

Staff Report to Council

Fire & Rescue Services

FILE: 14-7130-02/25

REPORT DATE: May 28, 2025 **MEETING DATE:** June 03, 2025
TO: Mayor and Council
FROM: Stephan Drolet, Fire Chief
SUBJECT: 2025 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment [HRVA]

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW/APPROVAL:



RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Council:

- A. Receive for information the 'Pitt Meadows 2025 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment' as presented by Ernie Polsom, CEO, FireWise Consulting Ltd., at the June 3, 2025 Council Meeting; OR
- B. Other.

PURPOSE

To present Council with the recently completed Community Risk Assessment report, officially titled the "Pitt Meadows 2025 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment".

☒ Information Report ☐ Decision Report ☐ Direction Report

DISCUSSION

Background:

Pitt Meadows has experienced significant growth in recent years, and as a result, our community's risk profile has evolved. In addition to this growth, numerous projects currently underway and/or contemplated could further impact our risk landscape moving forward. Coupled with the ongoing effects of climate change, these factors have created a clear need for a thorough and updated Community Risk Assessment.

A Community Risk Assessment, technically referred to as a Hazard, Risk & Vulnerability Assessment (“HRVA”), is a comprehensive evaluation that identifies, prioritizes, and defines the risks facing our community. The purpose of this assessment is to better understand the risks we face and evaluate how effectively the City and the Pitt Meadows Fire & Rescue Service is positioned to respond to those risks and vulnerabilities. Developing strategies to mitigate vulnerabilities are an important outcome of the HRVA. Key vulnerabilities (see page 15 of HRVA for definitions) that were identified are:

1. Flooding
2. Extreme Weather Events
3. Critical Infrastructure
4. Social Vulnerabilities
5. Economic Vulnerabilities

As part of the 2024 Business Plan process, the Fire Department and Emergency Management program submitted a request for funding to conduct a comprehensive and updated HRVA. Council approved this request and, in 2024, Mr. Ernie Polsom, CEO of FireWise Consulting, was engaged to lead the assessment.

To develop the updated HRVA, Mr. Polsom conducted extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders—both internal and external. These discussions provided him with a deep understanding of our City and the current and emerging risks we face.

Staff are pleased to now present the HRVA (Attachment A) for Council’s review.

Next Steps:

1. Risks Prioritization: Identifying and address the highest-priority risks within departmental areas of responsibility based on the Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA), while considering inherent constraints.
2. Mitigation Strategy Framework: Standardize approach to reduce or eliminate risks and vulnerabilities across departments and community functions. Determine responsible government (i.e: local, provincial or federal), agencies or private entities to manage and support mitigation strategies.
3. Gap Analysis: Identify departmental shortcomings between existing capabilities and the ideal state based on community risk and expected service levels.
4. Strategic Plans: Where needed, develop long-term plans (ex: Fire Services) for City services to ensure effective, efficient, and equitable protection for Pitt Meadows residents and infrastructure. It is a critical part of ensuring public safety, minimizing risk, and aligning City services with current and future needs.

Relevant Policy, Bylaw or Legislation:

Emergency and Disaster Management Act [SBC 2023]

COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT

- ☐ Principled Governance ☐ Balanced Economic Prosperity ☐ Infrastructure
☐ Community Spirit & Wellbeing ☐ Corporate Pride ☒ Public Safety
-

WORKPLAN IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ Already accounted for in department workplan / no adjustments required
☐ Emergent issue / will require deferral of other priority(ies)
☐ Other
-

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- ☒ None ☐ Budget Previously Approved ☐ Referral to Business Planning
☒ Other

In itself, the HRVA does not have financial implications however, implementation of recommendations may have associated costs depending on the prioritization process and financial constraints.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- ☒ Inform ☐ Consult ☐ Involve ☐ Collaborate ☐ Empower
-

KATZIE FIRST NATION CONSIDERATIONS

Referral ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Other

SIGN-OFFS

Written by:

Stephan Drolet,
Fire Chief

Reviewed by:

Mark Roberts,
Chief Administrative Officer

ATTACHMENT(S):

- A. Pitt Meadows 2025 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment