

Community Emergency Plan

Black Tusk Village & Pine Crest Estate



Garibaldi Fire Hall



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Key definitions

Emergency	A present or imminent event that requires prompt coordination of Actions concerning persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of people, or to limit damage to property or the environment.
Hazard	A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.
Resilience	Resilience is the capacity of a system, community or society exposed to hazards to adapt to the disturbances resulting from hazards by persevering, recuperating or changing to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning. Resilient capacity is built through a process of empowering organizations, communities, systems and society to share the responsibility to keep hazards from becoming disasters.
Risk	The combination of the likelihood and the consequence of a specified hazard being realized; refers to the vulnerability, proximity or exposure to hazards, which affects the likelihood of adverse impact.
Vulnerability	The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards. It is a measure of how well prepared and equipped a community is to minimize the impact of or cope with hazards.

Community Emergency Plan

Black Tusk Village and Pine Crest Estates area

2017

Introduction

The SLRD Emergency Management Program provides emergency management services to the ~5,000 SLRD residents in the four Electoral Areas and partners closely with member municipalities. In addition to the Emergency Management Program, the SLRD funds and/or operates select Emergency Services in the region including:

- 9-1-1 Services
- Diking and drainage in Electoral Area D
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Wildfire Fuel Management Program.

Major emergencies and disasters are on the increase in Canada and worldwide. Disaster effects may be direct (e.g. damage to house, loss of income) or indirect (e.g. increased insurance premiums, reduced air quality due to smoke from wildfires elsewhere).

A number of communities in the SLRD are geographically isolated from traditional first responder organizations such as fire, police and emergency medical services. Communications and other infrastructure may be limited or prone to outages. The effect of this geographical separation is that communities will likely lead their own response, making community knowledge, preparation and skill building a vital aspect of emergency preparedness and increasing the resilience of these communities to adverse events.

The purpose of a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) is to guide practical steps in preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation that reduce both the likelihood of emergencies and the consequences when disaster cannot be avoided. Risk information also informs community residents, business owners, and institution managers of the hazards to expect and how best to prepare for them. Further, A CRA provides a platform from which to process community-level emergency management and evacuation policy and planning.

A Community Action Plan (CAP) provides a blueprint for communities to increase their resilience through increasing skills, knowledge and connectedness – benefiting the community before a major emergency, during response and through the recovery process.

Community Overview

Black Tusk Village (BT) and Pinecrest Estates (PE) are adjacent strata communities in Electoral Area D, located between Squamish and Whistler and comprising 163 residences and ~700 residents. BT is a bare land strata made up of 95 lots, Pinecrest Estates is a 75 lot strata. The Communities are situated in a forested area between Highway 99 and the CN Rail Corridor.

The communities are most obviously exposed to interface fire risk due to the surrounding forest, and the proximity of both a main highway and rail corridor increases the potential for a hazardous material incident or an interface fire starting from a derailment or vehicle accident. Severe storms may result in extended utility outages. The community also has the potential to become isolated due to the effects of all three hazards. Earthquake is a further hazard, not specifically treated here, but emergency preparedness measures for the other three hazards are consistent with those required for earthquake.

Demographics

A mix of full time and seasonal residents.

Land Use

Single family homes and some common land areas.

Critical infrastructure

Drinking Water	Retta Lake (PE), Brew Creek drainage system (BT)
Sanitary/Waste Water Treatment	BT has an independent WWT facility and PE WWT facility is owned and serviced by the SLRD
Electrical Power Systems	BC Hydro supply available to all residences
Gas Heating Systems	Propane tanks on property for some residences
Communications	Landline, internet access and cellphone reception

Response Capabilities

Structural fire	Trained Volunteer fire department with three vehicles. Mutual aid agreement with Whistler Fire Service
Wildland interface fire	Crews dispatched from Pemberton. Opportunity for more local training
Medical	7 Fire Department members are trained as First Responders. Plans (2020) to have all members trained to this level are ongoing. Nearest BCAS base is in Whistler.
Police	Nearest RCMP detachment in Whistler
Evacuation	GVFD members trained in community evacuation process. Community evacuation kit at the Fire Hall.
Communication	GVFD members trained in radio communications. Landline, cellphone, internet access available, subject to any infrastructure impacts.

Hazard, Risk and Evacuation

HAZARD					
Flood	Debris Flow/ Landslide	Interface Fire	Severe Storm/ Utility failure	Earthquake	Hazardous Material
High Risk	High Risk	High Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk	Medium Risk

KEY:*

HIGH RISK
Moderate Risk
Low Risk
Unlikely

*Note that risk does not equal impact. A low risk event may still occur with high impact.

The risk assessment of the following three hazards examines the two communities together. Hazard exposure may vary between Strata due to variables such as geographical differences and additional mitigation actions taken by one of the communities.

Evacuation route will be north or south along Highway 99 at the direction of First Responders, and the recommended evacuation route will also be printed on the official evacuation notice delivered by First Responders and/or published on the SLRD website.

Community Muster Point, if required, will be the parking lot of the Garibaldi Fire Hall. The Muster Point will be used if evacuation by bus or RCMP escort due to road conditions, or to receive additional information or supplies (e.g. bottled water) before evacuating.

Evacuation Routes

North or south on Highway 99, is dependent on impacts and location of threat. There are no obvious vehicular alternatives. There is the potential for evacuation on foot via trails down to Highway 99 area but this would be problematic for any evacuee with mobility issues.

Types of Evacuation

Evacuation

Alert

This is the time to get ready to leave, putting together 'grab and go' bags with essential supplies, papers and prescriptions, and making any other arrangements to leave the property with all household members and pets. Residents may self-evacuate (voluntary) during this time, particularly if they have mobility issues or health conditions that may make it difficult to evacuate quickly. This is also the time to move livestock to safer areas.

Evacuation

Order

Mandatory evacuation occurs when a population is ordered to leave a defined area according to a formal written document that outlines the impact area and why an evacuation is necessary.

Shelter-in-Place

Essentially, an instruction to the public to stay inside for safety reasons. It may also mean "seal the room", i.e. take steps to stop outside smoke or other contaminants from entering the room.

Evacuation

Rescind

Formal notification that it is safe to return to the evacuated area. The affected area may still be under an Evacuation Alert under further notice, if the hazard still presents a threat.

Interface Fire

BTV and PE are located in a wildfire environment. Wildfires will happen – exclusion is not a choice. The variables in a wildfire scenario are:

- when the fire occurs, and
- where the fire occurs.

During the summer of 2015, a wildfire of note burned in the vicinity of Black Tusk Village. The Elaho Fire extended over 12,000 hectares and burned for almost two months before being assessed as 100% contained.

Potential ignition of an interface fire includes a lightning or human caused forest fire, a structural fire in the community that spreads to the wildland area, ignition relating to a train accident or sparking, and a vehicle collision related fire on highway 99 that spreads.

The consequences of an Interface Fire event have the potential to be severe/catastrophic for the BTV and PE communities.

Evacuation Protocol:

At the **Evacuation Alert** stage:

- Residents with mobility or chronic health issues may choose to voluntarily evacuate to ensure their safety and continuity of care. If they choose to stay at this time, they should contact the SLRD Emergency Program staff to discuss their situation and/or make arrangements with a neighbor if they do not have a vehicle, and their primary healthcare provider if evacuation is medically complicated (e.g. dialysis, oxygen tanks).
- All other residents should make preparations to leave, ensuring that they have a plan for the safe evacuation of all people and pets, gather essential documents, medicines and necessities of food, clothing and other items.

At the **Evacuation Order or Tactical Evacuation** stage:

- At the direction of BC Wildfire Service, RCMP or other authorized First Responders, residents will evacuate according to the evacuation route directions given.
- All residents must leave, ensuring that all people and pets in their household safely evacuate, and taking the previously gathered essential documents, medicines, necessities of food, clothing and other items. If these items have **not** been gathered in advance, there may not be time to take anything at the time of evacuation.
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

Hazardous Materials

BTV and PE are located between the main arterial road through the Sea-to-Sky Corridor (Highway 99) and the main rail corridor. A variety of hazardous materials are transported by road and rail, and fuel spills are possible from both of these sources, with the consequential risk of fire.

Depending on the substance released and its location, sheltering in place may be the only viable option.

The consequences of a Hazardous Materials spill are likely to be highly variable, depending on the substance, proximity, volume, time of day and speed of notification to residents.

Evacuation Protocol: At the direction of Vancouver Coastal Health, Ministry of Environment officials or First Responders, residents will Shelter in Place or Evacuate depending on the hazardous substance involved. In the event of evacuation, Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

Severe Storm (All Seasons)

The communities may become temporarily isolated by a severe winter snow storm or summer storm with high winds that down trees and potentially knock out power lines nearby. Winter heating is a concern, especially for vulnerable residents. Extended power outages presents health and safety risks including food spoilage, shortage and inability to store medications requiring refrigeration (e.g. insulin). Blocked roads, including highway access, compromises community access to emergency health services.

Evacuation Protocol: Shelter in place until downed power lines are confirmed by first responders or BC Hydro as no longer hazardous. If emergency assistance is required, call 9-1-1. If a storm related evacuation is required, follow the instructions of first responders and official information from the SLRD. In the event of evacuation, Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

Residents who are vulnerable due to health conditions should discuss a plan in advance with their primary healthcare provider. This may include voluntary self-evacuation when a severe storm event is forecast, access to a back up power supply, and additional supplies of medication or an emergency prescription.

Earthquake

Depending on epicentre, type, and severity, a full range of impacts are possible for BTV and PE. Isolation is a significant possibility if Highway 99 is blocked (likely) even if structural damage is minimal in the community. Depending on time of year, interface fire may result from an earthquake-caused electrical or gas fire, endangering the wider community. Damage to waste water treatment and drinking water systems in conjunction with extended isolation would create public health concerns. Damage to communications infrastructure in the wider area, e.g. cellphone towers, may compromise communication to external response agencies.

Evacuation Protocol: Remain in the 'Stop/Cover/Hold' position until shaking stops. If you are able, shelter in place until downed power lines are confirmed by first responders or BC Hydro as no longer hazardous. If you feel your house is unsafe, including if you smell gas, exit the building immediately. If emergency assistance is required, call 9-1-1. If an earthquake related general evacuation is required, follow the instructions of first responders and official information from the SLRD. Through Rapid Damage Assessment by trained teams, individual residences may be assessed as unsafe, in which case evacuation will be required. Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation, food and clothing if required.

SLRD ALERT.

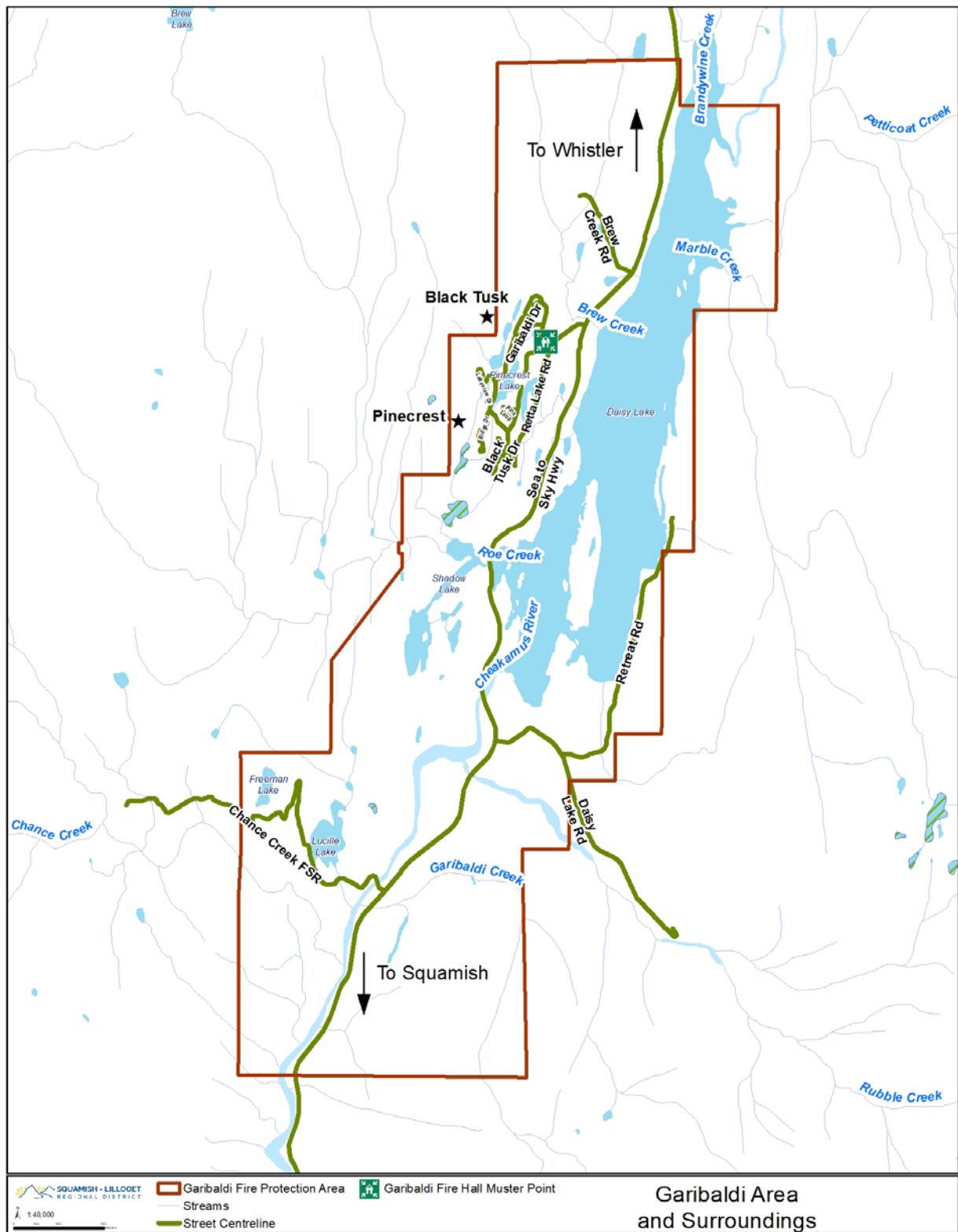
Be in the know, not in the dark.

Free emergency notification service
direct from the SLRD to you.

Text, voice message and email options

Sign up: <http://www.slrdbc.ca/SLRDArt>

Community Map – Garibaldi VFD Fire Protection Area



Community Action Plan

The SLRD will work with community representatives every three (3) years to review, assess and update the Community Action Plan.

Historical Actions

- BTV and PE have a group of trained first responders through the volunteer fire department
- BTV has progressively worked to reduce their interface fire risk by trimming trees and removing woody debris from homes to FireSmart the community. They hold a semi-annual community clean up day to maintain the area in this condition.
- Independent water and waste treatment system may be a protective element in the event of damaged infrastructure in neighbouring communities.
- GVFD Fire Chief is a trained FireSmart community assessor
- BTV is working toward official FireSmart community status

Current and Future Potential Actions by the Community

- Establish a **Neighbourhood Emergency Team (NET)** with members from both Strata, who have completed a criminal record check (free for volunteers and required in order to be placed in many volunteer roles during response). The SLRD can support the NET through training in basic emergency preparedness, evacuation notification, recovery considerations and other relevant topics that facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange of local government emergency processes and community capacity building. The SLRD can also connect communities to funding when it is available (e.g. FireSmart) and may sponsor a training session by an external provider for multiple communities if budget is available and there is sufficient demand. NET team members would be utilised in a disaster response as qualified volunteers under the direction of the relevant agency. The size of the NET, its organization and the level of training is at the discretion of the community and is independent of the SLRD. Firefighters at the Garibaldi Fire Station will fulfill this role.

NET team members may be progressively trained in:

- First Aid and simple triage
- Evacuation Processes
- Radio Communication
- Locating victims and resources
- BC Wildfire S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- PE to progressively work on FireSmart activities to lower their risk in line with BTV.
- Work with the SLRD to develop a basic Disaster Recovery Plan

Implementation of In it Together: Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide, Prepared BC

- Identify vulnerable residents and develop a plan with them for their continued safety in the event of a major emergency (EMBC resources available to assist planning)
- Identify number and type of animals in each home with a BCSPCA sticker at the front door
- Identify and document skilled individuals in the community (e.g. doctors, nurses, electricians, engineers).
- Practice evacuation notification with the delivery of emergency preparedness public information resources to each house (these resources available through the SLRD)
- Campaign to get all residents signed up to the SLRD Alert emergency mass notification system for direct communication by email, text and landline from SLRD to residents and their nominated emergency contacts.

**Looking for more information to make your community
Disaster Resilient?**

SLRD www.slrdbc.ca/services/emergency-management

GENERAL <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>

ANIMALS <http://www.cdart.org/beprepared.htm>

FIRE SMART www.firesmartcanada.ca