

# Mutual Aid Alberta



# Overview

- Mutual Aid Groups in Alberta
- 'Mutual Aid Alberta' History
- Next steps



# History

- Mutual Aid groups in Alberta for decades
- 2009 First Mutual Aid Roundtable
  - Benefits
  - Challenges
  - Potential Solutions



# History

- 2010 Second Mutual Aid Roundtable
  - Municipal: GPREP (Grande Prairie)
  - Industry: SPOG (Sundre)
  - Combined: NR CAER
  - MAC<sup>3</sup> - CMAC, EMAC & FMAC

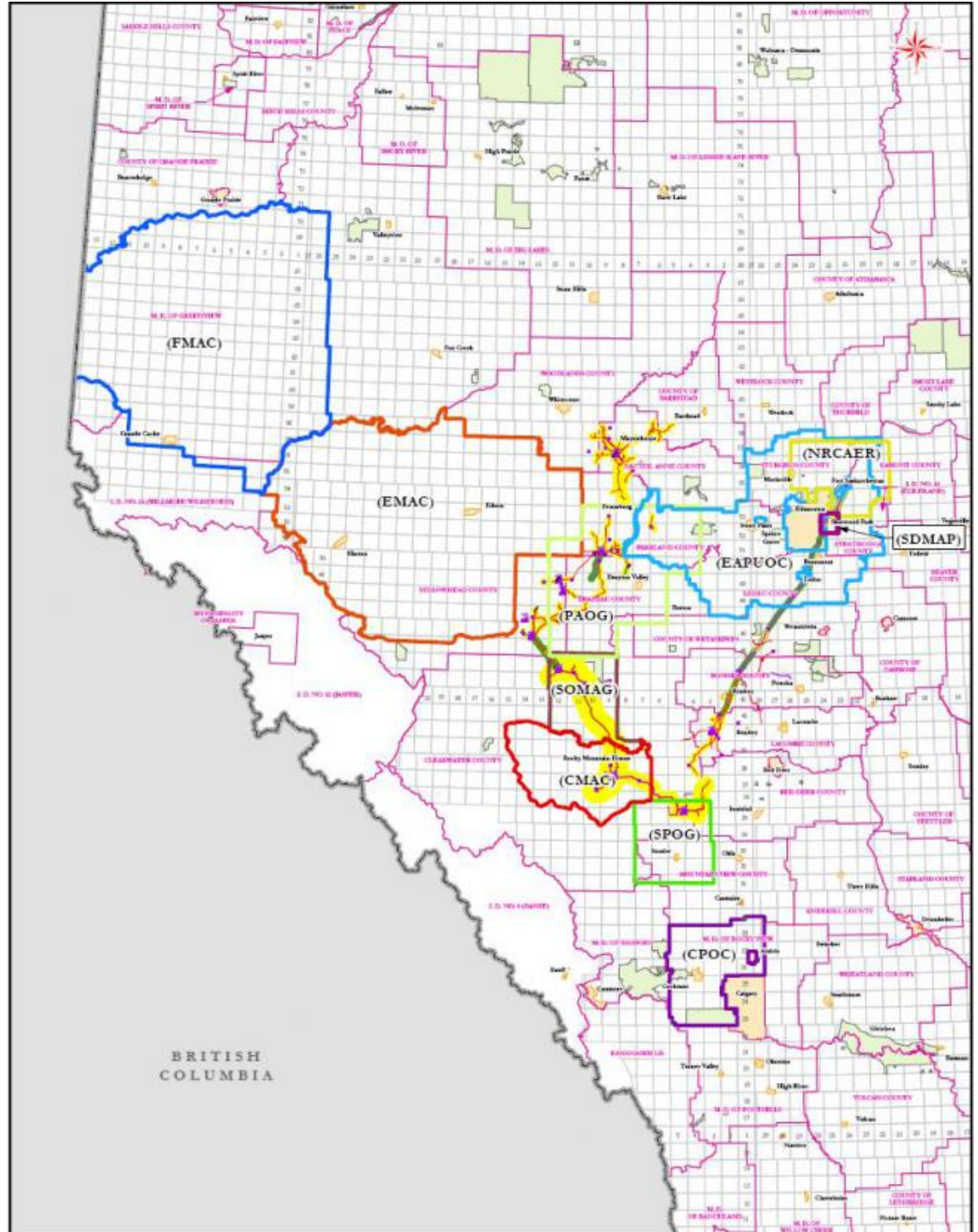


# History

- 2010 “Mutual Aid” Task group struck
  - provide recommendations to improve Alberta system for managing emergencies through greater collaboration
- Funding provided by AEMA and ERCB
- Facilitated meetings



- Mutual Aid “map”
- Inventory Groups
  - Contact?
- Find Gaps



# Current Mutual Aid groups

- **CMA** Chinchaga Mutual Aid
- **CMAC** Clearwater Mutual Aid Co-op
- **CMAG** County Mountainview Mutual Aid Group
- **C-REPP** Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Partnership
- **EAPUOC** Edmonton Area Pipeline & Utility Operator's Committee
- **EMAC** Edson Mutual Aid Co-op
- **FMAC** Foothills Mutual Aid Co-op
- **GPREP** – Grande Prairie Regional Emergency Partnership
- **HMAP** Hardisty Mutual Aid Plan

# Current Mutual Aid groups

- **LCMAO** Lacombe County Mutual Aid Organization
- **LREMP** Lacombe Regional Emergency Management Partnership
- **NR CAER** Northeast Region Community Awareness Emergency Response
- **PAOG** Pembina Area Operator's Group
- **RMWB** Wood Buffalo Mutual Aid
- **SD MAP** Strathcona District Mutual Assistance Program
- **SO MAG** Sunchild / O'Chiese Area Producers Mutual Aid Group
- **SPOG** Sundre Petroleum Operators Group
- **WCSS** Western Canada Spill Services

# Current Mutual Aid groups

- Two Hills Regional Agency
- Smoky Lake Regional
- Athabasca Region
- Westlock County and Village of Clyde
- Bonnyville Region
- CPEMP - Central Peace Emergency Management Partnership
- Smoky River Regional Fire Service
- Mackenzie County Regional (HazMat) Response
- Lesser Slave Regional Fire Service

# ***“Mutual Aid Alberta” origin***

- Alberta’s mutual aid emergency response groups
  - Various stages of maturity (0 – 25 years)
  - Reason to be, relates to risks *IN* or *TO* the area
- Reality in a large-scale emergency
  - Response can’t be big enough...or fast enough
  - Resources will come from outside boundaries
  - An established network in advance makes response more effective

# Task Group Initiatives

## □ 2011

- [www.mutualaidalberta.ca](http://www.mutualaidalberta.ca) resource for contact information, document (best practice) repository
- Surveyed mutual aid groups; those with paid resources responded

## □ 2012

- Hosted one day Mutual Aid Forum (March)
  - 100 emergency management professionals from industry, municipalities, government and regulators
  - Surveyed attendees on Mutual Aid

# Input

- Top 3 Survey Results
  1. Annual Mutual Aid Forum training & networking
  2. Consistent framework for mutual aid group interface with municipalities and regulators
  3. A full day think tank/discussion on mutual aid: Where do we go from here?
  
- 2012 one day think tank session

# Think Tank

Cross-section of stakeholders to:

- Validate input from 2009 – 2012
- Confirm need for a Mutual Aid Alberta
- Obtain additional input, identify gaps
- Draft a vision, mission and goals
- Identify next steps

# Think Tank

- 2012 Participating Stakeholders
  - AEMA, ERCB, AESRD
  - Mutual aid orgs, Municipalities, Industry
  - TransCAER (rail)
- Additional Stakeholders identified
  - ASERT, AHS, AB Transportation, CEPA, AUMA, AAMDC
  - Alberta Fire Chiefs, Fire Commissioner's Office, Industrial Fire Chiefs, CAPP, Agriculture, SolGen, SEPAC, Utility Companies

# Think Tank

- Why Consider a Provincial Mutual Aid network?
- Answer: Ability to Get Big Quick
- Enhance response/safety of Alberta communities
  - Standardized procedures, organized approach
  - Access to resources: physical, technical, knowledge base
  - In Disaster, no one has enough resources, surge capacity
- Effective, consistently understood response system
  - Emergencies don't recognize boundaries; need to work together
- Best practice transfer and continuous improvement (lessons learned, not lost)

# Think Tank

- Why Consider a Provincial Mutual Aid network?
- Albertans expect Public Safety
  - For Municipalities, its duty
  - For Industry, social license to operate
- Promote mutual aid group development
- Right thing to do

# Think Tank

- What Needs could “Mutual Aid Alberta” address?
- Common framework for mutual aid orgs:
  - Consistent interface with government/regulators
  - Training/exercise standards
  - Minimum resources: trained responders, equipment
- Document repository
  - access best practices; idea sharing; contact information
  - Exercise/scenario ‘bank’
  - Bylaws, MOUs, Plans

# What are we doing now?

- What Needs could “Mutual Aid Alberta” address?
  - Centralized Resident Data Collection system province wide
  - Common Resident Emergency Notification province wide: expand Alberta Emergency Alert
  - Annual networking/training opportunity (Forum)
  - Mutual aid perspective on emerging issues/advisory group

# How can MAA succeed?

- Dedicated resources: human and \$\$  
(great to talk, but need 'action')
- Organization/committee mandate; strong terms of reference
- Clarity of framework
- Celebrate successes. Tell Our Story

# Continue connecting

- AEMA Summit annual presentation
- Presentations like today
- Annual Mutual Aid Forum
- Annual Think Tank w/expanded stakeholders
- Social media strategy
  - Facebook/LinkedIn/Twitter

# Next Steps For You

## Help Build

- Resources

- Provide contact info, documents to [info@mutualaidalberta.ca](mailto:info@mutualaidalberta.ca)
- Volunteer (MA Forum, Governance, etc.)

- Support

- from your organization, other groups
- Identify potential hurdles

# Build a “response-ready” Alberta

## Contacts:

- [www.mutualaidalberta.ca](http://www.mutualaidalberta.ca)
- [info@mutualaidalberta.ca](mailto:info@mutualaidalberta.ca)
- Shell Clarke, Learned Response Group
- Harold Gold, Surge Energy
- Brenda Gheran, NR CAER



# Emergency First Responders

- We wish to take the time to thank you for everything you do and all the people you help.
- Working in such extreme environments can be stressful and very dangerous. You are very special people!
- Putting your life on the line is pretty tough, how about every day?
- Rushing out to help someone without prejudice, an act of true kindness
- Showing your bravery and fearlessness by facing difficult challenges
- Working for the greater good of people; giving unselfishly to help others
- Thanks for risking your own safety and comfort in making others' lives a priority
- Long hours at work is tough, especially when you're needed, though not always appreciated
- How often does one do something to the benefit of others without expectation?
- Tragic situations can be difficult to bear, we are all thankful that you are there
- Thank you for keeping those who are dear to our hearts around for another day, so that we may realize how much they truly mean to us
- Would I have what it takes to be successful in your profession? It takes a strong and determined person to make that kind of unselfish commitment.

**We're saying, "Thanks for being you."**