



## **PIERS ISLAND EMERGENCY PROGRAM AGM REPORT 2019**

### **July 2018 to June 2019**

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 Southern Gulf Islands Area Program and provides services during an island emergency. Our major task is to support the work of the Piers Island Volunteer Fire Department (PIVFD). The PIVFD responds to the site of the emergency while PIEP members work off site at an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). If community support is needed PIEP members may also set up a Reception Centre (RC). Anyone following the news regarding devastating BC wildfires will have seen Emergency Programs in action supporting members of their community.

### **Duty Officer**

The major responsibility of the Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC) is to assemble the Emergency Program (EP) team in an island emergency. In the absence of the EPC a member of the Emergency Program team serves as **duty officer** and responds accordingly.

In December, 2018 and February, 2019 two strong, prolonged weather events resulted in the response of both the PIVFD and the Emergency Program. Because I was away from Piers Island during both power outages Nancy Troger served as duty officer, closely supported by Sandy Brunham and other EP team members. Nancy was in frequent contact with the PIVFD and during one outage arranged for a “warming centre” to be set up at the fire hall. At the request of the fire chief islanders were contacted by email with information about the hazardous conditions. Additionally, any islander considered to have special needs was contacted by phone. Nancy and others kept the Area Coordinator informed about both weather events.

### **Power Outages**

The December and February power outages were the result of particularly adverse weather conditions. As you know Piers Island can expect a few power outages each year, generally from conditions not quite so intense. Regardless of the circumstances **if you lose power please inform Hydro**. To obtain updates check the Hydro website. As



## PIERS ISLAND EMERGENCY PROGRAM - AGM REPORT 2019

circumstances permit you may receive relevant information about the outage from the fire chief via the Emergency Program.

### Public Alert Notification System (PANS)

As most of you know, an automated alert system has been implemented in the Gulf Islands. Known as PANS (*Public Alert Notification System*), it is separate and apart from the federal *Alert Ready* system used to provide alerts for potentially life-threatening events such as a tsunami.

**To receive notification about Piers Island emergencies you must be signed up for PANS.** Short-term occupants can also register for PANS for the period they are on island.

I cannot emphasize enough the importance of being registered. The Emergency Program does not have access to the list of PANS signees so the responsibility rests with each household to register. If you have yet to register for PANS please contact Sandy Brunham at [sbrunham@gmail.com](mailto:sbrunham@gmail.com).

### Telephone Tree

PANS does not completely replace our telephone tree call-out system. The “tree” maintained by the Emergency Program can be used for less urgent matters and in some situations, it may be used to augment PANS.

### Piers Island Emergency Procedures (2019)

An updated procedures brochure will be distributed this summer to all island properties. It contains vital details about what to do in a Piers Island emergency. It lists the cell numbers of the EP’s team members who are available should you need information or direction during any kind of emergency. Additional copies are available in the Piers Island fire hall bookcase adjacent to the stacked chairs.

### Thank you to the volunteers!

**Team members:** Sandy Brunham, Nancy Troger, Velvet Warrior, Mary Jordan, Colleen Bryden, Kerry Wheeler, Patti LL, Kerry Keats, Gary Glover, Jackie Charlesworth, Gloria Morson, Evey Gabille, Jacquie Troger, Uta Bryce, Ginny Macoun.

**Zone contacts:** Wende Smart, Linda Vanden Berg.

**Evacuation boat operators:** Charlie Troger, Gary Glover, Barry Tate, Brian Wheeler, Mike Smart

**Southern Gulf Islands Emergency Program Commissioners:** Gary Glover, Kerry Keats

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Glover, Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC)  
Piers Island Emergency Program