



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako HRVA Electoral Area 'C' Committee

Summary - Understanding Community Resiliency Workshop

Date: February 15th, 2022

Time: 9 am – 12 noon

Format: Zoom

Overview

On Tuesday, February 15th, 2022, participants from the HRVA Committee for Electoral Area 'C' came together on Zoom to review and discuss community vulnerabilities. This document provides a summary of what was discussed throughout the session. Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their work week to contribute to this session.

The Understanding Community Resiliency workshop objectives were as follows:

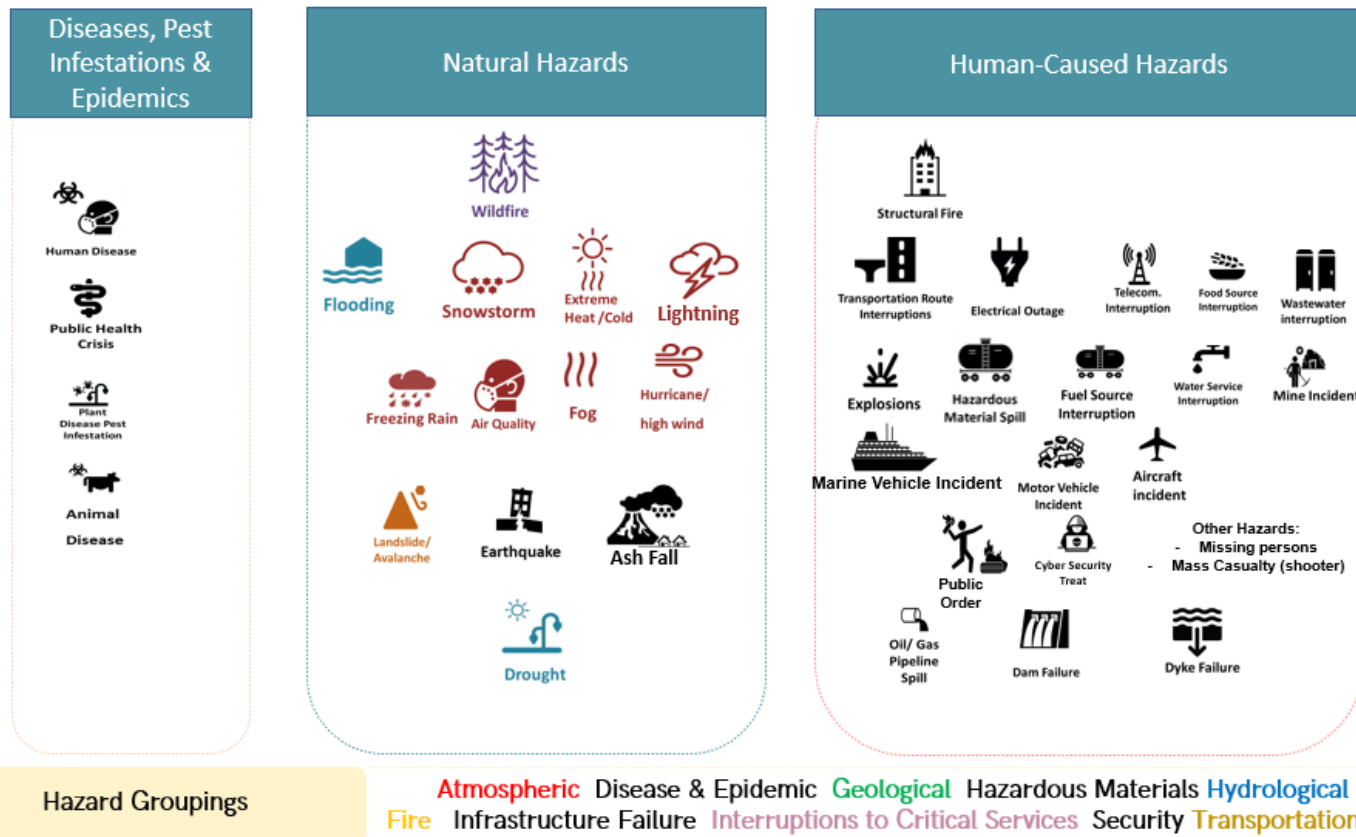
- Review list of 39 selected hazards;
- Review and identify additional vulnerabilities in Area 'C': Social, Economic, Environmental, Physical, and underlying risk drivers;
- Review and discuss hazard scenarios to better understand vulnerabilities.
- Discuss the need for additional information before embarking on likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards.

Participants

Organization	Name
Area C Director	Tom Greenaway
District of Fort St. James Fire Chief	Ryan D. McVey, Fire Chief
Resident	Cam McCormick
District of Fort St. James	Nancy Schlamp
RDBN	Deborah Jones-Middleton
RDBN	Christopher Walker
RDBN	Liliana Dragowska

Welcome and Review of Selected Hazards

The session began with a round table of introductions. This was followed by a short presentation from Liliana reviewing the objectives of the meetings, overview of the HRVA committee process, and reviewed the 39-hazard selected at the December 1st, 2021 HRVA Hazard Identification workshop.



Discussion on Vulnerabilities in Area 'C'

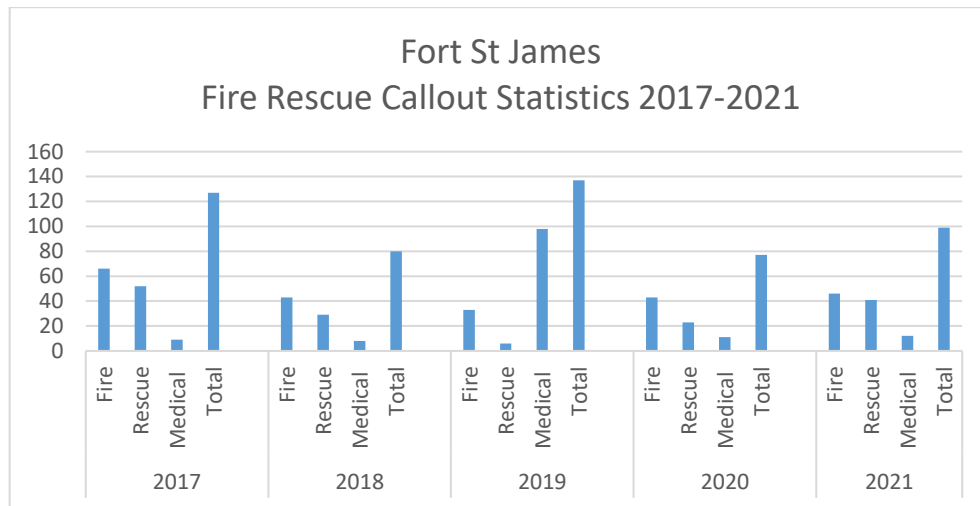
In this section Liliana presented the key findings from the Area C Understanding Community Vulnerabilities backgrounder paper and began to explore with participants four grouping of vulnerabilities that may be considered in this project. The information presented and discussed is a starting point in the collection of known vulnerabilities within the region. The intention is that the HRVA process will help to strengthen our collective community knowledge of our vulnerabilities to enable future conversations that will focus on resiliency strategies. Both vulnerability and resiliency are important, and closely related, concepts for evaluating a community's ability to cope with the impacts of a hazard event. It is important to differentiate between the two:

- Vulnerability looks at the factors that increase a community's susceptibility to damage from a hazard;
- Resiliency is a measure of a community's ability to resist or recover from damage (SOPAC, 2002).

Participants were asked if there is any missing information or insight members might have on specific factors that they perceive have the potential to contribute to vulnerabilities within Electoral Area 'C'. The notes below summarize the discussion and additions under each topic presented and will ultimately assist HRVA committee members in subjectively scoring the likelihood and consequence of each hazard in our area:

Area 'C' Response Agencies:

- Add ESS trailer for mobilization and a team of 6 volunteers.
- Initial attack crews should be out of Fort St. James. There is discussion of the initial attack team being stations out of the Fort St James forestry office.



Social Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Add definition of housing types into the community backgrounder.
- Nak'azdli has a youth centre operate as a drop-in Centre for all youth located in the Fort St James area.
- Fort St James Meals of Wheels program – currently serve 2 individuals delivering hospital food. Working to secure funding for a full-time program that could serve the broader community. Grant includes a build of a commercial kitchen. Evan Sam Meals on Wheels.
- Alice Adams – Food Bank Fort St James.
- Stuart Lake Seniors Association has lunches 3 days a week.

Economic Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Conifex was renamed to Hampton Mills.
- Bio Energy North plant.

Environmental Factors and Vulnerabilities

- Artic Water – Nation Lakes and rainbow creek flows North. Nation lakes and river is the potential outflow for Mt Milligan. There maybe overlapping jurisdictions with McKenzie and RDFFG when it comes to flooding and people living along McKenzie River.
 - Mount Milligan has annual Dam Safety Inspection reports available: <https://mines.nrs.gov.bc.ca/p/5fa1e41d4635c865df00d117/docs>

Physical Critical infrastructure factors

- How do we alert those residents who live in rural and remote regions of Area 'C'? In past emergencies RCMP and Search and Rescue helped to notify of evacuations.
- [Bulkley-Nechako Emergency and Public Alerts](#) – need to share and advertise this service to residents. The system will provide communication via landline, cell, app, and email; however, individuals need to sign up.
- Communications – Amateur Radio Club out of PG – Chris Elliot maybe a local contact? FSJ belongs to PG club.
- Informal communication channels exist with a large number of people with forestry radios. Many forestry companies have repeaters.

- Private water systems that are unregistered may pose a vulnerability to community members if algae blooms or other water contaminants enter the lakes in the area. Many residents draw water from the lakes – unlicensed.
- District of Fort St James support Seniors Helping Seniors program. They have 3 transportation vehicles that take senior to Vanderhoof and Prince George for medical appointments.
- Fort St James Community Hall has ordered air scrubbers and will be installed in 2022.
- Fort St James sewer system is on an alluvial fan. What is the possibility of the system failing? Are there Safety Plans or operations plans outlining hazard scenarios in both the water and sewer operations plans.
- Water quality advisories:
https://www.healthspace.ca/Clients/NHA/NHA_Website.nsf/Water-List-Boil?OpenView&count=1000

Underlying Risk Drivers

- Unsustainable use of natural resources in the region. Observed 43 leads of logging trucks leave FSJ in one hour- meaning 350-400 loads of logs leaving daily and increasing.
- Deforestation has massive affects on the land. For example, a stand of large fir trees where cut on the Cunningham Road at 11km, that is where the Sowchea run-off happens every year this is a flooding hazard. Now with the trees gone what will flooding be like in 2022 or beyond

Discuss Hazard Scenarios

These scenario worksheets were designed to help guide the committee through an alternative discussion process that would help to highlight and articulate additional vulnerabilities within the Electoral Area. The participants completed three hazard scenarios on wildfire, flooding, and hazardous material spill on the highway.

Hazard Scenarios have been updated and included in the Final version of the Understanding Community Resiliency Backgrounder document available on the RDBN's [HRVA website](#) under Electoral Area 'C' updates.

Wrap Up and Next Steps

To wrap up the session committee members had a brief discussion on what stood out for them in the scenarios and discussion. This was followed by some final remarks and reminders of next steps in the process:

- Liliana to send a summary of this meeting along with a request for committee member to reflect and respond to Liliana if they feel there is a need for additional information before embarking on likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards?
- Liliana to draft and send out Hazard Likelihood and Consequence Scoring instructions, followed by committee members completing the Likelihood and Consequence Scoring surveys.