

FLOOD RESPONSE PLAN

City of Fernie
Operational Services Department

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1. INTRODUCTION

This flood response plan has been prepared for monitoring and responding to emergency conditions arising from high water levels on the Elk River and Coal Creek under the Local Authority emergency response plan, or as a stand alone document for the Diking Authority. The plan considers a variety of stages and is triggered by information provided by the Local Authority/Diking Authority and / or the Provincial Government, principally the Snow Bulletins issued by the Ministry of Environment, River Forecast Centre (www.env.gov.bc.ca/rfc).

2. AIM

The primary objective of the City of Fernie Flood Response Plan is to provide a plan and outline procedures for the protection, maintenance and safety of property and property owners within the City boundary in the event of a flood situation or high waters on the Elk River or Coal Creek. In responding to a flood event, the actions and decisions will be based on the priorities to protect the following: human life, infrastructure (roads, communications and utilities), property and environmental resources.

3. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION PHASES

Phase I - Pre Flooding Activities

The implementation of the Flood Response Plan may be triggered by observed rising water levels, weather reports, and/or Provincial Ministry of Environment River Forecasts. Flood flows are typically snowmelt generated or caused by a combination of snowmelt and rainfall, and tend to occur between mid-May and mid-June.

The City's Flood Response Plan is overseen by the Emergency Coordinator (Flood Response). The Emergency Coordinator will alert the Emergency Operations Group (Flood Response) and the Group commences implementing the Flood Response Plan, reviews resources, assigns personnel and meets with other Emergency Coordinating bodies as necessary. Preliminary inspection and familiarization tours of diking areas are undertaken in preparation for projected water levels. Assessment of flood risk areas and daily monitoring of the Provincial Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre are undertaken in preparation of projected water levels.

Phase II Rising Waters

Based on specific water levels and/or warnings, the following key items are implemented:

- Weekly patrols of dikes and key works
- Some flooding in unprotected areas may occur, but effects at this level are negligible.
- Monitoring gauges are placed at key locations

Phase III Limited Flooding

Based on specific water levels and / or warnings the following key items are implemented:

- Daily patrols of dikes, bridges and key works
- City's communication plan implemented
- Deployment of all flood related equipment and sandbagging
- Continued monitoring of the Provincial Ministry of Environment River Forecast Centre

Limited flooding of the following unprotected areas may occur:

- Annex Park
- Mountview Park
- Downstream from the West Fernie Bridge
- Gymkana Grounds
- North End of the Golf Course

Refer to the Flood Elevation and Monitoring Station Location maps in Part 2 – Supplementary Information.

Phase IV – Increased Flooding

Based on specific water levels and / or warnings the following key items are implemented:

- Daily patrols of dikes, bridges and key works are continued and augmented if necessary should conditions dictate
- Deployment of forces to mark roads and respond to requests as required.

Increased flooding in unprotected areas such as:

- Annex Park
- Mountview Park
- Golf Course
- Downstream from the West Fernie Bridge with flooding of the related local and internal roads

Phase V – Severe Flooding

Based on specific water levels and /or warnings. Dike patrols are assigned on a 24 hour basis.. Deployment of forces to mark roads, institute detours as required, assist residents, implement final diking and stop blocking operations, controls boils and other works as required. General flooding of unprotected areas such as:

- Annex Park
- Mountview Park
- Golf Course
- Downstream from West Fernie Bridge
- Local flooding in Annex Subdivision where water is unable to exit due to closing of floodgates.

4. EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

Upon receipt of a warning of a real or potential flood, the responding department will immediately notify the RCMP and the Emergency Coordinator and request that all members of the Municipal Emergency Operations Group be contacted.

Upon being notified, it is the responsibility of all officials to notify their staff and volunteer organizations. Where a threat of an impending emergency exists, they will be notified and placed on standby.

An Emergency Notification List and Emergency Public Communication Plan is shown in the Supplementary Plan Information section.

5. EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)

The Emergency Operations Group will report to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) located at the Chamber of Commerce / Search and Rescue at 102 Commerce Road, Fernie, BC.

6. PLAN MAINTENANCE AND REVIEW

This plan will be reviewed annually and, where necessary, revised by Operations Department.

7. IMPLEMENTATION

Annual review of the Flood Response Plan to be conducted by March 31 of each year.