

## **Media Release**

July 31, 2024 For immediate release

## Free 9-1-1 addressing initiative offered by the RDCK

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is undertaking an extensive 9-1-1 improvement project to align with the federal move to the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) based Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) program rolling out in 2025. The project focuses on the improvement of GIS address and roads data throughout the RDCK. The NG911 system will replace the legacy analogue infrastructure with IP-based technology. This will create a faster, more resilient system that will eventually allow digital information (e.g., voice, real-time text, and eventually video calling) to flow seamlessly from the public to 9-1-1.

All residences in the RDCK require a civic address that is registered in the RDCK database to ensure emergency services can quickly find you and potential evacuations are efficient. The RDCK is asking residents to be proactive and to confirm they have a correct address within the RDCK database. Residents should check their addresses using the RDCK Web Map. If your address does not appear in the web map, 9-1-1 does not have your address and you should apply for one!

Check the <u>Civic Addressing</u> page on the RDCK website to see if your address meets the requirements. If it does not, you will qualify for a free address change. Use the <u>Civic Address Application Form</u> to apply for a free address or address change before the end of 2024 and state 'NG911' as your reason for the request. Alternatively you can go into any of our <u>RDCK offices</u> (Nelson, Nakusp, and Creston) to request an application form.

"In our business, seconds can save lives, so it is imperative residents throughout the RDCK ensure they have a registered address within our database," said RDCK Acting Regional Fire Chief Tristan Fehst.

The RDCK may be reaching out to residents to initiate address changes where required. Visit <a href="https://www.rdck.ca/911Services">www.rdck.ca/911Services</a> for more details on the initiative. If you have any further questions, please the RDCK GIS department at <a href="maps@rdck.bc.ca">maps@rdck.bc.ca</a>.

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit <a href="https://www.rdck.ca">www.rdck.ca</a>.

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