



Report from the Piers Island Emergency Program, June 2015

Coordinator: Frances Glover

Deputy Coordinators: Velvet Warrior, Jackie Charlesworth

Communication Officers: Colleen Bryden, Delia Wiley, Sandy Brunham, Kerry Wheeler

Support Services Director: Wendy Eden

Deputy Directors: Mary Jordan, Evey Gabille, Gloria Morson

Neighbourhood Contacts: Wende Smart, Uta Bryce, Patti LL, Linda Vanden Berg, Kaia Bryce.

Southern Gulf Islands Commissioners: Gary Glover, Brian Wheeler

PIVFD Liaison: Denis Jesson

Evacuation Boat Operators: Mike Smart, Bob Snelling, Kelly Stevenson, Brian Wheeler, Gary Glover

As you can see from the above list many Piers Islanders are involved in the Emergency Program (EP). Most volunteer in other capacities on the island as well.

Regular training is provided either through the area program or the Justice institute of BC. At least twice per year the Emergency Program holds training exercises which involve the Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department (PIVFD). Last fall we held a simulated earthquake exercise simultaneously with the other Gulf Islands. We will hold a similar exercise again this year.

Communication is a vital part of any emergency response. We practice this in many ways. The senior officers on the team carry pagers programmed with channels from both the EP and the PIVFD. We also carry VHF radios and have two radios capable of communicating with the Area program.

Communication also involves the Piers Island call out system otherwise referred to as the telephone tree. We maintain an up-to-date directory and call islanders in case of an emergency. As you will recall we utilized the "tree" last June/July when a

cougar visited the island. We also made calls last July when a small fire started at an island property.

We will be practicing the call-out system this summer (date TBA). **Please ensure the Emergency Program has your up-to-date telephone contact numbers.** As a reminder the EP directory is utilized by program members only. It is separate from the island directory distributed to all islanders. To update your information send an email to Sandy Brunham at sbrunham@gmail.com with a copy to Frances Glover at fgglover@telus.net

Some islanders may also receive a call from the Emergency Program as part of a regular Saturday morning fire practice. The Chief or Incident Commander may ask the EP to call residents in a particular neighbourhood to advise them of a “mock” fire or other incident. The PIVFD/EP did so this month and will continue to do so on various Saturdays in the future. The duty officer from the Emergency Program attends the PIVFD debrief to discuss the mock scenario.

It is important to note the PIVFD attends on-site to island incidents but the Emergency Program remains off-site to assist. Beyond communicating to residents about an emergency the Emergency Program is trained to set up a reception centre at the fire hall if needed.

Several new members joined the team in the past year, including Delia Wiley, Gloria Morson, Sandy Brunham and Kerry Wheeler. Delia is moving off island and we will be sorry to lose such a valuable member of the team.

Wendy Eden has been involved in the program for ten years as the Support Services Director. She has decided to give up that position on September 1st but lucky for us she will continue as a team member. We are fortunate also that Mary Jordan will take over the role of director.

Emergency Preparedness week was held across Canada from May 3 to May 9. On Piers Island Sandy Brunham put together a highly successful information package and contest for islanders. She and Kerry Wheeler have plans to distribute emergency preparedness information at future island events.

Although we have a large number of volunteers involved in our program we cannot have too many. If you have any interest in joining the program please talk to any of our team members to obtain more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Glover Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC)