

**MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF BIGHORN NO. 8
EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING**

**9 November 11 – 4:00 P.M.
M.D. OFFICE, EXSHAW**

IN ATTENDANCE:

Martin Buckley	Chairman/Recording Secretary
Dene Cooper	Reeve
Kevin Hebb	Member-at-Large
Rick Lyster	District Chief, Exshaw
Wayne Dick	Jamieson Road Head Fire Guardian
Tom McFadden	Ghost River Fire Dept. – District Fire Chief

ABSENT:

Mike Milne	Member-at-large
------------	-----------------

CALL TO ORDER

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

-New Business 5(c):	Alberta First Response radio system (W. Dyck)
-New Business 5(d):	Mutual aid calls/billing of residents (R. Lyster)
-New Business 5(e):	Lac Des Arcs fire services (D. Cooper)

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – 23 June 11 meeting

The minutes of the 23 June 11 EMS Committee meeting were adopted as circulated.

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

R. Lyster updated the Committee on the 1 Feb and 22 June incidents, and specifically with respect to the insurance claims for the hazardous materials handling. He noted that the insurance had paid the haz-mat costs of \pm \$11,000 on the Feb 1 incident, but the insurers (ICBC) were still reviewing the 22 June incident and haz-mat costs.

He also updated on the Ghost repeater situation: the security company (Key West) has installed a different heat sensor switch; there has not been any communications failures so far.

a) The 2 Nov 11 Brownlee letter on the proposed Limitations to the Provisions of Emergency Services policy was reviewed and discussed. The following was noted:

-there is a need to look at the Streets & Roads policy to confirm coordination with same.



-the draft policy needs an amendment to reference the lack of qualified manpower resources as a reason for non-response situations.

-specific references to equipment (first page of draft policy) should be deleted.

There was agreement the draft policy should be amended and taken to Council for consideration; however, the re-draft should be circulated to the Chiefs beforehand, for their final comments.

4. UPDATE FROM DISTRICTS AND DIRECTOR

a) Exshaw District

Exshaw was heading towards another record year: there has been 141 calls YTD, while there were 160 calls altogether in 2010. 266 calls were answered by the Duty Officer YTD, Ghost has had 23 calls, and Jamieson 10 responses.

The big event was the landfill fire in mid-July. It was noted that the M.D.'s tanker and pumper worked throughout the four day event, without any mechanical problems (although there were some post-event repairs to complete). There were problems with the "pumpkins" (portable collapsible water tanks): the tanker will be modified to carry folding-frame style tanks.

The 2011 project of a pump replacement on an Exshaw truck was mentioned: R. Lyster noted problems getting firm numbers from suppliers on this, but some cost figures have been coming in as of late.

There were a number of PSC issues that have been building up: response protocols may need to be modified in regards to haz-mat issues, alarm calls, ambulance calls, etc. At the present time, there isn't a "rural liaison" person with the PSC, so only urgent requests for investigation are being dealt with, until a liaison is appointed.

An S300 course was started in Exshaw, with 3 Ghost and 5 Exshaw personnel attending; this is a basic firefighting course dealing mainly with SCBA training.

Emergency Services service medals had been applied for: 6 personnel within the M.D.'s three departments were eligible for these. R. Lyster will look into having the Legion cater a presentation session sometime in the new year.

R. Lyster attended a Rural Communities First Response session in Stettler in August: it was thought that Alberta Health Services' absorption of ambulance operations wouldn't affect the M.D., however, he found out that, in other parts of the province, dispatching is somewhat screwed up, with costs escalating, resulting from a loss of the associated revenues at the municipal level.

b) Ghost District

It has been a relatively quiet summer – a couple of calls.

Medical call up by the Burnt Timber gas plant, a 2:00 a.m. call: the call was passed to another agency and didn't get the agency anticipated – PSC sent out someone else.

One old truck is gone from the fire-hall, sent to auction.



The department now has sixteen members. Two members went to the Kananaskis for the weekend fire-fighting course; three members went to Redwood Meadows for the S215 course. T. McFadden has been on a couple of courses.
The department would like consideration of a thermal imaging camera as a 2012 budget item.

c) Jamieson Road District

A quiet summer: not as many grass fires this year, chased a flare stack fire late at night, one night. Four calls altogether since last meeting.

Still at five members.

A member and truck attended the landfill fire; one member attended a motorcycle MVA.

Agreed with Tom McFadden that it would be good to have more SOG's/SOP's in place, regarding medical assists.

There has been a number of training days/opportunities: all members appear to be very comfortable with things.

Jamieson had a toxic round-up at the Hall recently; no one came.

The septic tank was pumped out just last week.

A break-in attempt occurred this summer: no one got in, but wood damage was found near the door, and the outside telephone line terminus box was damaged.

W. Dyck asked if anyone was having problems with the "rip and run" sheets. Jamieson is getting some, but not all.

Need to have Commercial Vehicle Inspections done soon.

d) C.A.O. re Canmore agreement

M. Buckley discussed the negotiations with the Town of Canmore, regarding a new multi-services arrangement: he noted Canmore is seeking a full cost-recovery basis. He, the Reeve and Councillor C. Montgomery will be meeting with Canmore reps later this week.

5. NEW BUSINESS

- a) R. Lyster discussed the proposed emergency generator (a stand-alone, natural-gas-powered, non-portable unit) for the M.D. office/Emergency Operating Centre at length. The cost was approximately \$30,000. He noted that a quote for a transfer switch only for the M.D. office has been received, at a cost of \$6,000.

He further noted that there could be five or six buildings that could serve as an EOC in an emergency situation: should all of these buildings have a transfer switch installed? Further, if all of these buildings had transfer switches, would the M.D. need one or two portable generators (at a cost of \$30,000 each)?

He noted a portable diesel-powered generator also has a cost of \$30,000, and a transfer switch would still be needed. An electrician would need to wire the generator in every time it was to be used (this would not be the case with the stand-alone, non-portable generator). There are also requirements in the Fire Code, regarding regular change-out of filters and fuels in diesel generators: more maintenance is required than for a natural gas powered engine. The M.D. needs to decide what philosophy it wants to go with.

- b) The issue of hazardous materials handling, resulting from Motor Vehicle accidents on provincial highways, was discussed: the two incidents this past year (Feb 1 and June 22) were



noted, whereby haz-mat clean-up costs were in the \$11,000 range each. The question raised was why M.D. forces would be involved in such clean-ups, on provincial highways, when the province has indicated the most it would reimburse municipalities is \$400/hour for each piece of equipment on the road.

It was agreed that a draft policy should be prepared, for committee consideration.

- (c) W. Dick noted the Province's continuing work on the Alberta First Response Radio system; he advised that the Province has selected Harris Canada to lead the AFRRIS system. The taxpayers will buy the "infrastructure" (towers and other such things), while the municipalities purchase the "hardware" (radios, etc.). He felt the M.D. should be putting money away now, for the system, when it comes time to buy into same.

It was noted there is a belief the project is still behind schedule, and won't be ready for a 2014 deployment. Other departments are moving ahead on the same basis. The M.D. should complete a plan on how to bring the municipality into the system.

It was agreed to try and get AFRRIS personnel to attend the next EMS meeting, early in the new year, to discuss further.

- (d) The issue of billing for response calls, when outside agencies come in on mutual aid scenarios, was discussed: specifically, it was noted that the Cochrane Fire Department responded into Jamieson Road, and then billed \$2,000 for their response. The M.D. Fire Chief was not sure who was responsible for the costs, but a bill had been sent to the affected property owner, who was not prepared to pay same (there were other questions around the property owner's alarm company, whether or not the right address was used/given, whether dispatch had acted appropriately, etc.).

It appears as though the affected property owner may have given his alarm company the wrong address/legal description; however the PSC call-taker also did not clue into the several references to Jamieson Road.

After considerable discussion, it was indicated the property owner should be advised that the invoice remains outstanding, but that he can appeal to Council, if he wants to seek cancellation.

There was also similar concerns with medical responses: if there were an incident at the Cadet Camp, for example, in most cases, the fire department would probably arrive before an ambulance did. However, there was a recent call and there were not enough Ghost members to attend. In this case, Dispatch was advised to send Cochrane Fire, so in effect a Mutual Aid request was made. No invoice was received, however, "who should pay" if one is received? It was noted that R. Lyster and M. Buckley would be meeting with Alberta Health Services personnel later this month, to discuss the issue further.

- (e) D. Cooper advised that the Lac Des Arcs community was still seeking a stand-alone cistern system in their community, to store a supply of fire-fighting water. The Dead Man's Flats' cistern system had been promised to Lac Des Arcs, once Dead Man's Flats gets a stand-alone water system; however, Lac Des Arcs has been waiting for eight years, for the system.



R. Lyster noted that the response time, for the last house fire in Lac Des Arcs, was 17 minutes; the department's drop-tanks weren't used, because of mobility problems once these tanks were on the ground.

The Committee discussed the location of a permanent cistern in Lac Des Arcs, and the problems with same; it was agreed there needs to be a level of understanding, within the Lac Des Arcs community, on what is available and what is needed. M. Buckley and R. Lyster will arrange a meeting with the community, to have the community association representatives see what is currently available, fire-fighting-wise.

6. **INFORMATION**

Item 6(a), the Canmore Highway response report, was accepted as information.

7. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting date will be at the call of the chair, likely in January/February.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.


CHAIRMAN / SECRETARY