



Council Member Motion
For the Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 2, 2018

Date: July 26, 2018

From: Councillor Ben Isitt

Subject: Renewing Opportunities for Citizen Involvement in Emergency Preparedness

Background:

The City of Victoria has engaged residents as volunteers in emergency preparedness efforts for more than a decade, under the operational responsibility of professional first responders in the Victoria Fire Department. Volunteers have been engaged in functions from the provision of emergency social services to communications to search and rescue.

In order to ensure the sustainability of this program and expand opportunities for residents to contribute toward emergency preparedness in the community, it is recommended that Council provide direction to staff to engage professional first responders, volunteers and Provincial government partners and report back with recommendations on renewal of this program.

Recommendation:

That Council:

1. Requests that staff engage Emergency Management BC, WorkSafeBC, Victoria Firefighters Local 730, and Victoria Emergency Program volunteers and report back to Council in the Quarterly Update in December 2018 with recommendations to renew opportunities for citizen involvement in emergency preparedness, giving consideration to issues including:
 - effective coordination of volunteers with command structures and responsibilities of professional first responders in the Victoria Fire Department and other municipal, provincial and federal agencies;
 - insurance coverage for volunteers providing assistance during emergencies;
 - opportunities for training and skills development for volunteers; and
 - public education opportunities to broaden citizen engagement in emergency preparedness and response efforts.
2. Requests that the Mayor, on behalf of Council, write to the BC Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure, requesting that the Province of British Columbia and its agencies Emergency Management BC and WorkSafeBC work with the City of Victoria to renew opportunities for citizen involvement in emergency preparedness, including Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer certification of urban search and rescue volunteers to ensure eligibility for insurance coverage.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ben Isitt'.

Councillor Isitt