Emergency Coordination Centre and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre. Implementation in the PREOCs is not yet complete.

B.C. Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS)

Objective: Complete the development and introduction of the new BCERMS. This is a multi-year objective.

Status: The BCERMS overview manual, the PECC, PREOCs and site support Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) operational guidelines have been finalized. Training for the EOC level and provincial regional level has commenced and will be ongoing.

Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs)

Objective: Establish permanent PREOCs capable of immediate activation following a sudden unexpected emergency in any of the regions. This is a multi-year objective.

Status: Permanent PREOCs have been established in Nelson, Prince George and Kamloops. The PEP South West Regional office has permanently relocated to Surrey. Discussions are now underway with the Ministry of Forests regarding required building improvements. A new PREOC in Terrace is scheduled to open in May 2002.

Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System

Objective: Establish a reserve of provincial staff trained to manage EOC operations. The concept is known as the Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS). This is a multi-year objective.

Status: Training of 110 selected provincial applicants was completed in January 2001. Team members are now operational.

Strategic Objective #2 Improve the Level of Earthquake Preparedness

Objective: The establishment of a Seismic Safety Committee has been approved. The committee will be supported by five new FTE positions and will have a budget of \$500,000. The committee will also be supported by five the following five sub-committees:

1. Public Awareness
2. Emergency Response and Recovery

3. Life Safety and Property Protection
4. Science and Engineering Knowledge Improvement
5. Impact and Vulnerability Assessment

Status: The Seismic Safety Committee is now functional as of March 31, 2001.

Strategic Objective #3 Enhance the Search and Rescue (SAR) Program

Objective: The government has approved the commitment of an additional \$500,000, which will be used to develop a wilderness recreation public awareness and prevention strategy, and to provide health and safety equipment to provincial SAR teams.

Status: In partnership with the SAR Advisory Committee and the police, an implementation strategy is under development. This is a multi-year objective.

Strategic Objective #4 Improve the level of Cost Recovery from the Federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA)

Objective: Design, develop and operate a new systems data base which will improve the provincial capability for tracking and processing federal DFAA claims.

Status: The new systems data base is now under development.

Strategic Objective #5 Improve the Level of Government and Public Recognition for the Five Volunteer Programs that Provide Services as BC Public Safety Lifelines.

1. Search and Rescue
2. Emergency Social Services
3. PEP Air
4. Provincial Emergency Radio Communications
(formerly know as BC Amateur Radio)
5. Road Rescue

Objective: The BC Public Safety Lifeline programs are critical to the safety of BC citizens. Surveys and consultation with the public and volunteers revealed that there is a limited degree of public awareness. Recognition and support are viewed as the two most critical issues of concern for volunteers.

Status: PEP has now developed a new volunteer registration database and is issuing volunteer identification cards.

PEP continues to seek non-government partnerships. BC Hydro has provided funding for the establishment of a website and promotion of the provincial emergency communications program. Other partnerships for road rescue and SAR are being actively pursued.

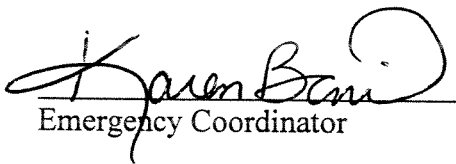
PEP delivered a province-wide recognition program in April/May 2000 that profiled a volunteer from each of the five disciplines in each region. The profile assisted with volunteer recruitment and educated local communities to the valuable role played by local volunteers.

PEP will play an active role in supporting volunteer recognition throughout the year 2001.

A Road Rescue Task Group is currently conducting a review of the BC highway rescue services.

4. CONCLUSION

The South West Regional administration office of the Provincial Emergency Program has permanently relocated from the E-Comm office in Vancouver to the Green Timbers facility in Surrey. This move was made to enable immediate activation of a Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre in response to a major emergency or disaster. PEP's move from the E-Comm office space will not change its role in the Regional Emergency Coordination Centre. The PEP Regional Managers will continue to act as Co-Chair of the RECC Committee and as Facilitator of the facility when it must be activated.


Emergency Coordinator

Copy to: Deputy City Manager Corporate Services