

## **COUNCIL REPORT**

**To:** Mayor & Council

**From:** Fire Department

**Date:** January 30, 2026

**Subject:** Emergency Management Bylaw

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

THAT Council receives this report for information.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In November 2023, the Province of British Columbia enacted the Emergency Disaster Management Act (EDMA), replacing the former Emergency Program Act. The EDMA includes a comprehensive modernization of provincial emergency management legislation that includes best practices in disaster risk reduction, climate resilience, emergency preparedness, response, and recovery planning.

The new legislation introduces a stronger emphasis on risk-based planning, prevention and mitigation, all-hazards emergency management, and integrated coordination across local governments, Indigenous communities, provincial authorities, and partner agencies. It also clarifies roles and responsibilities for emergency management governance, enhanced requirements for emergency planning and public communication, and strengthens alignment between local and provincial emergency management frameworks.

Under the EDMA, local governments are now required to ensure that their emergency management programs, bylaws, plans, and governance structures are consistent with the updated legislative framework. This includes clearer authorities for emergency operations, updated organizational structures, defined roles for emergency management leadership, and formalized requirements for emergency planning, training, exercises, and coordination.

The District's existing Emergency Program Bylaw was developed under the former *Emergency Program Act* and does not fully reflect the structure, terminology, authorities, and requirements introduced by the EDMA. As a result, portions of the current bylaw are now outdated, misaligned with provincial legislation, and may not provide sufficient legal clarity or operational authority under the new statutory framework. The updated Emergency Program Bylaw is therefore required to:

- Align municipal emergency management governance with the *Emergency Disaster Management Act*;
- Ensure legal compliance with current provincial legislation;
- Modernize authorities, roles, and responsibilities;
- Support effective emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation activities; and
- Strengthen coordination with provincial agencies and regional partners.

Updating the bylaw will ensure the District's emergency management framework remains legally sound, operationally effective, and aligned with contemporary emergency management standards and provincial expectations.

Updating the current emergency program bylaw was identified as one of the highest priorities in the emergency program review by Colliers Project leaders, completed in February 2026.

A copy of the bylaw is included in the Bylaw section of this agenda for Council's consideration of first three readings.

**BUDGETARY IMPACT:**

There are no immediate budgetary impacts identified at the submission of this report.

**COUNCIL PRIORITIES:**

**Community and Social Development**

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

Micaiah Taylor, Deputy Emergency Program Coordinator

**Reviewed By:** Corporate and Financial Services

**Approved By:** Chief Administrative Officer