

2017 Wildfire Functional Exercise



Review

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Design and Planning

- Purpose:
 - to perform & evaluate operational guidelines
- Over six months collaboration of several key agencies

BC Wildfire Service

Oyster River Fire Rescue

BC Ambulance Service

CV Ground Search & Rescue

RCMP

Emergency Radio Communications

Salvation Army

Emergency Support Services

SRD

CVRD/CVEP

and many Exercise Evaluators

Objectives Achieved



- Forestry & fire departments setup sprinklers and shuttled water
- CV GRSAR & RCMP dealt with the evacuations
- BC Ambulance Service setup up a triage centre

Objectives Achieved



- ESS setup a reception centre
- Salvation Army feed responders through Community Response Unit
- CVRD EOC Level 1 activated to test & handle HAM Radio delivered resources requests
- Fire ended jumping the river so SRD opened up an EOC

Challenges in Doing a Functional Exercise



Key Findings

Communications

- cellular and radio transmission had gaps in coverage
- PEPCOORD radio frequency had technical problems
- Radio equipment compatibility, not all agencies could connect to antenna system in Incident Command Post (ICP)

Command & Control

- ICS was established & agencies worked to develop 'Unified Command' for multi-agency response

Evacuation

- Area of coverage was large & time consuming
- SAR utilized ATVs to deploy teams quicker

After Action Report

- Oyster River Evacuation plans: schedule updating and adding 'Zones' mapping
- EM/EOC training to radio operators: acronyms use heavily in messaging, provide document with definitions
- ERCT & SAR will work on compatibility for radio used in ICP
- Drills for EOC staff: to allow discussion and to walk through performing declaration of local state of emergency and evacuation processes (CVEP)
- Determine need for site 'communication unit' to handle volume of radio traffic
- ESS plan: develop and document ESS 'mutual assistance' procedures (CVEP)

Thank You to All

