



Village of Rycroft
Request for Decision
Council Meeting Date: May 19, 2020

TOPIC: Village Evacuation Plan in the event of an Emergency Event

RECOMMENDED ACTION: That Council accept the report on the Village evacuation plan for information.

BACKGROUND: Council directed administration to request Central Peace Fire Chief Brian Kroes appear as a delegation to advise Council on what the evacuation plan would be for the Village in the event that the grass fire in May put the Village at peril.

The Chief was unavailable to appear as a delegation at this Council meeting as he has fire training scheduled. He also noted that the Fire Department's responsibility in the event of a fire threatening the Village would be to attend to the control of and extinguishing of the fire. In addition to our own Central Peace Fire and Rescue Equipment and Personnel, he has access to mutual aid resources north and south of our region, including the Emergency Resource Northwest Partners Agreement.

In the event of a large scale emergency where an evacuation was required, there are 3 stages noted in our Emergency Management Plan, that was presented by Brian Ballard, Director of Community and Protective Services for the Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Agency at the last workshop held on February 27, 2020 in the Rycroft Council Chambers. The three stages are Evacuation Alert, then Order, then Rescind.

In this instance, the Site Commander (Fire Chief) would assess the scene and then call into Grande Prairie dispatch and advise of his needs, e.g. more fire fighting resources, ambulance, traffic control, evacuation alert, etc. GP Dispatch would then forward the message to appropriate agencies. The CAO is the appointed Director of Emergency Management for the Village. He would be notified of the threat by any first response agency. He would then confer with the Site Commander to determine the details of the event. He would then get the information to the public through the Alberta Emergency Alert system, social media, and local radio.

In the event of this fire threatening the Village that was moving quickly, we would use our resource list and call RCMP, Public Works, and any other community volunteers available to get the word out for everyone to move away from the fire.

In our Emergency Plan, in the event we could not use our office as the Emergency Operation Centre to coordinate the response to the event, there are 3 designated regional locations: EAST Birch Hills County office; CENTRAL Brownlee Building in Spirit River; and WEST Saddle Hills

County office. A Reception Centre, possibly in this case Centennial Hall in Spirit River, would be established for the evacuees to report to.

The event would be assessed, and actions would be taken from there.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS: None.

POLICY AND/OR LEGISLATIVE IMPLICATIONS: The Evacuation Plan is per the Central Peace Emergency Management Plan, as authorized by Bylaw 208-19 Central Peace Regional Emergency Management.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

1. Council could request further information from administration

ATTACHMENTS: None.

Peter Thomas

Chief Administrative Officer

May 14, 2020

Date