

ency



Piers Island Emergency Program Report June 2022 to June 2023

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 Emergency Support Services (ESS) 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.

It is wonderful to announce that Barb Miodonski will be joining Velvet Warrior in the role of Emergency Community Coordinator (ECC) starting in July this year. It will be great to co-coordinate the program together. We have a strong complement of Piers Islanders that make up the Piers Island Emergency Program team including Deputy ECC, Sandy Brunham, Duty Officers / Emergency Operations Team Kerry Wheeler, Patti LL, Wynn Lewis and Libby Kaul. Emergency Support Services Director, Gloria Morson, and Emergency Support Services team Ginny Macoun, Evey Gabelle, Uta Bryce, Mari Warrior, and Judy Brooks. Linda Vanden Berg assists with the Neighbourhood Program telephone tree phoning. Wende Smart, after many years as part of the Neighbourhood Program (and was a founder of the telephone tree on Piers before the Emergency Program existed) stepped down. We thank her for the many years of service and support. It is appreciated. We also have evacuation boat operators that would be available in the event of evacuation to pick people up from docks: Brian Wheeler, Barry Tate, Rick Schnurr and Allan Warrior. Mike Smart was also an evacuation boat operator volunteer for many years. His dedication and contribution are really appreciated and he will be missed. Thank you to all EP volunteers.

The Year that Was

During the July 2022 to June 2023 reporting period, it was/is great to get back to more in-person meetings and training, and hosting community events.

- Preparation and Planning:
 - Southern Gulf Island Area Coordinators meet monthly with every 2 or 3rd of those meetings in person with CRD Emergency Management. The roles, responsibilities and relationships of each level is becoming better understood and the CRD is working to have more joint agreements for support for us outside of our community.
 - Several Emergency Program team members have completed individual training courses through the Justice Institute, and there have been group training for Duty Officers, Emergency Operations Management, and Emergency Support Services
- Community Events:
 - The Emergency Program team supported a joint event with the fire department. The Fire Department had a Fire Smart work party and the EP team worked with the two community Micro Grant recipients to do demonstrations (Grab n Go Bag and Community Water Purification).
 - Emergency Preparedness Week featured a week of Quizzes, a presentation on Earthquakes and Tsunamis in Coastal BC through the UVic Speakers program and a High Ground Hike sponsored by PreparedBC with great emergency preparedness prizes.

Luckily, the Emergency Program team has not had to officially activate an Emergency Operations Centre or provide Emergency Support Services. However, the Duty Officer and team were on standby during the various weather events and power outages providing communications to the community, as needed, and supported the community during the High Tide event by providing needed sand bags. Thanks to Brigitte Prochaska, our Area Coordinator, and the use of Geoff and Sharon Nagle's boat driven by Gary Cooney, we were able to secure another 1000 sandbags by noon on Dec 27. Big shout out to the sand bag heroes that put all of these in place in only a couple of hours.



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:
Velvet Warrior, Emergency Community Coordinator,
Piers Island Emergency Program