

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOPS

AN AgSAFE PERSPECTIVE

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There has been a great response to the Emergency Preparedness workshops that AgSafe has been privileged to provide in concert with BCCA through the earlier part of the year.

The responses have been very positive and there is follow up work being done as a result of the direction and specific challenges offered through the presentation. At the time of writing this, there are six sessions remaining focused on locations through out the southern interior and the Island and I am really looking forward to those.

The presentation emphasizes the need to recognize that mitigation and preparation, two of the four spokes of an Emergency Management Wheel, are key when seeking to reduce impact and preserve life and minimize loss. The other two spokes of that four spoke wheel are response and recovery. These two are the costliest and occur after damage has been incurred. Preparation involves such things as planning ahead, knowing what resources are available to you, what skills and equipment can be utilized, why and how to establish a community network that can respond and assist in a variety of ways to a variety of issues.

The series is not a fire fighting session. It is not a gripe session about what went wrong or could have been done better. It is a proactive and progressive invitation to look at your property, resources and your skill sets. It is an opportunity to gain a basic understanding of risk and hazard and understanding those realities when facing any emergency. It is a chance to hear about and review some very viable solutions that were in place in the hard-hit Cariboo Regional District. Solutions

that may be an option for your region or of value to you in your district. Solutions worth talking about for sure, worth reviewing and improving on, you bet. This is also a time to discuss and to filter the main things that livestock producers and other attendees would like to see different in the future. Being an agent of change is never easy, but having a consistent, well articulated and carefully considered and common direction is more effective in seeking progressive changes and outcomes. We have learned a lot in a literal trial by fire. Participation in these events is a great opportunity to gain understanding of what was and to be a part of what can be when we deal with the varied scope of emergencies that can beset rural B.C.

AgSafe is committed to following up on these meetings and taking the information you have gained and helping with your emergency preparedness throughout the province. If you missed out on the sessions and would like a scaled down version, a presentation can be offered to your association or community group. Contact your regional consultant or the AgSafe office to initiate and arrange this training.

