

Chinook Emergency Response Society Public Meeting –Notes April 12, 2022

Agenda

1. **Call to Order (6:15)** –*Board update – Risè has stepped down from being the board chair, but she is still a part of the board. She was responsible for founding and organizing and keeping the society going. This September we will be looking for some new people to join the board and a new chair to take on that role. If you are interested, please contact me Scott or one of the board members.*
2. **Staying informed** – *One of the key aspects of CERS is improving communication through out the region. Some key ways that residents can stay informed are:*
 - **Join the email list** – cers.information@gmail.com
 - **Join the Facebook Group** - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/chinookinfo>
 - **Visit the Website** - <https://chinook-ers.ca/>
 - **Talk with POD leaders and board members**– *there is a list on the website*
3. **Neighbourhood PODs**
 - **What are Neighbourhood PODs?**
 - *A POD can be looked at as specific geographical area and the identified households and resources within that area.*
 - *POD leaders and community members within a POD have responsibilities to each other as well as to other PODS in responding to emergency situations.*
 - *The goal of the PODS is to:*
 - *increase communication*
 - *increase each neighbourhood's preparedness (mitigation/resiliency)*
 - *increase community response time during emergencies*
 - **Updates and plans from POD leaders**
 - *Linda (POD 1+2) – has knocked on most doors in the POD area and talked to residents. Worked on collecting information(phone numbers, assets available for a community response- including food resources, fuel, heavy equipment, etc.). In discussions with the Southside Volunteer Fire Department, it was also identified that working with this group is also essential.*
 - *Mike (Pod 3)- has also been contacting people in the POD area.*
 - *Sharron (POD 8) – divided the POD area between a few people (Ingrid and Willow) to start talking with residents.*

- *Gwynne (POD 9) – no update*
- *Risë (POD 7) – no update*
- *Libby (POD 6) – No update*
- *Carol (POD 11-12)- no update*
- *There are currently no POD leaders for the Grassy (POD 4) and Danskin (POD 5) areas on the Southside and the PODS 13-18 on the Northside*
- **What do you do if you see smoke or a wildfire?**
 - *Ensure people are safe*
 - *Call 1800-663-5555 or *5555 on cell*
 - *Call your POD leader and make a plan*
 - *Leaders will call other POD leaders – who will contact their members*
 - *Create a plan for calling other POD members in the impacted area*
 - *Mobilize Cheslatta Community Response Trailers and heavy equipment if needed*

4. Community training opportunities

- S100 & S185 – May
 - *May 17-18 – tentative - A course is being organized by CERS – there was a grant written and it is hoped that this will be free – or very cheap. The course will be held at the SIDA centre for a maximum of 20 people. An interest list was started (email cers.information@gmail.com to sign up.*
 - *May 9-10 – CNC - \$425*
- *First Aid – May 13, 24, 30, and June 23 CNC - \$ 169*
- S100 & S185 – June
 - *Organized by CERS - tentatively booked with the BCWFS for sometime in June – Free of charge, 14 and up. This will be held at the SEDA centre and use the Cheslatta Community Response Trailers. An interest list was started (email cers.information@gmail.com to sign up.*
- **Cheslatta Community Fire Response Trailers**
 - *The BCWFS will be working with Cheslatta to ensure they are ready for use. The trailers will be used for the S100 courses to help community members become more familiar with them.*
 - *These trailers are available for anyone in the community to pickup and use if there is an emergency – it is based on trust.*

5. Other community updates

- *RDBN – Clint*

- *Looks like there the Verdun Cell tower is going to be upgraded and new towers are going up in the Olson Road, west Francois Lake and Ootsa areas.*
- *There is a plan to put a fibre optic line from Burns Lake to Francois Lake school. Then there could be discussion to bring that line across the lake to Grassy Plains*
- *SSVFD – has a new truck and they are working on getting another truck that could be used to respond to more grass fires. They are also now able to respond to more motor vehicle incidents (towards the eastern end of Francois Lake)*
- *Voyent Alert – this is an automatic text/voice messaging system that residents can sign up for. The system provides emergency alerts and updates.*
<https://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/protective-services/bulkley-nechako-emergency-public-alerts>
- *Hazardous Risk and Vulnerability Analysis group – is meeting regularly.*
 - www.rdbn.bc.ca/hrva
 - *Liliana Dragowska (liliana.dragowska@rdbn.bc.ca)*
- **Fire Smart**
 - *There is a free assessment through the RDBN– call 1-800-320-3339 to set up. After the assessment there are two rebate programs:*
 - **Stream 1 Rebate Program:** *The RDBN is offering a 50% rebate on up to \$1000 spent on completing FireSmart activities outlined in the report.*
 - **Stream 3 Seniors Program:** *This funding is offered to seniors (65+) and/or people with mobility issues and covers 100% of labor costs associated with FireSmart activities outlined in the report. This does not cover the cost of materials.*
- *BCWFS – we have met with brad Blackwell –he was impressed with the community response to wildfires he saw last summer. He wants to support CERS with training and possibly even equipment that could be signed out during a response. They are also working on putting up a Initial Attack base at Takysie Lake that would be operational during the summer.*

6. Cellular Service Signs

- Sign repairs
 - Working with Mike and Cheslatta on doing some repairs this spring



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