



Department: Community & Emergency Services

Dear Chief Administrative Officers,

I am writing to provide an update on the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's Emergency Program and the supports that the TNRD delivers to member municipalities.

With flood and wildfire seasons upon us, we wanted to take the opportunity to confirm roles and responsibilities for emergency management in the region.

TNRD Emergency Program

Currently, TNRD staff provide emergency management services to the ten Electoral Areas, which is a statutory requirement from the provincial government for all regional districts.

As well, seven municipalities – Ashcroft, Barriere, Cache Creek, Chase, Clearwater, Clinton, and Lytton – participate in the TNRD Regional Emergency Program in exchange for support from the TNRD before, during, and after emergency events.

Of the Emergency Program budget, 80% is funded by TNRD taxation from the Electoral Areas with the remaining 20% coming from the seven member municipalities. The total budget for this service in 2026 is just over \$378,000.

Individual municipalities are responsible to manage events within their jurisdiction and ensure adherence to legislative requirements. The TNRD provides direct support to the seven member municipalities that participate in the TNRD emergency program as outlined below:

- **ESS program coordination:** TNRD staff manage Emergency Support Services (ESS) teams on behalf of the member municipalities, including volunteer management, training opportunities, equipment, regional logistics, and access to ESS supplies and facilities.
- **Operational support:** TNRD provides direct assistance and support during emergency events. When a municipal Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) is activated, if requested, TNRD staff can be deployed to the community to help strengthen the local EOC. Support levels and duration will depend on TNRD's own EOC operational needs at the time. Eligible deployment costs will be reimbursed under the Province's updated financial standards.

- **GIS and mapping support:** All TNRD municipalities are part of the Regional GIS service, which provides mapping products for States of Local Emergencies as well as Evacuation Alert and Order boundaries. Municipal emergency boundaries and address information can be accessed by the public via TNRD's emergency information platform (<https://tnrd.ca/emergencymap>). These supports are activated by municipalities contacting the TNRD through the Emergency Program's **Duty Officer line**, which is staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, year-round.
- **Training and exercises:** Delivery of regional training, municipal specific workshops, and support for the design and execution of tabletop and functional exercises to test emergency plans, identify gaps, and support continuous improvements. If your municipality would like TNRD support for training or exercise delivery, please reach out to the EM Department.
- **Planning and advisory support:** Regional assistance with emergency planning, hazard and risk assessments, and technical guidance to support municipal compliance with provincial emergency management requirements including governance, consultation, and preparedness expectations.
- **Guidance on provincial programs:** Interpretation of the new provincial *Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA)* and its subsequent regulations, as well as guidance on financial standards, coordination with provincial programs, emergency funding, cost recovery, and reporting requirements.

Looking Forward

Many local governments across BC have been holding off on major updates to their emergency plans and bylaws due to the protracted timeline of the enacting of *EDMA* by the provincial government, and the lack of regulations specific to Local Authorities to spell out specific requirements.

It is expected that these regulations (the *Local Authority Emergency Management Regulations*) will be introduced at some point in 2026. Once these are established, the TNRD will work to determine what steps will be necessary to bring the organization into compliance, and what changes will be necessary to our own capacity and structure as a result. This may require a review of the current framework for how the TNRD supports the Emergency Program's member municipalities going forward.

We plan to make some small "housekeeping" changes to our emergency management bylaw later in 2026 to address some legislative gaps, as it has not been substantially updated in almost two decades. However, these changes won't impact the level of

service currently provided to the member municipalities in the meantime. We welcome any input you may have on what the future regional framework for emergency management in the TNRD could look like.

Attached is an up-to-date contact sheet for TNRD emergency management resources. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'K. Skrepnek', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kevin Skrepnek
Manager of Community & Emergency Services
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