

# Memo

**Date:** January 4, 2011  
**File:** 1920-44  
**To:** City Manager  
**From:** Acting Fire Chief  
**Subject:** Stewart Centre Fire Response



---

**Recommendation:**

THAT Council receives, for information, the Report from the Acting Fire Chief dated January 4, 2011 with respect to the Stewart Centre Fire Response.

**Purpose:**

This report is in response to the following Council resolution dated November 1, 2010 "THAT Council receives, for information, the Report from the General Manager, Community Services dated October 26, 2010 regarding the City's Historic Storm Water Management and Current Practices; AND THAT Council directs the Fire Department to report back to council with respect to identifying any other measures that may be implemented."

**Background:**

The Kelowna Fire Department follows a pre-established set of emergency management principles, known as BCERMS (BC Emergency Response Management System) when dealing with all types of emergencies. This set of response goals was designed to help emergency responders make good decisions during bad times and is followed around the province by emergency responders when faced with any type of emergency. The goals help prioritize actions and tactics and guide the incident commander in mitigating the incident.

The response goals are as follows:

- Provide for the safety and health of all responders
- Save lives
- Reduce suffering
- Protect public health
- Protect government infrastructure
- Protect property
- Protect the environment
- Reduce economic and social losses

During the Stewart Centre incident, we strived to maintain responder and public safety while protecting property (exposures), while at the same time limiting environmental impact that we were creating. Sometimes there is no course of action that results in all goals being met and tough decisions must be made. In regards to the Stewart Centre fire, tactical decisions were made early in the event to use our water streams to protect the adjacent exposures which were the main Stewart Centre building and the Interior Health building.

In reviewing what has been learned from the incident and could be used in establishing a best practice for future incidents, the following items have been identified:

1. Preplanning is an area in need of constant improvement and revision - the preplan for the building had not been revised for some time and the format for the new preplans is much more readable and provides more information for the Incident Commander. Fire Department preplanning needs to be updated and expanded as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located in the bottom right corner of the page.

# Memo



Preplanning has been identified in the Fire Department Strategic Plan and is addressed in the 2011 budget supplemental.

2. Ensure that we always have the most up to date emergency contact information for all facilities within the City of Kelowna. An interface with the City data system and FDM would ensure a much more reliable source of up to date information. We need to focus on getting all available information into the hands of the Incident Commander. Our proposal for electronic mapping and preplans with computers in the trucks helps to accomplish this. Eventually all data we have at the fire department and within the City should be available electronically via computer at the command post and on trucks on their way to the scene. The Kelowna Fire Department Records Management System (RMS) and the Computer Aided Dispatching (CAD) system should be upgraded to accomplish this. The Fire Department is working closely with Information Services to make these systems more effective. These upgrades have been identified in the Kelowna Fire Department Strategic Plan and are addressed in the 2011 budget supplemental.
3. Kelowna Fire Department will continue to work closely with other departments in planning and during responses. As soon as the Incident Commander is aware that infrastructure may be compromised or impacted by a major incident the appropriate department will be notified. Infrastructures that may be affected could include water delivery systems, parks, storm water drainage systems and/or roadways.
4. The Fire Department will make available Incident Command training to all City departments who would like it to. ICS100 & ICS200 would enhance an effective working relationship.
5. Enhancement to the Hazmat Program for chemical detection and particularly decontamination capabilities. We have applied for a Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (J.E.P.P.) grant for a high tech chemical detector and a hazardous materials decontamination tent through our regional hazmat program.

**Internal Circulation:** Utility Services Manager, Utilities Network Supervisor, Drainage Network Technician, Communications Director, Risk Manager, Community Services Manager

**Considerations not applicable to this report:**

**Legal/Statutory Authority:**

**Legal/Statutory Procedural Requirements:**

**Existing Policy:**

**Financial/Budgetary Considerations:**

**Personnel Implications:**

**External Agency/Public Comments:**

**Community & Media Relations Comments:**

**Alternate Recommendation:**

Submitted by: Chief Steve Kinsey

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "SK", written over a faint circular stamp.

Approved for inclusion:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "PM", enclosed in a square box.

Paul Macklem

