

# Regional emergency services a no-brainer

Re: “Fire in Colwood, Sidney? Call Surrey,” March 14.

Within the Capital Regional District, we have multiple police, fire and emergency operations centres.

## ***article continues below***

With the ridiculous recent Victoria/Esquimalt police-staffing issues and the even more ridiculous fire-dispatch process as reported in the Times Colonist, surely, to better serve CRD residents, it's time to establish a regional police, fire and emergency operations centre.

You have to wonder how more efficient these services could be and how much more effective they would be in protecting CRD residents. Imagine a regional police force where all policing needs could be met for all municipalities. Imagine a regional fire department with a common training platform and no municipal boundary issues.

Why are our local and provincial politicians and our public servants so blind to the advantages of emergency-services regionalization? Who are they really protecting?

There are, of course, many other municipal matters that would greatly benefit from regionalization, such as the formation of a new regional transportation authority. Another complete no-brainer.

Stuart Chalmers

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