

SAVE THE DATE!



EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES FORUM 2015

PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE - AT THE RECEPTION CENTRE

OCTOBER 5 & 6, 2015

**Coast Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre, Calgary AB
1316 33 Street NE T2A 6B6**

**OCTOBER 5
OCTOBER 6**

Reception Centre Training Opportunity 1:15 - 4:30 p.m.
ESS Forum 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION BEGINS AUGUST 17

Forum registration fee: \$125. Registration instructions will follow.

Hotel special: To reserve your room at the host hotel, please call 1.800.661.1464 or email res@calgaryplaza.com. Please have your credit card number ready along with the following:

Group name: ESSNA-ESS Forum
Company name: City of Grande Prairie
Reservation number: CPC-GFC20435

If you have any difficulties with your hotel reservation, please contact Ida Greco at 403.207.8113 or igreco@calgaryplaza.com.



FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS EVENT, PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@ESSNA.CA](mailto:info@essna.ca)

In This Issue:

- 2015 ESS Forum
- AEMA Grant
- Regional Meeting Updates
- ESS Updates

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ESSNA Website

For more ESS information, please visit our website at www.essna.ca.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please email us at info@essna.ca.

The goal of ESSNA is to exchange knowledge and resources among Municipalities, First Nations and Métis Settlements in order to enhance Emergency Social Services in Alberta.

AEMA Grant

ESSNA would like to thank the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) for a grant that was used to assist in covering travel costs associated with regional ESS meetings, which have been happening over the past year. Below are summaries of a few of the latest regional meetings:

Regional Meeting Updates

Northeast Region

The North East Region had our first Regional Meeting on May 29th in Westlock. Our guest speaker was Sonya Perkins from Human Services, who spoke regarding the role of Human Services in coordinating assistance to the ESS response of municipalities, as requested. To assist in determining our priorities going forward, meeting attendees completed a brief survey and we also had a great conversation about potential projects and/or meeting topics. We hope to form a steering committee in the coming months who will be responsible for planning and organizing future meetings.

North Central Region

Our first ever regional meeting was held in February in Edmonton with 18 people in attendance. Speakers from Alberta Human Services, Alberta Health Services and AEMA provided overview of each of their roles in relation to ESS.

Alberta Human Services went over their role as provincial contact for ESS, gave an overview on the emergency management framework in Canada and national ESS program, and how to order registration & inquiry cards. Alberta Health Services discussed their role with ESS, encouraged planning with environmental health services to identify potential reception centre locations before they're needed, and identified that they're developing AHS-related training opportunities. AEMA field officers provided an overview on their role in supporting municipalities, offered advocacy options to better integrate emergency managers and ESS roles within communities, and opened up their ESS-related training opportunities to each region through the ESSNA regional reps.

There is clearly a need and desire to continue these meetings in order to establish our regional network. Working more closely together will help us all work smarter instead of harder.

The next North Central Regional meeting will be hosted by Stony Plain and held on October 19 at the Stony Plain Golf Course.

Thanks for Reading!

We hope you've enjoyed reading our newsletter. For more information about us, or to learn how to get involved, please visit our website or email us at info@essna.ca

South Central Region

On April 30, 2015 ESS leads and team members from municipalities across our region came together to work on an ESS Plan for our municipalities which included discussions on housing evacuees; location of a reception centre; managing your staff/volunteers; activation of ESS; preparing a Reception Centre kit; what functions are needed when you open a centre; and demobilizing ESS. There is a lot more in an ESS plan but it was an opportunity to discuss what worked for many in the past and what some of the challenges were, based on the experience in the room. Our next steps as a region are to talk to our Disaster Emergency Managers (DEM) about being invited to DEM workshops and connecting with AEMA. The region thanks AEMA for the grant that brought the group initially together and it has been decided to continue meeting at least once a year to continue building connections across the region.

Central Region

On April 23rd, members of CRESS met to explore what CRESS is, what supports we can provide to each other as well as identify individual gaps in which we'll need support from our neighbours. This meeting helped set the course for CRESS and we are happy to say that we had a great turnout and at the end of the day came up with a draft Terms of Reference. We are looking forward to participating as a region in a mock exercise that Red County will be hosting in the Fall. This will provide more learning opportunities as well as help to determine what our next steps are as CRESS

ESS Updates

City of Red Deer

On June 2nd and June 9th, the City of Red Deer's Emergency Management Program ran scenario-based, tabletop EOC training that was open to all staff involved in EOC, ESS and First Response. The training was used both to provide exposure to staff on working within the Emergency Management system, but also offered a valuable opportunity for involved staff to influence the redevelopment of The City's Municipal Emergency Management Plan (MEMP), Emergency Social Services (ESS) Plan and other corresponding plans and processes. A new framework for emergency management (which includes ESS), as well as a revised EOC Manual, are scheduled to "go live" in early 2016.