



VILLAGE OF ZEBALLOS

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UPDATE ON THE SUSPENSION OF THE ZEBALLOS FIRE DEPARTMENT

June 22, 2022

Throughout the last month our Fire Services Consultant (FireWise Consulting, lead by Ernie Polsom) has been engaging with external agencies and coordinating dates to run a boot camp training course for the Zeballos Fire Department. Unfortunately due to both previous commitments (these trainers are usually busy this time of year and booked months in advance) and the Lytton wildfire we have been unable to bring these external agency trainers into Zeballos in a timely manner.

We understand that this is disappointing news, and recognize the need to get the fire department up and running. We will be adapting this training program and running it with local resources.

Next Steps:

1. Determine training agency to deliver boot camp.
2. Reschedule boot camp training dates.
3. Continue training.
4. Identify operational guidelines required and assign their development.
5. Prepare longer-term skills development and management program.

The boot camp is intended to:

- Provide common baseline training for all of the members of the department.
- Support the building of a functional team working from a shared learning experience.
- Keep firefighters up to date and engaged in their fire department.

Once the boot camp is completed, the team will be ready for limited operational functions and a (possible limited) return to service. A town hall meeting will follow to ensure we clearly communicate the service level so everyone knows what to expect from the Zeballos Fire Department.

We appreciate all the support these external agencies have provided us with so far. We will also update the community when the boot camp dates are finalized.

Finally, there is no expression of gratitude that could truly capture how much we appreciate each and every new (and returning) member who has supported the Zeballos Fire Department over the last month. We are confident that by continuing to receive the support of our external agencies **and both Zeballos and Ehatis community members** that the Zeballos Fire Department will be able to return to safe operations.