



Piers Island Emergency Program Report July 2021 to June 2022

The Program

Every part of British Columbia is mandated to participate in a locally organized emergency response program. The Piers Island Emergency Program (PIEP) is part of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Southern Gulf Islands Area Program and provides services during an island emergency. Its major task is to support the work of the Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department (PIVFD). The PIVFD responds to the emergency site while PIEP members work off site at an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). If community support is needed members can set up a Reception Centre (RC). Together the PIVFD and the Emergency Program provide community support and education to help our community be prepared for, be aware of, and respond to emergencies. The preparedness and resiliency of the community depends on the preparedness and resiliency of all community members.

The Team

The Piers Island Emergency Program consists of Emergency Operation and Emergency Support Services team members to provide on island services, as well as two Commissioners that sit on the Southern Gulf Islands Commission that give localized guidance and feedback to the CRD about Emergency Program matters. We had some changes on both this year.

After 17 years leading the program as the Emergency Community Coordinator, Frances Glover decided to retire from the position but not the program. She is now bringing her years of expertise to the program by joining Kerry Keats, as a commissioner. Frances Glover is replacing Gary Glover, who has now retired as commissioner (and Piers Island Emergency Program Duty Officer and Boat Operator). Thank you to Frances Glover and Gary Glover for so many years of service, the dedication, knowledge, and enthusiasm that built the team up over those years, and the legacy of a strong program that you are leaving us with.

Velvet Warrior has taken over as Emergency Community Coordinator working the strong complement of Piers Islanders that make up the Piers Island Emergency Program team ... Gloria Morson, Sandy Brunham, Kerry Wheeler, Uta Bryce, Patti LL, Kerry Keats, Ginny Macoun, Evey Gabille, Libby Kaul, Mari Warrior, Judy Brooks, and Wynn Lewis (the newest member ... welcome). Two other islanders, Wendy Smart and Linda Vanden Berg assist with telephone tree phoning. Five others are evacuation boat operators: Mike Smart, Brian Wheeler, Barry Tate, Rick Schnurr and Allan Warrior (thank you for taking over for Gary Glover). Thank you to all EP volunteers.

The Year that Was

During the July 2021 to June 2022 reporting period the Piers Island Emergency Program activities were still somewhat influenced by the pandemic, but in-person meetings, exercises are resuming,

and more training courses are being held (although many still online only). We had our first in-person team meeting in March. During the first week of May, for Emergency Preparedness (EP) Week, the Emergency Program team ran a 3-Quiz challenge to raise awareness of the emergency preparedness and planning, crewed an Emergency Program table at the PVFD FireSmart Landscaping event to assist Islanders with getting set on the PANS (Public Alert Notification System) program to receive emergency alerts and distribute updated program information, and presented prizes to Islanders drawn from the participants in the quizzes and event attendees. As part of EP Week, two team members participated in an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) exercise on Pender Island that demonstrated and exercised the procedures for and roles of the Emergency Operations Centre between the Island EOC, Area EOC and the CRD EOC. This exercise demonstrated the level of support that is available to the island from the Area, CRD and province and made it clear that we are not alone, the resources needed will be made available. The EOC exercise was then held on Piers Island so that the entire team received the training.

Luckily, the Emergency Program team has not had to officially activate an Emergency Operations Centre or provide Emergency Support Services. However, the Tsunami warning this last spring is a reminder that the program exists to respond to such events. The Emergency Program also monitors and provides island and Area communications during potential events such as during the island flooding, wind events, and power outages. The major responsibility of the Emergency Community Coordinator (ECC) is to assemble the Emergency Program (EP) team in an island emergency. A Duty Officer is assigned on a rotating schedule to provide pager coverage and be available to activate emergency program resources. The team prepares to support the community when and as needed.

What you can do

- Know the risks and procedures in your area: Refer to the Piers Island Emergency Program brochure and the Emergency Services page on the Piers Island website (<https://www.piersisland.ca/piep.html>). Ensure that any visitors or tenants are aware.
- Make an emergency plan: A plan will help you cope with the stress of an emergency or disaster.
- Build an emergency kit (72 hours to 7 days): By taking a few simple steps you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies. Don't forget to include your pets when building your kit.
- Stay Informed: Directions from authorities can vary based on the emergency. They can also change very quickly.
 - Register for the CRD's Public Alert Notification System(PANS) for critical, life-saving alerts.
 - Ensure that the Corporate Secretary has your latest contact information for the Telephone "Tree" (secretary@piersisland.ca).
 - Bookmark local emergency program facebook pages:
 - <https://www.facebook.com/SouthernGulfIslandsEmergencyProgram/>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/PiersIslandEmergencyProgram/>

Respectfully submitted:
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Piers Island Emergency Program