



**Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Committee
Meeting Minutes**

Thursday, July 28, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Brownlee Building

MD of Spirit River No. 133

- PRESENT:**
- Alan Stebbing, AEMA
 - Chris Graham, AEMA (attended electronically)
 - Larry Davidson, Birch Hills County
 - Tom Morgan, Birch Hills County (attended electronically)
 - Brian Kroes, Central Peace Fire and Rescue Commission
 - Dan Dibbelt, MD of Spirit River No. 133
 - Nick van Rootselaar, MD of Spirit River No. 133
 - Brice Daly, Saddle Hills County
 - Don Hoffart, Saddle Hills County
 - Emily Bolch, Saddle Hills County
 - Mike Archer, Saddle Hills County (attended electronically)
 - Monica Randell, Saddle Hills County (attended electronically)
 - Brenda Stanich, Town of Spirit River
 - Greg Gayton, Town of Spirit River
 - Steve Jack, Town of Spirit River
 - Wayne Meyer, Town of Spirit River
 - Joanne Chelick, Village of Rycroft
 - Peter Thomas, Village of Rycroft

ALSO PRESENT: N/A

1. CALL TO ORDER:

- 1.1 Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. AGENDA:

- 2.1 Adoption of Agenda

MOVED by Nick van Rootselaar

That the agenda for the July 28, 2022 Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

3. ADOPTION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES:

- 3.1 Minutes of the March 10, 2022 CPREM Committee Meeting

MOVED by Don Hoffart

That the minutes of the March 10, 2022 Central Peace Regional Emergency Management Committee Meeting be adopted as presented.

Carried Unanimously

4. ADMINISTRATION

4.1 Regional Emergency Management Plan Updates

No structural updates, just contact lists, etc. Copies of the plan were distributed to municipalities for their comments and updates.

4.2 Hospital ER Closure Notifications

Alberta Health Services (AHS) has been sending notifications that the Spirit River Hospital Emergency Room has been experiencing closures due to staffing. This has been occurring at other hospitals in the region as well. Darryl Martin was not in attendance to speak to this issue. Brice inquired if CAOs have been getting timely updates, but consensus seemed to be no, they aren't. Birch Hills asked for more advanced notice, if possible, in order to spread that information throughout the community. Currently being communicated on Facebook through CPREM Facebook page.

5. RESPONSE OPERATIONS

5.1 Remaining COVID-19 Measures

Saddle Hills County removed barriers, but still have hand sanitizer stations. Birch Hills County indicated business as usual.

5.2 MFR (Medical First Responder) Services

Co-respond with ambulance. Saddle Hills County currently has 6 MFRs. If there is enough interest in onboarding new MFRs training could be arranged. CPFRC has 3 – 4 people who would be interested. Birch Hills County currently has no one who would be interested in taking the training. Currently they have 8 MFRs but are short people in the Tangent area.

6. RECOVERY PROGRAMS

6.1 Active Disaster Relief Programs (DRPs)

Rycroft DRP signed off and complete, levy washed out again this spring. Burnt River DRP work done as well. Saddle Hills County has 2 active DRPs – 2018 and 2020.

7. MITIGATION PROGRAMS

7.1 Fire Advisories, Restrictions & Bans Outside of the Fire Protection Area (FPA)

Fire advisory in place in Saddle Hills County, Birch Hills County, and the MD of Spirit River No. 133. Grande Prairie fire region has advisory right now. Expecting fire restriction on Tuesday, August 2, 2022. Brice would like to be on same page using same language and currently doing a good job of that.

7.2 FRIAA / Fire Smart

FRIAA application deadline is in September. MD of Spirit River No. 133 is doing property evaluations with FRIAA.

Saddle Hills County, Birch Hills County, and the MD of Spirit River No. 133 had a fuel assessment done and wildfire risk. The next step is how to mitigate that risk further, which will mean having the owners of the private property on board and to understand benefits of removing fuel, i.e., firewood from near buildings.

8. TRAINING & PREPAREDNESS

8.1 Emergency Management Training Schedule

Training can happen in person now. Larry set up ICS 100 course to take place in early September. Two elected officials course were offered this year so everyone who required the course has completed it. ICS300, which is a 3-day course, would be nice for DEMs and deputy DEMs to have. Brice recapped the basics of ICS and how it works in practical applications. ICS200 is scheduled for September 21st and 22nd at the Ross Room in Spirit River. If interested in online courses (ICS 100 and 200) contact Brice or Alan Stebbing.

DEM course is scheduled for September 23rd at the Ross Room in Spirit River. This date conflicts with a conference but will be offered again at another date.

Scribe course is a half day course. Could set up with little notice if there are enough people to fill it.

8.2 Alberta Emergency Alert

Alan Stebbing spoke to this agenda item. Alberta Emergency Alert is moving to national platform, with the transition to officially happen in April 2023 headed by Megan Thomas. Somebody always on duty for emergency alerts if a municipality needs help. With new system more ability to do mutual aid. 7 Alberta Emergency Alert users registered in G5 but 2 are semi-retired. An Alberta Emergency Alert course to be held in September.

8.3 NW AHIMT Membership

Alberta leading charge on this nationally. Municipal governments putting people together and have help come to emergencies, larger than mutual aid agreements. They do extra training beyond ICS300 – classroom, 2-day live exercise. Teams are deployed around the province. Approximately 6-7 people from CPREM are on this team.

9. REGIONAL EXERCISE

9.1 _____ , 2022 in Saddle Hills County

To take place after training in September. Tentatively planned for early – mid October. Will send a poll with available dates out to DEMs.

10. PARTNER AGENCY UPDATES

10.1 AEMA

Chris Graham and Alan Stebbing, the new field officers, have both been here a year now. Alan reviewed his experience and past positions. Field officers are the link between municipality and AEMA. They are happy to provide support, so Alan invited everyone to reach out. Alberta Emergency Plan underwent big update and now posted on website. Working draft of AIMS recently posted. DRPS funded at Provincial and Federal level – changes coming to cost sharing. Private property gets 1 shot at a DRP up to a maximum of \$500,000. Will share more information as they have it. Larry asked for clarification on cost split as he thought it was 90/10. Peter echoed that. Alan said he will double check and let Brice and the DEMS know. MEO course in Fairview in August. BEM and ICS 100 online and available to Municipal staff, fire fighters, search and rescue, etc

10.2 AEMA

Steady training. They have 8 certified level 2 firefighters now. 90 calls so far this year, and so far, no wildfires.

10.3 Grande Prairie Technical Search & Rescue

Alan Stebbing provided the update. 14-15 people completed SAR basic course 2 weeks ago. Training for swift water rescue as well as ice rescue can be provided in house now. Close to standard call volume, 6 – 7 incidents so far this year. Fully accredited MFR team and can operate all the way up to advanced life support level. Train once per week and training on the weekends. A 4-day SAR exercise involving the military was held in April. Must be tasked out from an agency, usually RCMP, but can also be from a Municipality.

10.4 Other Agencies

No one was available to provide an update from the following agencies:

- *Agriculture & Forestry*
- *Alberta Health Services*
- *Alberta Support & Emergency Response Team*
- *Alberta Energy Regulator – FIRST*
- *AHS / EMS*
- *RCMP*
- *Alberta Transportation*
- *ATCO / BHNGC / CPNGC*

11. ROUND TABLE

11.1 Town of Spirit River

Fire department doing well. Steve Jack will take over from Greg Gayton as CAO on August 8th.

11.1 Village of Rycroft

Lots of ditch work to avoid spring flood issues they've had in the past. MD of Spirit River No. 133 is doing a project to build a dugout and divert water away from the Village.

11.1 Birch Hills County

There have been several staff changes. Tom Morgan has been working hard training volunteers. Active ditch program. Watino DRP is complete.

11.1 Saddle Hills County

Ongoing DRPs. Land purchase complete for the regional water project water treatment plant.

12. NEXT MEETING

November 17, 2022 at Birch Hills County. Supper at 6:00 p.m., Meeting to start at 6:30 p.m.

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.1 Adjournment

MOVED by Brenda Stanich

That the meeting be adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Carried Unanimously