

Edgerton Emergency Services Department

Village of Edgerton
P.O. Box 57, Edgerton
Alberta T0B 1K0

May 22, 2018

From the Office of the Fire Chief

RE: Edgerton and Area Wildfires

To those whom we serve:

As everyone is aware, our village and surrounding area is currently enduring one of the worst wildland fire seasons in recent memory. Warm, dry weather combined with a lack of rain have made conditions optimal for wildfire. This, combined with one factor or another, have led to multiple emergency responses from the Edgerton Emergency Services Department, as well as our fire department colleagues in other regions.

One such wildfire, which occurred on April 27, 2018, required the issuing of an Alberta Emergency Alert to notify the public of information pertinent to public safety and well-being. This alert was to keep the public informed and aware of the current situation, to advise the public to take necessary precautions and to maintain vigilance should more official information be released. Such information would be released in official Village of Edgerton social media via the Alberta Emergency Alert System; which can be accessed directly as well. We as emergency service personnel understand that such an alert is uncommon for our area, and therefore may cause uncertainty and stress on those in close proximity to where the fire was happening. Compounding this uncertainty, conjecture and misinformation spread through word-of-mouth and social media, added additional uncertainty and stress to the situation. While done with the best of intentions, calling fire department members or the Village of Edgerton directly rather than calling 911 with a correct address and accurate information to have our department dispatched, unfortunately delays a timely response. To clear any and all misunderstanding: the Emergency Alert which was issued is not to be confused with "A State of Emergency," nor was it a call for an evacuation of the Village of Edgerton. The combined efforts of Edgerton, Chauvin, and Wainwright Fire services along with M.D. of Wainwright assets, held this wildfire in check; all the while maintaining public safety. To which, all those involved are to be commended.

This past week, on May 14, 2018, Edgerton Emergency Services were part of operations in seven (7) separate fire incidents which involved six (6) fire Departments. Instances such as these are far from the norm. We deeply thank our mutual aid partners for

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maintaining fire protection for the Edgerton Fire Region during our assistance to our mutual aid partners, as well as for their assistance during our own responses later that day.

On behalf of the Edgerton Emergency Services Department we would like to thank our colleagues in Chauvin Fire Rescue, Wainwright Fire Rescue, Paradise Valley Fire Department, Provost Fire Department, and the National Defence Fire Service. We would also like to thank the M.D. of Wainwright, Village of Edgerton, Carillion, and the Edgerton Emergency Services Advisory Board for their work behind the scenes which were crucial in supporting our fire ground operations. Additionally, to the individuals and organizations who helped directly, indirectly, or offered their help in our efforts, our deepest thanks go to you as well.

On a personal note, I wish to commend the diligence, professionalism, and tireless efforts of each and every member of the Edgerton Emergency Services Department, as well as their families who must do without us while we are away. The safe and successful outcomes to the emergencies we responded to are the direct result of your dedication to operational readiness, diligence in your training and overall discipline and professionalism as a fire department - all of which we could not do without the support of those at home. Well done, everyone.

In closing, to those we serve; we humbly thank you for your support, not only to us, but to each other. The outpouring of support we received has been overwhelming. The support you have given each other; inspiring. On behalf of the entire Edgerton Emergency Services Department, we thank you.

It is our privilege to serve Edgerton.

Yours in Service,

Jon Koroluk
Fire Chief / Emergency Services Manager
Edgerton Emergency Services Department

c.c. Kaylan White
Chairman
Edgerton Emergency Services Advisory Board
