

Who You Gonna Call?



Engaging Regional IMT's at the Local Level

Emergency Management Stakeholder Summit
February 2020

When ghosts were unleashed on New York City in 1984, terrorizing citizens and overwhelming the capabilities of local authorities to manage the incident, they called upon a cadre of subject matter experts to manage the mission. Since 2017, Alberta has embarked on its own mission to develop regional All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMT's) to assist local authorities with incidents that exceed their capacity.

AHIMT members undertake training and professional development that allows them to respond to any type of incident or to be integrated into planning teams for major public events. Regional AHIMT members in Alberta come from local municipalities, government organizations, NGO's and private industry with a broad cross-section of experience and an understanding of the challenges facing a local municipality in dealing with an incident or large event. While supernatural and paranormal phenomena aren't necessarily part of the core curriculum for a regional AHIMT and they won't deploy in the Ecto-1, you can expect them to arrive with the expertise and collaborative nature to assist your jurisdiction in managing any emergency.

This interactive presentation and panel Q&A will highlight all the important aspects of an AHIMT: what an AHIMT does, who its members are, and most importantly, how to engage in the development and deployment of a regional AHIMT in Alberta.



Home Sweet Home...



Imagine this is your community. You have emergency response plans, emergency responders and a Rolodex of stakeholder contacts (come see me after if you don't know what a Rolodex is). An incident happens. Let's say it's a relatively small one-off incident that is well within your response capabilities...

Community photo: Salmon Arm, BC



Uh Oh...



...like a train derailment that causes some minor damage but doesn't kill or injure anyone. The fire department, the rail company, the media, some bystanders and your public works crews show up. The ministries of transportation & environment get involved. The incident causes some disruption but overall it's pretty innocuous. You can handle that, right?

Incident: April 30, 2012 derailment of 10 cars carrying coal in Salmon Arm, BC. No injuries and no evacuations. Derailment hit a fire hydrant (right side of photo) causing intermittent water outages in part of town and concern that water washed contaminants into the lake



What if it gets worse?



Now... imagine that train was actually hauling hazardous materials. In this derailment some of the cars catch fire and release noxious gasses into the air, affecting downwind businesses, schools and residents. Are you able to handle this? Could you evacuate a school and a subdivision for a day or so while the incident is stabilized? Could you manage the business disruption? The media interest? Supporting the evacuated residents?

More importantly, could you do it well?

Incident: Sept 10, 2019 @ Dupo, Illinois Union Pacific train derailment & fire of methyl isobutyl ketone caused evacuation of nearby neighbourhoods & schools and power disruptions. No injuries were reported



What if it's catastrophic?

This incident is the Lac Megantic rail disaster, a derailment by a 74 car Montreal, Maine & Atlantic (MMA) train hauling crude oil @ 0115 hours on July 6, 2013. There were 42 confirmed fatalities, with 5 more missing & presumed deceased.

Over 30 downtown buildings were destroyed & all but 3 of the remaining 39 were later demolished due to contamination.

This is the 4th deadliest Cdn rail incident and the deadliest non-passenger train incident

How do you *handle* this? How do you *react* to **this**? How do you *recover* from this?

The Presenter:

Dave Brand



@Hack2Normal

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Dave Brand is the Director of Emergency Management for Red Deer County and the administrative Team Lead for the Central Region All-Hazards Incident Management Team (CRAHIMT, affectionately referred to as “CRAM-IT” by team personnel!)

Dave’s background as a civil engineer offered him the opportunity to travel across Western Canada and North America over the course of a decade working for various private, government and municipal clients. The diversity of Dave’s client base and training opportunities allowed him to gain a broader perspective on how to develop and deploy highly functioning teams within the constraints of varying geographic, cultural, political and economic realities. In 2014 Dave made the switch from public sector consulting and became employed directly in municipal government, first as a Director of Public Works and then as Red Deer County’s Director of Community and Protective Services. Dave is trained as an Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) structural collapse specialist, a FEMA Structures Specialist and as a first responder with specific skill-sets in rope rescue, water rescue, rescue boat operation, livestock and grain rescue, structural collapse and traffic incident management. This cross-training and experience both as “boots on the ground” and as an Agency Administrator allows Dave to view incident management from a holistic perspective. Dave is passionate about ensuring that Incident Management Teams respect the autonomy and needs of a local authority while managing the incident to achieve the greater good.

“Do the right things, for the right reasons, and everything else will fall into place.”



GHOSTBUSTERS (1984) – The Stay Puft Marshmallow Man Scene

<https://youtu.be/7aW8oyTgA60>

I'll be honest... I wasn't very old when this happened. I don't really remember much, but I do know that for years afterwards we weren't allowed to roast marshmallows around the fire at the lake.

You hear a few good lines in this video clip that you probably will hear when you have a large scale incident you couldn't *possibly* have anticipated or that far exceeds the scope of your understanding...

Things like:

"There's something you don't see every day" - How many of you have heard that one? How many of you have said it yourself?

"I'm terrified beyond the capacity for rational thought" – How often does that happen to people on a major incident? Does fight, flight or FREEZE ring a bell?

"I have a radical idea" – Thinking outside of our normal mode of operation can be effective, especially with the right training, knowledge and experience!



Regional AHIMT's in Alberta



Regional All-Hazards Incident Management Teams (AHIMT's) are formal or informal teams trained in ALL HAZARDS incident management. Therefore, these aren't teams that only do floods, or hazmat; wildfire; winter storms; ghost invasions; event planning; summer storms; building fires; mass casualty incidents; zombie apocalypse; train derailments or high intensity urban fires.

Did you notice that I mentioned event planning? AHIMT's are trained in the Incident Command System (ICS) process, which is a management process that can be applied to a planned event the same way it can be applied to an unplanned incident. Don't be afraid to engage your IMT to help you with your major events!

Every single one of these events shown in the photographs occurred (or occur) in Alberta. They represent a broad spectrum of hazard types and ways in which your regional AHIMT can be of assistance to your municipality.



Large Event Planning



The importance of engaging a regional IMT in your large public event planning?

Following a solid planning process or engaging an IMT could help prevent a large public event that would otherwise be cordial, orderly and successful from turning into riots, chaos and anarchy.

Left photo: 2010 Vancouver Olympics, Granville Street.

Middle & right photos: 2011 Stanley Cup Riots, Vancouver, BC



AHIMT personnel are municipal employees, contractors, volunteers, first responders, managers and anyone who is interested in making a difference in incident management.

The key takeaway here? IMT personnel are local.

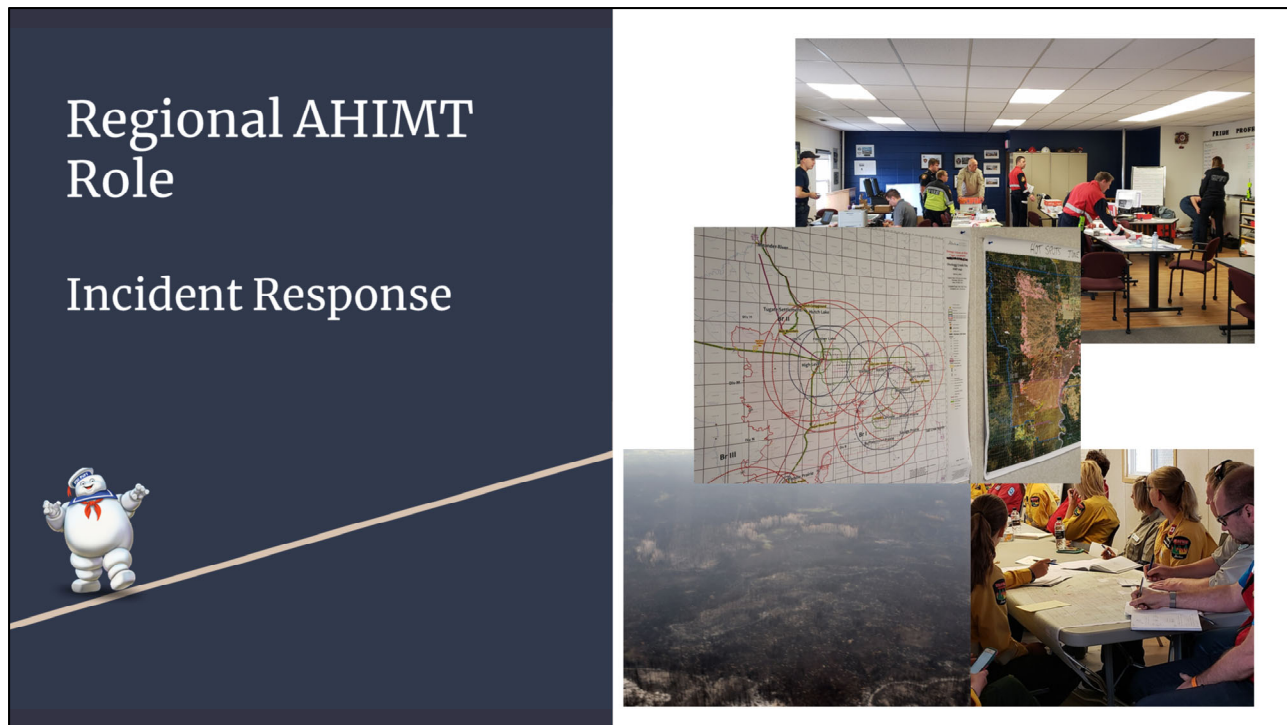
They know how local municipalities work, they all have their own specific subject matter expertise and they care about the outcomes. Every incident is best (and first) managed at the local level, so why wouldn't you want people in your corner who are looking out for your local interests?



Is an AHIMT kind of like this crew? Absolutely!

Well, aside from not having guns, cigars, cool black tactical uniforms or the former governor of California, an AHIMT is totally like this! If you don't know who "The Expendables" are, they're a group of mercenaries who are always on the right side of a conflict. They go where they are needed most, and they get the job done.

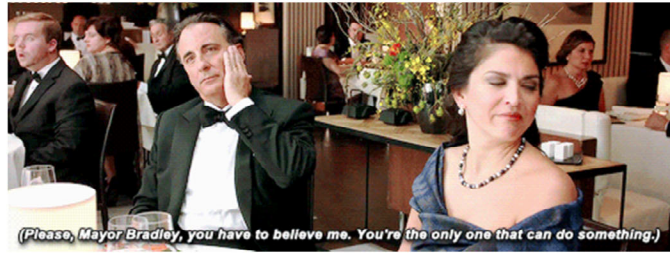
Seriously, the AHIMT isn't much different. They go to represent the community in need. One deployment, the team can be tasked on behalf of Municipality A, and the next deployment could be on behalf of Municipality B. They represent their client and work on the overall incident to achieve the best outcomes for everyone as dictated by the incident needs and agency requirements.



So this means that an AHIMT is going to come in guns blazing right?!

This is one of the absolute largest myths about the role of IMT's. Our role isn't to take over... It's YOUR hometown and YOUR incident. The IMT role is just to support local authorities with incident response in ANY way necessary. You need someone to think about re-entry planning after an evacuation? The IMT can do that. You need someone to help you track the 50 fire engines and 250 personnel out in the field? The IMT can do that. You need someone to help your finance people manage contracts, collect invoices and make sure someone isn't sneaking something through? The IMT can do that too.

Of course, if you've exceeded your organizational capacity, StayPuft is about to step on your church and you have absolutely nothing left in the tank to direct troops or manage the incident, the IMT can do that too. But, they will ALWAYS report to you... As a DEM, CAO, CEO, Band Chief or Council, it's still your home. Regional IMT's are just there to support you however you need.

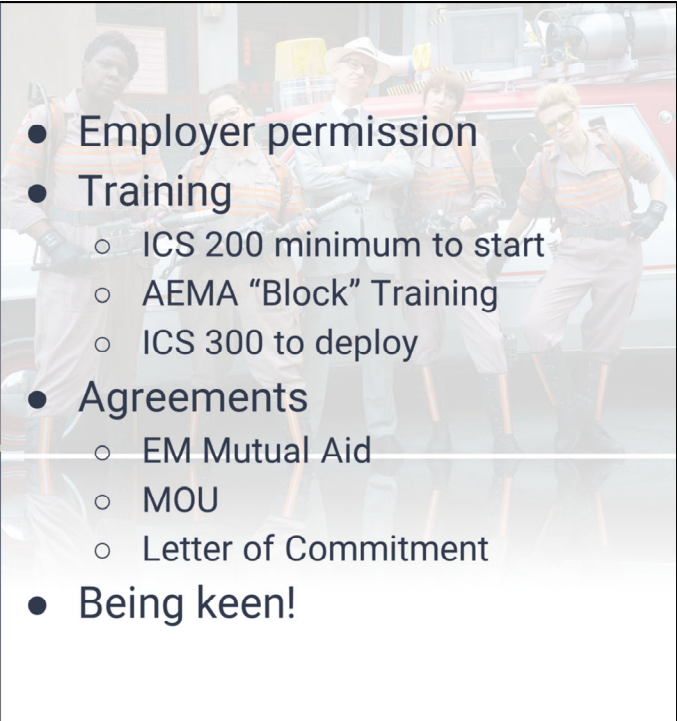


Training... Mentoring... Relationship Building

Another less often thought about role though too (admit it, incident response is sexy... it's the stuff that makes *or breaks* careers and makes the nightly news) is the fact that the regional IMT's are leading the charge on incident management training in Alberta.

Regional AHIMT's are required to host at least 3 training courses a year and they're sending personnel to many others. We can collaborate with your community on an emergency management tabletop exercise... We can send observers or mentors to work with your team because one of the top ways to ensure incident response success is to *build relationships before the incident occurs!*

Getting Involved

- 
- Employer permission
 - Training
 - ICS 200 minimum to start
 - AEMA “Block” Training
 - ICS 300 to deploy
 - Agreements
 - EM Mutual Aid
 - MOU
 - Letter of Commitment
 - Being keen!

If you're interested in becoming a member of a regional all-hazards IMT in Alberta:

- Get employer permission and support
- Enrol in ICS and IMT training through your organization or regional AHIMT
- Complete AEMA IMT block training
- Complete ICS 300 to be deployable to incidents

Each regional AHIMT has a different documentation process, dependent upon how they are formed with their regional partnerships. Some examples include:

- Emergency Management Mutual Aid Agreements
- Memorandums of Understanding (between employers and the regional AHIMT lead jurisdiction)
- Letter of Commitment (between individuals, their supervisor and the regional AHIMT lead)

Having a strong interest in furthering emergency management and incident management in Alberta is the best quality to have!

Engaging a Regional AHIMT



Regional all-hazard IMT's aren't a made up or made in Canada solution. FEMA has federal IMT's and supports State IMT's, Canada has federal and provincial IMT's (like CAN TF2 out of Calgary) and there are regional IMT's throughout the United States.

But we need a made-in-Alberta solution because let's face it... Alberta is amazing. Our problems are our problems and who better to know how to solve our problems like fellow Albertans?




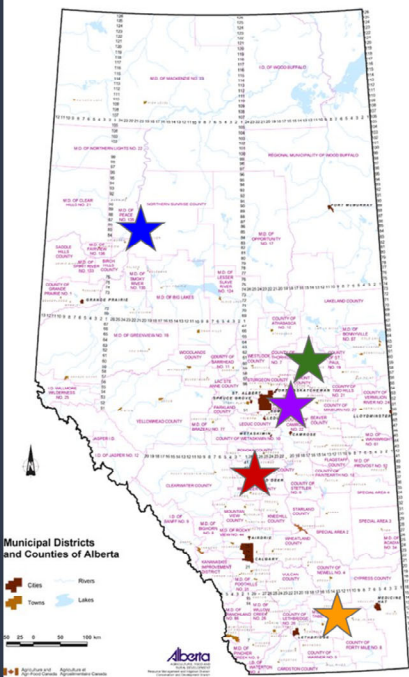
GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE Official Trailer <https://youtu.be/ahZFCF--uRY>

Just because New York got hit by ghosts in 1984, again in 1989 (which we won't talk about) and then again in 2016 with absolute hilarity, doesn't mean that it can't happen here. After all, this creepy old farmhouse, these badlands and these small towns... They're all Alberta.

Alberta:

Regional AHIMT's





Capital:
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780-265-0537

Central:
Dave Brand, Red Deer County
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403-352-6519

Northeast:
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780-656-3755

Northwest:
Julien Bergeron, Northern Sunrise County
jbergeron@northernsunrise.net
780-219-1911

South:
Luke Palmer, City of Lethbridge
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403-340-4129

These are the contacts for each of the five (5) regional AHIMT's in Alberta that were developed under the AEMA regional AHIMT development program.

As previously mentioned, Canada Task Force 2 (CAN-TF2) operates out of Calgary as a regional, provincial and national team.

Organizational Emergency Management

Capacity Analysis



The organizational emergency management capacity analysis is a short (11 question) survey document that will help any jurisdiction assess their capacity and develop an idea of where they will benefit most from engaging one of Alberta's regional all-hazards incident management teams.

Available as a PDF to download using the above QR code