

# Wildfires: Emergency Preparedness

An operator's perspective

Warren Brown

Operations and Maintenance Manager

Lytton First Nation



# Warren Brown

- Lytton First Nation O&M Manager
- Certified: WTII, WDII, SWWS, SWS, TRU Diploma in WTTP
- 2002-Present with LFN O&M
- 7 CWS (3Ground, 4 Surface)
- 5- Point of Entry (Individual Treatment Systems)
- 35 km of Roads
- Band Buildings

# Lytton BC

- Inklukcheen
- 4 hrs North of Vancouver, on the Trans Canada #1 Highway in the Fraser Canyon
- Where the Thompson and Fraser Rivers meet
- One of BC's Hot Spots
- George Rd, Mohawkem, Lytton Crk, Alkali, Siska, Jackass, Nohemeen, and this years, Kookipi, Izman and Stein Mtn Fires. This is from the last 3 yrs



# Wildfires in the community

- Lytton First Nation has experienced 3 wildfires in the last 3 years.
- **2021** Lytton Creek Fire, had burned 90% of the Village of Lytton and 39 structures on LFN Reserves, 83,671 ha, cause undetermined
- **2021** November Flooding
- **2022** Nohemeen Creek Fire, had burned down 7 structures on LFN Reserves, came within 20 m of our main Slow sand Water Plant, and within 10m of another small water system, 7 Mile
- **2023** Stein Mtn Fire, 4,734.3 ha, came close and threatened more homes on LFN Reserves



# Water Bridge Fire June 29, 2021





# Water Bridge Fire June 29, 2021



# Lytton Fire June 30, 2021




- 4:20pm – 5:20 pm
- 90% of the Lytton Village was destroyed, and adjacent LFN Reserves
- 39 Band structures lost, on IR#'s 17+18+22
- All Communication within Lytton area was lost on June 30/21, by 5:20 pm. Telus had a Hub set up by July 3/21, with limited range.
- Est. up to 400 people displaced from LFN, due to Evacuations of the Lytton area. Some people have been displaced for up to 15 months, and still to this day.
- People were evacuated to: Lillooet, Boston Bar, Hope, Cache Creek, Merritt, Kamloops, Chilliwack, Abbotsford, Langley










# All Communications was lost within Lytton

 **Aleah Brown**  
Has anyone seen my dad [Warren Brown](#) ??  
1y Like Reply

 **Jen Brown**  
[Aleah Brown](#) last I saw him was top of stein school road directing traffic. He was worried bout all of you. I told him where you all are.  
1y Like Reply

 **Aleah Brown**  
[Jen Brown](#) thank you 🥰 we were able to get in touch with him a few hours ago  
1y Like Reply

 **Aleah Brown** Jul 1, 2021 · 2

Me, [Angelala B Brown](#), Kylee Dunham, [Jeff Dunham](#) and fur babies + kids are in Abbotsford now at a Sandman hotel. Dad [Warren Brown](#) is still in Lytton helping last I heard. We are all safe 🥰

   24 2 comments

 Like  Comment  Share

# Ready to protect what we had left





# Helping where we could





# Leaving to meet up with family





Leaving to meet up with family



# Leaving to meet up with family





# Returning to start our Recovery





# Getting Water Systems operating again





# Donated Generator





# Setting up for Generator connections





# Thinking outside the box





# Making repairs









# Sights and sounds never forgotten





# November 2021 Floods





# Nickeyeah Creek





# Nickeyeah Creek





# Kwellanac Creek





# Kwellanac Creek





# Winter Snow





# New Backhoes



# Lytton First Nation bringing people home





















# Nohemeen Fire 2022

- 6 Band Homes lost
- Communications were good
- Est. 300 people displaced
- People evacuated to: Lillooet and Cache Creek. We still had evacuees in these same places from the year before.
- Construction Crews stopped their work and volunteered to help where needed





# Fighting, Hauling and Filling

















# New trucks finally arrive





# New Water Trailers came in





# Stein Mountain Fire 2023



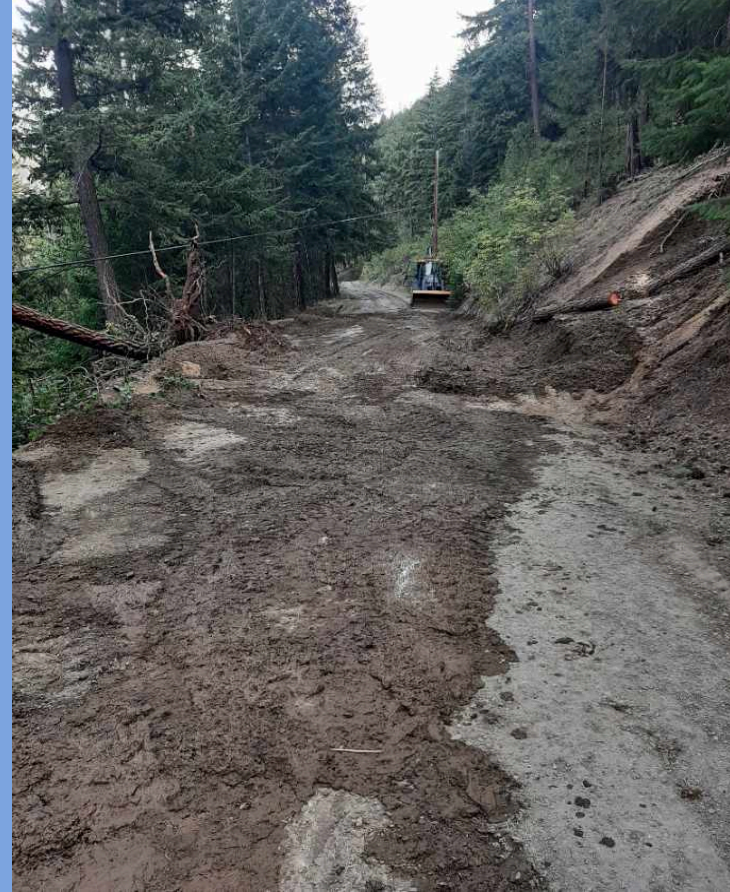


# 9 Mile creek





# 11 Mile





# Steel roofing, Hardy board siding





# Well #3, remediated and in use again





# New Flatdeck trucks finally arrive





# Water Quality

- During these emergencies, all water systems were under Boil Advisory, until we started our Sampling again
- Main purpose was to get our Hydrants back on line, in hopes of saving what we had left
- Developed new Procedures on the fly, for all temporary measures
- 2021, It took us 3 days to get Water moving with Generators.
- 2022, we had water moving by the next day with Generators
- 2023, same day for one system





# LFN's Water Team

## During all Fires

Left – Right

- **Andrew Loring**, Loring Elect.
- **Me**
- **Dion Moody**, SWS, ROWP, VFD
- **Bryan Phillips**, WTI, WDI, SWWS, SWS
- **Daniel Mundall**, ComCom Services

(Not in picture)





# All the Services and Agencies that helped with the Disaster/Recovery

## Days during the Disaster

- Lytton VFD
- LFN O&M Dept
- BCWS
- Locals
- Local Highway Dept
- RCMP
- ComCom Services
- Dent and Matcon Construction companies

## Recovery Period

- EMBC
- Red Cross
- LFN/FNESS
- ISC/EMAP
- Interior Health
- Urban Systems
- SPCA
- ESS
- FNHA
- Kala Sciences
- Dent Construction
- CNR
- Samaritan Purse
- IBI Group
- Fort Modular/Steel River
- Camp Hope
- BC Hydro
- Telus
- Loring Elect.
- Rubicon
- Lytton VFD
- Matcon
- Other Groups/Agencies



A shout out to these groups

## **AquaIntelligent**

- Constant Monitoring
- Simple phone App

## **ComCom Services**

- Helping with Electrical and Control needs





# Lytton in the Recovery and pushing forward





# How and Where are we are now

- Essential Services have returned
- Mental Health and Wellness is available and ongoing
- Schools are back in session
- Workers returning to their offices
- Celebrations/Events planning and happening
- Returning to our everyday routines have been slow, due to the uncertainty of the continuing wildfires
- Lytton waves are coming back



















# LFN O&M Dept. Improvements

## Since the Lytton Fire, LFN O&M has:

- Keeping water tanks filled at the end of the day
- Increased or upgraded Fire Equipment, Plows, Sanders and Heavy Equipment
- Equipment and tools on each side of the river
- Increased field staff
- More radio communication, Cell Group Chats
- Installed Electrical Auto Dis-Connects on each CWS
- Developed Fire Mitigation plans for CWS
- Increased Fire, First-Aid, and EOC training courses
- Go bags and proper gear for crew



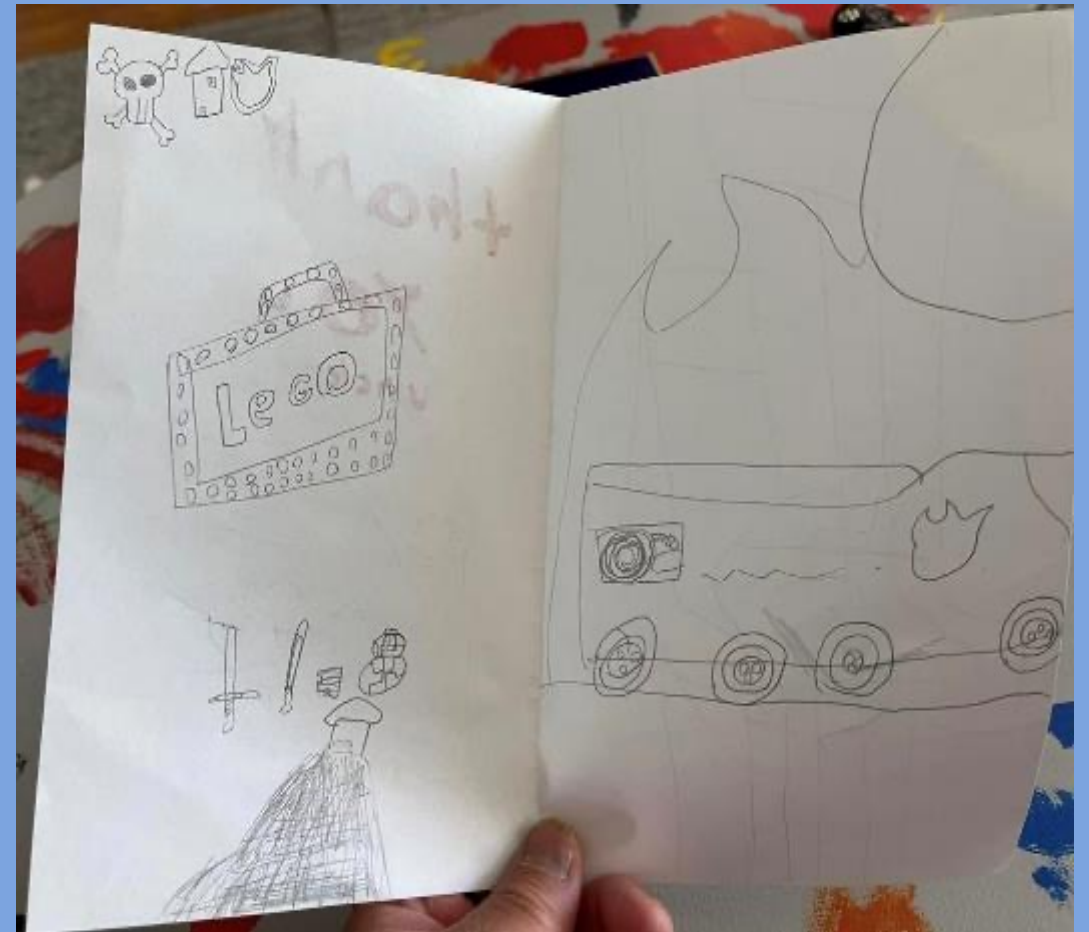
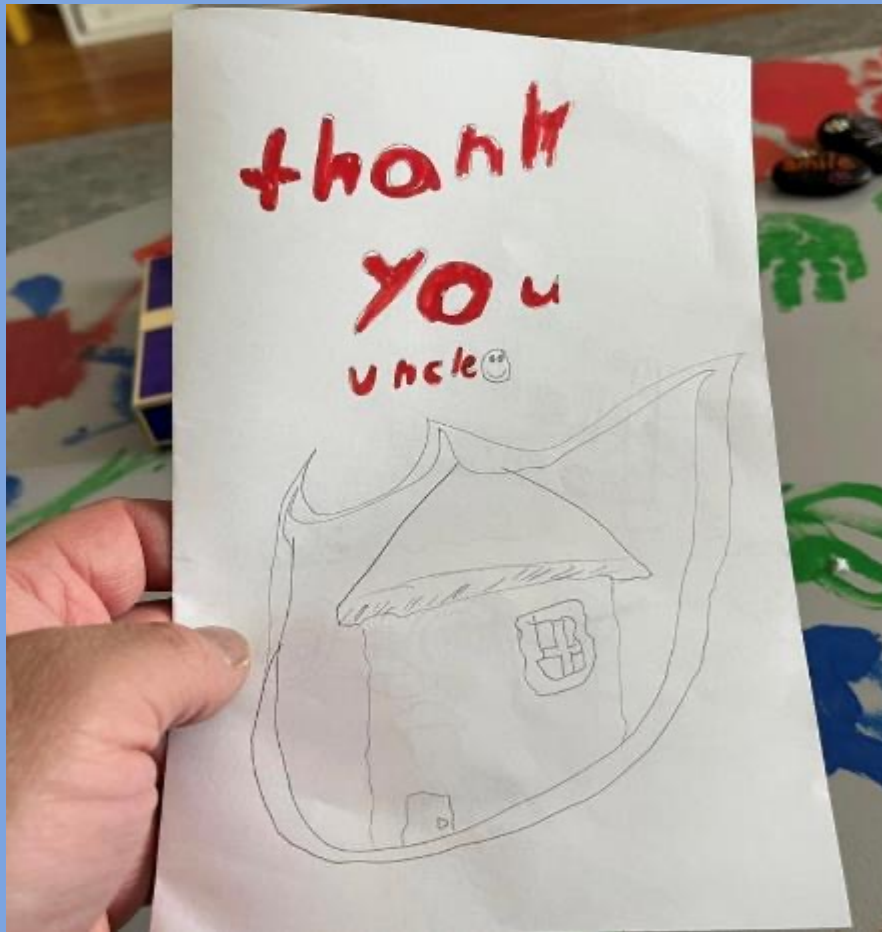


# Emergency Fire Fighting Equipment





# The highlights of what we have done





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Q&A

