

# Report

Date December 15, 2022  
Subject Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Grant Application

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File:

## PURPOSE

To request approval to submit an application to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) grant program under the Volunteer & Composite Fire Department Training & Equipment funding stream for marina firefighting training.

## BACKGROUND

The CEPF is a group of funding programs intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by Union of BC Municipalities.

The Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training funding stream can contribute a maximum of 100% of the cost of eligible activities to a maximum of \$30,000.

This funding stream intends to build the resiliency of volunteer Paid on Call and composite fire departments in preparing for and responding to emergencies through purchasing new or replacement equipment and facilitating training delivery. Ongoing operational costs and the purchase of major fire apparatus are not eligible.

## DISCUSSION

The protection of the marinas within North Cowichan and a subsequent policy with regards to how incidents are handled was identified in the 2018 Fire Services Review, with recommendation number 5 being:

"Consult with the Canadian Coast Guard to establish a waterfront fire protection policy that outlines fire protection services to be provided and the services that are not provided. Develop a specification for apparatus and equipment to achieve the stated level of waterfront fire protection service, which may include a small boat with water pumping capabilities to provide water supply to areas with water-only access points (primarily for the purpose of defensive fire control to protect exposures during structure fires in water access only areas (not for interior firefighting) and to protect exposure boat fires, and access docks that are long distance during fires at marinas."

North Cowichan follows WorkSafeBC regulations and standards by ensuring firefighters receive response-specific training when dealing with specific hazards. A search of training records indicates that there is currently a gap in marina firefighting training to serve the Municipality's four marinas, including Maple Bay, Chemainus, Crofton, and Genoa Bay.

To address this gap, the Fire Department contracted an instructor from the Justice Institute of BC to provide the initial specialized training “Marina Firefighting for Land Based Firefighters” under the existing training budget. The initial training is now complete for only the Fire Officers (15 members) from three of the four halls. These officers have been identified as requiring the first round of training as they are the ones who initially make decisions in the event of an incident. The grant money is to secure funding for training the rest of the members in all four halls to ensure that the Municipality has a full complement of staff to respond to marine emergencies.

There are also ongoing training costs due to the number and size of the marinas in North Cowichan and the higher standards coming through Transport Canada with regard to the future of marine firefighting response in Canada. In anticipation of this ongoing need, the Fire Department has also trained a member with all the certifications and instructor status through the Justice Institute so that some of the training can be delivered in-house.

## **OPTIONS**

1. **(Recommended Option)** THAT Council authorize an application for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund’s Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training funding stream for marina firefighting training and associated costs for the North Cowichan Fire Department.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

Employers are required under WorkSafeBC to provide adequate training for all aspects of the work they ask employees to undertake. The Fire Department, to date, does not have any recorded training specific to marinas, and because of the unique nature of the processes, the training is mandatory. As the grant could fund the total cost of the training, no additional contribution from North Cowichan would be required.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

THAT Council authorize an application for a grant in the amount of \$30,000 under the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund’s Volunteer and Composite Fire Departments Equipment and Training funding stream for marina firefighting training and associated costs for the North Cowichan Fire Department.

Report prepared by:

*Martin Drakeley*

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Martin Drakeley  
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**Approved to be forwarded to Council:**



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Ted Swabey  
Chief Administrative Officer