



TOWN OF SIDNEY

2440 Sidney Avenue, Sidney, British Columbia V8L 1Y7
EOC Information Phone: 250-655-6900
EOC Email: information@sidney.ca Website: www.sidney.ca



Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Update to Council - March 23, 2020

(RANDY HUMBLE, Emergency Operations Centre Director)

- Good evening to Mayor and Council and those members of the public that are viewing the live webcast
- This evening, Deputy EOC Director Brett Mikkelsen and I will provide a status update regarding COVID-19, in particular as it relates to the Town of Sidney
- As of March 17, the Town of Sidney EOC is operating at a Level 2. Upgrading to a level 2 has allowed for additional advance planning and gives us a greater capacity for our response and communication efforts
- Key section areas of the EOC include:
 - The EOC Director & Deputy Director
 - Liaison
 - Risk Management
 - Information
 - Operations
 - Planning (includes Business Continuity Planning and a Recovery Planning Chief)
 - Logistics
 - Finance
- The EOC is staffed by Town employees from all departments, and also includes liaisons from the Sidney Business Improvement Area (SBIA) & the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce (the Chamber). Our business liaisons help facilitate business communication and recovery planning.
- Because of the dedication and foresight of our Fire Department, all Town staff have been regularly participating in emergency planning exercises to prepare us to respond to different types of emergencies
- However, no matter how much emergency planning and preparation we may have done in the past, actually having to deal with a situation like the current one means that everyone is called upon to do the best they can, under difficult, high-pressure conditions.
- I must commend Town Staff, both inside and outside employees, the Fire Department, and Council members for the exemplary work they have been doing these past weeks. You have all stepped up to the plate to ensure our community is informed, supported, protected and safe. We must, however, remain diligent in our efforts to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. We must remain calm; focus on channeling our inner Dr. Bonnie Henry while we address this health crisis – the impacts on all of our lives are considerable – we are all facing the unknown and that can be scary and anxiety inducing. We are in this together and we must support the local health authorities in modeling what calm looks like and what social distancing looks like. As a local government, our role, more than ever is to educate, communicate and share ideas on how to help flatten the COVID-19 curve.
- I am now going to turn it over to Fire Chief Mikkelsen to provide more detail on the operational side of the Town's EOC

(BRETT MIKKELSEN, Emergency Operations Centre Deputy Director)

- Key focus areas of the Emergency Operations Centre are as follows:
 - Updating response plans as the situation evolves
 - Recovery Planning: the SBIA and Chamber are working as a part of the EOC to actively participate in the business recovery process. They are assisting with messaging to the business community and ensuring the business community is aware of provincial and federal programs available to them and their staff to get them through this difficult time. Both the Chamber and SBIA have been providing regular updates to their members via newsletters and on their websites. The SBIA has included a webpage that provides details changes to services, hours of operation, and so forth for local businesses.
 - Business Continuity Planning is another key focus. We are working with the SBIA and Chamber to support their members with developing a business continuity plan, and the Town has developed its own to ensure essential services are provided to residents and to ensure the health and safety of our staff and the public. For the Town, this includes a New Policy with work from home options and direction regarding the maintenance of non-essential and essential services.
 - The EOC is in daily communication with our Senior Care Homes to share information and provide support and business continuity assistance
 - The EOC continues to monitor daily updates from senior levels of government and public health agencies.
 - We are communicating with residents through a variety of methods, including our website and social media pages. Our daily website updates focus on the most current information relative to Sidney and its residents, along with general information to keep residents informed of the situation from a federal and global level. We are working on expanding our communication methods – today we posted physical posters on multi-residential stratas and distributed posters to several local businesses. We are also working with Radio Sidney to provide regular audio updates that they will broadcast.
- Our Public Health agencies are calling upon us all to practice social distancing. We all need to stay home as much as possible. When we are out in public, we need to stay 2 metres apart from others. The Town has closed municipal playgrounds, sport courts, and the skate park – we are calling on all residents to respect these closures.

(RANDY HUMBLE, Emergency Operations Centre Director)

- I would like to assure Council and the public that the Town of Sidney and its EOC is committed to maintaining essential services to the community and is working hard to ensure the health and safety of its residents, in particular our more vulnerable residents.
- I would also like to thank and acknowledge our community; this includes residents, businesses, and community organizations who are all pulling together during these unprecedented times. In particular, to our business community, you truly deserve special acknowledgement. With the rapidly shifting landscape, I know how overwhelming and incredibly difficult this must all be, but please know that the SBIA and the Chamber are working hard to help Sidney’s entrepreneurs navigate this challenging time. Both organizations are working out of the EOC with a focus on information sharing and Business Recovery Planning
- We are all in this together, and now, more than ever, we need to look out for each other, that includes– our family, friends, neighbours, local businesses and those within the community that are more vulnerable to this virus. If we all continue to follow the advice and orders of our health care professionals, I am confident Sidney will see this through and certainly we will be well prepared when we come out on the other side of this.