

### **3.13 Emergency Preparedness**

The City of North Vancouver is one of the three municipal partners supporting the North and West Vancouver Emergency Program which provides planning, coordination, and testing of emergency and disaster response services. Municipalities are required to have emergency plans under the Provincial Emergency Program and in liaison with Emergency Preparedness Canada. Emergency responses are initiated at the local municipal level, and with larger incidents, provincial and federal resources are added as required according to interconnected plans.

Under the coordination of the North and West Vancouver Emergency Program office, North Shore municipal emergency plans have been developed and tested, staff have been trained in emergency response procedures, and risk assessments have been undertaken for various types of hazards.

Four volunteer organizations are administered and supported by the Emergency Program office: North Shore Rescue (wilderness search and rescue operations in local mountains), Emergency Social Services (municipal response to meet needs of evacuees for a limited time immediately following an emergency or disaster), Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness (step-by-step preparedness for residents of a neighbourhood for emergencies or disasters), and Amateur Radio Communications (emergency communications system).

The Emergency Program also provides public education and written information services for North Shore residents, including speakers on emergency preparedness and planning topics.

**GOAL**

**In conjunction with the tri-municipal North and West Vancouver Emergency Program, plan, coordinate, and test emergency and disaster response services.**

**Objective 1: Facilitate the organization of City business, organizations and residents in preparedness for emergencies or disasters.**

### **Actions**

The City will:

1. Continue to support the North and West Vancouver Emergency Program and its various initiatives, including neighbourhood preparedness programs.
2. Continue to support the Emergency Social Services (ESS) team through staff assistance in planning and training, and adequate shared-funding of the North Shore Emergency Preparedness Program, which includes ESS.
3. Complete a City Emergency Plan which is integrated with the North and West Vancouver Emergency Program which will ensure a well-managed immediate response and recovery of City hall services in the event of emergencies and disasters.
4. Develop a City-specific public awareness and education program to promote the ability of targeted individuals, businesses, and neighbourhoods to respond to emergencies and disasters.