



## **FAQ**

**The Regina Fire Department and Regina Emergency Medical Services come to the village when there is an emergency right?**

Regina Fire & Protective Services (RFPS) and the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region – Emergency Medical Service (EMS) will respond to Grand Coulee.

**So we don't really need our own emergency service, do we?**

Yea, actually we do. The RFPS and EMS will only respond to Grand Coulee if they have sufficient resources to do so. It is important to note that the dispatch of the RFPS and EMS to the village is not automatic, a specific request must be made that they attend. This is usually done by the senior GCES person on the scene.

**If I have an emergency and call for help, what happens?**

When you call 911 to report an emergency in the village the call is re-routed to Regina EMS dispatch. They will then initiate call out procedures for the Grand Coulee Emergency Services. All members of the GCES provide their numbers (home and cell) to EMS dispatch and first responders, firefighters or both are notified by phone to respond to the firehall. The nature of the emergency and a location are also provided, if available, during that notification.

Once sufficient members have arrived at the firehall a unit or units are dispatched to the incident. When the senior GCES person arrives at the incident he or she may request the dispatch of additional resources from the city or surrounding communities if required.

**What happens if there is an emergency in the village and the city emergency services cannot respond?**

The Grand Coulee Emergency Services will continue to provide service within the scope of their training and ability until the incident is over or until relieved. This is why it is important for residents to become involved, to ensure there are enough responders to help if there is no outside assistance available.



**What happens during the week when everyone is at work?**

This is a difficult time indeed to have people available to respond. That is why we encourage anyone who stays at home, male or female to volunteer with emergency services.

**I'm not big enough or strong enough to do this**

Size doesn't matter, with training anyone can effectively respond to an emergency and help within their ability to do so. Physical size or gender is not an obstacle to success.

**What if I can't respond when I am called? I have young children.**

No one is asking that you risk the health and safety of your family. If you are called, but cannot leave without endangering your family, you should look to their safety and security first. That being said you must remember that as a member of the GCES you have pledged to, if at all possible and as soon as possible, respond to a call for assistance.

**I pay taxes for this sort of thing, as much as in the city, why should I have to do it?**

You don't have to do it of course; but the best answer is you don't pay nearly enough in municipal taxes to fund a local emergency services organization. The City of Regina has the benefit of volume; they have many thousands of taxpayers to fund all municipal services including emergency response. In order for all of us to provide a level of emergency service without a significant increase in taxes we have to do it with volunteers. The Grand Coulee Emergency Services mission is to:

*To preserve the quality of life of the residents of Grand Coulee and surrounding area by providing for the efficient and effective delivery of emergency services within our training and ability.*

The following represents the Vision of what the department wants to achieve.

*To become a responsive and progressive organization by building a dedicated team of motivated individuals that recognizes the importance of serving and protecting their community.*



The only way to realize the mission and vision of the department is with the dedication and support of people just like you.

**If there is a fire or other emergency I will just come out and help, I don't need to waste my time training.**

The area around an incident site can be extremely dangerous, even life threatening unless you have the training and equipment to deal with it. That combined with fact that GCES volunteers train to function as a team means that you may be more of a liability than a help and that could get someone hurt or killed.

**I am very busy, I don't have the time for the required training.**

The GCES is a dedicated group of ordinary citizens just like you who give their time and expertise to help those in need. Joining the department and training to be a firefighter, first responder or both is an excellent way to become part of the community and help protect your family and property as well as others. It doesn't really take all that much time.

**What is involved in training?**

Basically; first responders are called to medical emergencies in and around the village. They also respond to vehicle accidents on the # 1 highway that are within our response area. The initial training is a weekend course provided by the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region that provides volunteers with a first responder certification. Think of it as a first aid course on steroids. Once that is completed there are a few meetings held in the village for orientation to new equipment and/or protocol changes. First Responder certification expires every two years and requires an eight hour re-cert course also offered by the RQHR. All training is provided free of charge

Firefighters are trained for the most part in house where they complete a curriculum of training designed to bring them to an NFPA certificated firefighter 1 & 2 level. This is the same basic training required by professional career firefighters. Also there are opportunities to partake in outside training through other communities and or corporations. Firefighters meet bi-weekly for two to three hours in the firehall. The basic training and all personal protective gear/ equipment is provided.



### **How do I join?**

**Just print and fill in the application provided on the GCES main page and drop it off at the village office. All applications are confidential and protected when completed. A department representative will contact you with the time and place of the first meeting.**