



Serving Our Community

March 27, 2020

Emergency Management Update

Current Situation

The Town of Black Diamond declared a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) on March 26, 2020, to continue to support provincial efforts to curb the COVID 19 pandemic. Residents should see very little change unless the province announces further restrictions to encourage social distancing. The Emergency Coordination Centre is beginning to secure resources and coordinate with the province should the number of confirmed cases continue to grow. As of today's Provincial update, there were 542 confirmed cases of COVID- 19 within the province since this all began to arrive in Alberta just 20 days ago. 33 recoveries have also been reported.

You can all do your part by remaining vigilant; isolating if you are ill, washing your hands often, not touching your face and maintaining that 2 meters of separation if you must leave your home. This pandemic is not like our usual emergency management events, as there is no water flowing through the town and no fire coming at us. This is an unseen virus that will only be curbed by our willingness to socially become "hermits" for the next few months. Our goal in Black Diamond is to have no confirmed cases and that will require significant effort on everyone's part. The Town of Black Diamond's [COVID-19 information](#) webpages are full of links to the daily-changing government assistance programs, restrictions and general information as we all navigate life with COVID-19. Please visit it regularly to stay well informed before you make decisions that affect your family and your community.

Local Resources

As mentioned on the Town's website and social media, many of our local businesses are prepared to assist if you are self-isolating or uncomfortable venturing out. They will deliver food and medicine for your family, including your pets. Restaurants are now prohibited from offering eat-in dining but take out or delivery is available from many of our local vendors.

Emergency Services

First Responders are not immune to the impact of a pandemic, especially if they are not able to isolate or socially distance themselves. All agencies have robust plans in place to provide the care and response as

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required. Additionally, the province has implemented penalties for those who fail to adhere to their recommendations. Community Peace Officers' authorities have been expanded during the public health emergency to assist in flattening the curve. Among other things, CPOs can prohibit mass gatherings (now maxed at 15), attendance at recreational facilities, ensure closure of bars/nightclubs, ensure that newly returned travellers, those who are confirmed to be infected with COVID-19 and those who are exhibiting symptoms are isolating as required.

Administration

Currently, the Town office continues to offer most of its usual services, however, that could change if the provincial Medical Officer of Health deems that further restrictive measures need to be employed to combat the COVID-19 virus.

Information on Utility bill options, including payment deferral, is available on the Town website. If you require assistance please contact the office, preferably by phone or email.

Public Works

The Public Works department is functioning as normal, with no expected changes to the provision of those services.

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