

SOUTHERN ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT RESOURCE SHARING AGREEMENT

John Smith,
CAO, Town of Middle
123, 45 Street S.
Middle, Alberta
T0T 0T0

July 3, 2017

RE: UPDATED VERSION OF THE 2007 AGREEMENT ON AREA RESOURCE SHARING

Dear Mr. Smith,

Please find attached a copy of the Southern Alberta Emergency Management Resource Sharing Agreement (SAEMRSA) for your consideration. This is a revised version of the 2007 Agreement on Area Resource Sharing which your municipality may be a signatory. You may be aware that this revised version was recently presented at the South West and South East Mayors and Reeves meetings in Lethbridge and Medicine Hat. This letter is intended to provide you with the background on how the updates came about, the purpose of the Agreement, to provide you with an opportunity to comment and make suggestions and ultimately have your municipality become a signatory.

The updated version was reviewed by the City of Lethbridge Legal Department following the presentations to the Mayors and Reeves. Some formatting and improved wording of a few definitions are the only amendments.

Background:

In 2007 the City of Lethbridge acted upon the opportunity to develop a single mutual aid agreement that could replace the multitude of individual, municipal to municipal mutual aid agreements that existed between communities in Southern Alberta. This was a successful endeavour that resulted in the implementation of the single Agreement on Area Resource Sharing with thirty five municipal signatories.

In 2016 it was recognized that the 2007 Agreement had become somewhat outdated in its terminology and scope and was absent of a few key items, namely; the ability to delegate authority, request resources in a standardized manner and identify what type of incident would trigger the use of the Agreement. At that point a call-out was sent by the Alberta Fire Chiefs Association, Director of the Southern District to all AFCA Southern Alberta (Region 7) Fire Chiefs seeking municipal representation on a new leadership group that would begin a review of the Agreement on Area Resource Sharing. The call was answered by Fire Chiefs and Emergency Managers alike from the City of Medicine Hat, Pincher Cr., Willow Cr., Town of Taber, Vulcan County, Coalhurst, City of Lethbridge and Lethbridge County. The result is the attached Agreement along with a request that your municipality consider the document as an appropriate, effective and timely evolution to our ability to activate mutual aid in Sothern Alberta going forward.

Purpose:

The SAEMRSA was developed using the same principle as the 2007 Agreement on Area Resource Sharing: to facilitate efficient emergency mutual aid in Southern Alberta through one agreement. This updated version is not intended to replace the original 2007 version but as an alternative, it provides for a more comprehensive tool to facilitate mutual aid with a focus specifically on Type 3, 2, or 1 Incidents (Incidents of greater scope and severity.). The foundation of the Agreement is based upon the applied principles of emergency management best practices and a regionalized, integrated management system, which includes a viable and sustainable solution to the overwhelming need for resources during incidents of larger scale through a resource sharing agreement. The agreement is written in a manner to allow resource sharing as part of an emergency response and for any of the other three Pillars of Emergency Management; Preparedness, Mitigation and Recovery.

Comments and Suggestions

Should you have any comments or suggestions regarding the Agreement please direct them to the Lethbridge County Emergency Services Coordinator, #100 – 905 4th Avenue South, Lethbridge Alberta, T1J 4E4 or email to dbeaton@lethcounty.ca. All submissions will be compiled for review by the SAEMRSA Leadership Group. If you would like to submit a comment or suggestion we ask that you do so before September 1, 2017. On an ongoing basis the Leadership Group will be meeting in order to ensure that the Agreement remains current. Municipalities are welcome to add representation to the Leadership Group at any time. The City of Lethbridge has agreed to continue administering the master copy of the Agreement. If the Agreement is approved by your municipality, a letter or council resolution along with the resolution number, confirming your approval, addressed to: City Clerk, City of Lethbridge 910 – 4th Avenue South, Lethbridge Alberta, T1J 0P6 will be required in order to add your municipality's name being added to Appendix 'D', Parties to this Agreement.

Southern Alberta Emergency Management Resource Sharing Agreement Leadership Group:

- Richard Hildebrand, Chief of Fire and EMS, City of Lethbridge
- Dale Danylchuk, Emergency Preparedness Manager, City of Lethbridge
- Dana Terry, Deputy Chief Support Services, City of Lethbridge
- Dave Cox, Chief of Emergency Services, Pincher Creek Emergency Services Commission
- Steve Munshaw, Fire Chief, Town of Taber
- Travis Coleman, Emergency Services Manager / Fire Chief, M.D. of Willow Creek
- Stuart Larson, Director of Protective Services, Vulcan County
- Mat Conte, Fire Chief, Town of Coalhurst
- Ron Robinson, Retired Fire Chief and Director of Emergency Management, City of Medicine Hat
- Darryl Beaton, Emergency Services Coordinator / Director of Emergency Management, Lethbridge County

On behalf of the SAEMRSA Leadership Group,



Darryl Beaton