



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** January 18, 2017
From: John McGowan **File:** 09-5126-01/2017-Vol
Acting General Manager, Law & Community Safety 01 (17.00.01)
Re: Emergency Programs Activity Report - October to December 2016

Staff Recommendation

That the staff report titled, "Emergency Programs Activity Report – October to December 2016," dated January 18, 2017, from the Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety, be received for information.

John McGowan
Acting General Manager, Law and Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: DW
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

This report provides Council with an update on Emergency Programs activities. Emergency Programs continues to work towards the City's vision of being the most appealing, livable and well-managed community in Canada, through the delivery of its programs and services. Emergency Programs is reporting on its activities in support of its mandate to maximize the protection of life, public infrastructure, private property and the environment in the event of a major emergency or disaster.

This activity report for Emergency Programs provides information on each of the following areas:

1. Community Involvement/Public Education
2. City of Richmond Staff and Volunteer Education
3. RichmondBCAlert/Emergency Notification System (ENS)

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

1.1. Policy and service models that reflect Richmond-specific needs.

1.3. Improved perception of Richmond as a safe community.

Analysis

Community Involvement/Public Education

During the months of October, November and December 2016, staff and volunteers facilitated ten Business, Community, and Personal Preparedness Presentations, three in Chinese and seven in English to the following organizations: Co-Op Housing, S.U.C.C.E.S.S, McKesson Technical Solutions, ALS Society, Local Strata Complex, and the Richmond Library (ESL). In partnership with Richmond Fire Rescue and the Richmond RCMP, Emergency Programs facilitated two public information sessions titled, "Present-Prepare-Act".

During the Community Involvement/Public Education presentations, approximately 400 people were supplied with over 1,100 pieces of informative material to review with their families, neighbourhoods, and businesses.

Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness

Staff continue to work with the Sea Island Community Association Board in an effort to finalize their Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program.

City of Richmond Staff and Volunteer Education

Volunteer Recruitment

Volunteer recruitment for 2016 has been completed. Emergency Programs now has 70 volunteers who perform a variety of duties such as Emergency Social Services and Emergency Amateur Radio Communications (REPARS). Sixteen new volunteers have successfully completed the orientation component and are now out in the field with a seasoned mentor. The new volunteers will be accompanied by the mentor for the next few months until they are ready to be partnered with other volunteers.

ShakeOut, BC Drill

The Great British Columbia ShakeOut aims to raise awareness about BC’s earthquake risk and importance of “Drop, Cover and Hold On”. The “Drop, Cover, Hold On” initiative is internationally recognized as the best way to prevent injuries and save lives during an earthquake. Dropping to the ground prevents the earthquake from causing a person to fall. Taking cover and holding on helps protect from flying objects and falling debris¹. In 2016, staff in all City owned facilities participated alongside more than 770,000 British Columbians during the annual drill. More than 43 million people have participated worldwide².

The City of Richmond has registered for 2017 and are preparing to Drop, Cover and Hold On, on October 19, 2017 at 10:19 am³.

RichmondBCAlert/Emergency Notification System (ENS)

Richmond BC Alert/Emergency Notification System (ENS) is an emergency notification system that sends notifications in the event of an actual emergency. When an emergency occurs, all registered contacts in the impacted area will receive an automated call or text message. Evacuation notices, emergency instructions, direction to emergency reception centres or shelters, and information on family reunification will be among the messages that could be sent out during an emergency situation.

Staff promoted the ENS program to Richmond citizens at all Community Events. In addition to the 23,252 home telephone numbers and 7,140 business telephone numbers imported from local telephone books, staff were able to assist in registering an additional 1,475 homes to receive emergency alerts by telephone, cellular phone, email, text message and fax.

The table below shows the number of new registrations during the year:

2016	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Owner	34	21	11	25	522	366	90	43	35	44	32	15	1238
Tenant	18	7	8	6	77	46	8	5	5	33	14	10	237
Totals	52	28	19	31	599	412	98	49	40	77	46	25	1475

¹ <http://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/media-advisory---join-us-for-the-great-british-columbia-shakeout-597605451.html>

² 2015 Statistics

³ <http://www.shakeoutbc.ca/register/>

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

In the last three months of 2016, Emergency Programs staff and volunteers were out in the community for ten public education events, completed the 2016 volunteer recruitment, participated in the Annual ShakeOut and continue to promote the RichmondBCAlert/Emergency Notification System.



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LG:lg