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March 18, 2020

RE: Vulcan County Emergency Services Response to COVID-19

Dear Area Residents,

There is a lot of information floating around the internet and on the news in relation to the Corona Virus. I would like to assure the residents of Vulcan County and urban municipalities, that if we do see an increase in medical calls our fire departments are poised and ready to respond as we always have. With that being said, my firefighters will be taking extra precautions when responding to medical calls to decrease the exposure risk to themselves and the public we serve. One of those precautions will be the increase in their personal protective equipment.

What we ask of the public is if you are calling 911 because you are sick, be honest and very specific with the 911 dispatcher. Let them know if you are experiencing flu like symptoms such as but not limited to fever, shortness of breath, cough, runny nose, headache, sore throat. This will help the emergency services gauge their response and plan accordingly.

The firefighters will in addition to increased personal protective equipment, will be practicing doorway evaluations. You will be asked to place a mask on prior to the assessment. It is also important to note that if the EMS dispatch determines that the call is not emergent i.e. Just a general feeling of being unwell with no difficulty breathing or trauma, you may not see fire respond at all, as Alberta Health Services EMS will be responding to assist you.

Please also be advised the Vulcan County Emergency Services fire halls and training tower are all closed to the public until further notice. If you had a tour, or classes booked, please call administration for further details.

We are here for you. Please visit the Province of Alberta's <u>website</u> for the most up to date information on the COVID-19 situation.

Respectfully,

Douglas Headrick, CD,

Director of Protective Services

SCO Fire Discipline

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