

#yourflagstaff



The official newsletter of Flagstaff County

Spring 2020

COVID-19 Information Roundup

Flagstaff County is continually monitoring all developments related to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic. For the most up-to-date information, please visit our website at: bit.ly/FlagstaffCOVID19.

Office and Shop Closure

The Flagstaff County office and shop remain closed to in-person public access. Residents are asked to contact us by phone (780-384-4100) or via email (county@flagstaff.ab.ca).

Payments to the County can be made:

- Via online banking at your banking institution;
- By mailing a cheque or leaving it in the drop box at the front door of the County Administration Building.

Small Business Hub

In an effort to help support locally owned companies throughout the Flagstaff Region, we have created the Flagstaff COVID-19 Small Business Hub on our website at: bit.ly/

COVID19SmallBizHub

This online hub is for businesses to post their hours, what services are still available to the public, and any other important messages owners have for their valued customers.

Page of Positivity

There's a lot to worry about right now as we contend with COVID-19 – but amidst all the bad news, there are some good moments. During this time of global anxiety, let us shift our mindset and enjoy some uplifting stories and moments on our Page of Positivity: bit.ly/PositiveFlagstaff.

Nominate a Frontline Hero

It's time to show frontline employees in the Flagstaff Region some love! Nominate a frontline worker who deserves a shoutout. We will randomly select five winners to receive a \$50 gift certificate to a small business in the Flagstaff Region as a token of appreciation for the great work they are doing.

Read more on Page 11 and visit: www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

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PROGRAMMING NOTES

The **Flagstaff Region Featured Business** program, presented in partnership with the Community Press, is on hold and will resume when appropriate to do so.

The **2020 Flagstaff Active Living Conference for Seniors**, originally scheduled for June, has been cancelled.

The **Evergreen Seedlings Program** will not be offered this year. Details for 2021 will be available early next year at: www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

We are taking all steps necessary to minimize the risk of community transmission during this pandemic. Stay well, everyone!

Message from the Reeve

Resilience is a Flagstaff trait. Our pioneering forefathers manifested it more than a century ago, when they began working this land against all odds. Over the decades, it has been forged into our DNA by sheer necessity through trying times. And now, as we contend with a global pandemic, the resilience of our rural Community of communities has never been more apparent.

Along with that resilience, residents and businesses have exhibited great entrepreneurial spirit, another necessary Flagstaff trait. I'm impressed with how you have banded together in recent weeks through social media, for example, to lift each other up in the face of adversity. Even during this time of social distancing and physical isolation, there is an undeniable spirit of working together for one common goal – to help keep everyone safe and healthy.

At Flagstaff County, we share that goal. The health and well-being of our staff and citizens is of the utmost importance. And while our office and shop remain closed to the public to help stop the spread of the virus, Flagstaff County continues to operate in this new normal. As we maintain physical distancing and the majority of our staff work from home offices, we are finding new ways to stay connected. We are excited to now be live streaming our Council meetings. Our

first-ever virtual Council meeting has been archived on our website and is available for viewing at any time.



Reeve Don Kroetch

At that Council meeting, we approved a Utility Payment Deferral Program. This is available on request to customers experiencing financial hardship and will be available to all property types for the period of March 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Deferred outstanding amounts are to be paid back over a six-month period with no penalty applied to the deferral balance.

On our website, you will also find our COVID-19 information page with links to the latest updates from the provincial and federal governments, and numerous other resources. If you're tired of being inundated with bad news, check out our Page of Positivity and be sure to share the stories of hope and happiness happening in your community. We also encourage local business owners to use our online Small Business Hub to share information with their valued customers and please, don't hesitate to contact our Economic Development team for further help in these extraordinary times.

In closing, I would just like to say, stay resilient, Flagstaff. Stay safe. And stay home. We will all pull through this together.

— Reeve Don Kroetch

2020 Road Construction Program

The 2020 Road Construction program will be commencing at the beginning of May. Five projects will be completed this year, in the following order:

- C-E-2020: Twp Rd 402, east of Secondary Hwy 872 for 1 mile
- C-C-2020: Rge Rd 114, north of Twp Rd 434 for 0.5 miles

- C-D-2020: Rge Rd 124, north of Twp Rd 414 for 2 miles
- C-B-2020: Rge Rd 124, north of Twp Rd 454 for 2 miles
- C-A-2020: Rge Rd 124, north of the Sedgewick Lake Campground for approximately 1 mile

During construction, these roads will be temporarily closed except to local traffic.

Note: Projects E-2020 and C-2020 will be constructed simultaneously.



2020 Road Recovery Program

The 2020 Road Recovery program starts in May. Crews will be working on four projects this year, including:

Shoulder Pulling Projects:

- NNW 23-45-16 Twp Rd 454, east for 0.5 miles (Local)
- ENE 24-46-16 Rge Rd 160, south for 10.0 miles (Collector)

Sub-Grade Prep. Projects:

- ENE 12-45-15 Rge Rd 150, south for 4.5 miles (Collector)
- ENE 20-45-12 Rge Rd 124, south for 6.5 miles (Arterial)

During the road recovery process, these roads will be temporarily closed except to local traffic.

New 2020 Dust Suppressant Program

In 2020, the use of MG 30 as a dust suppressant product on Arterial Routes has been discontinued. Residents who live on Arterial Routes have the option for MG 30 to be applied in front of their residences for 200 metres, free of charge, during the spring dust suppressant application.

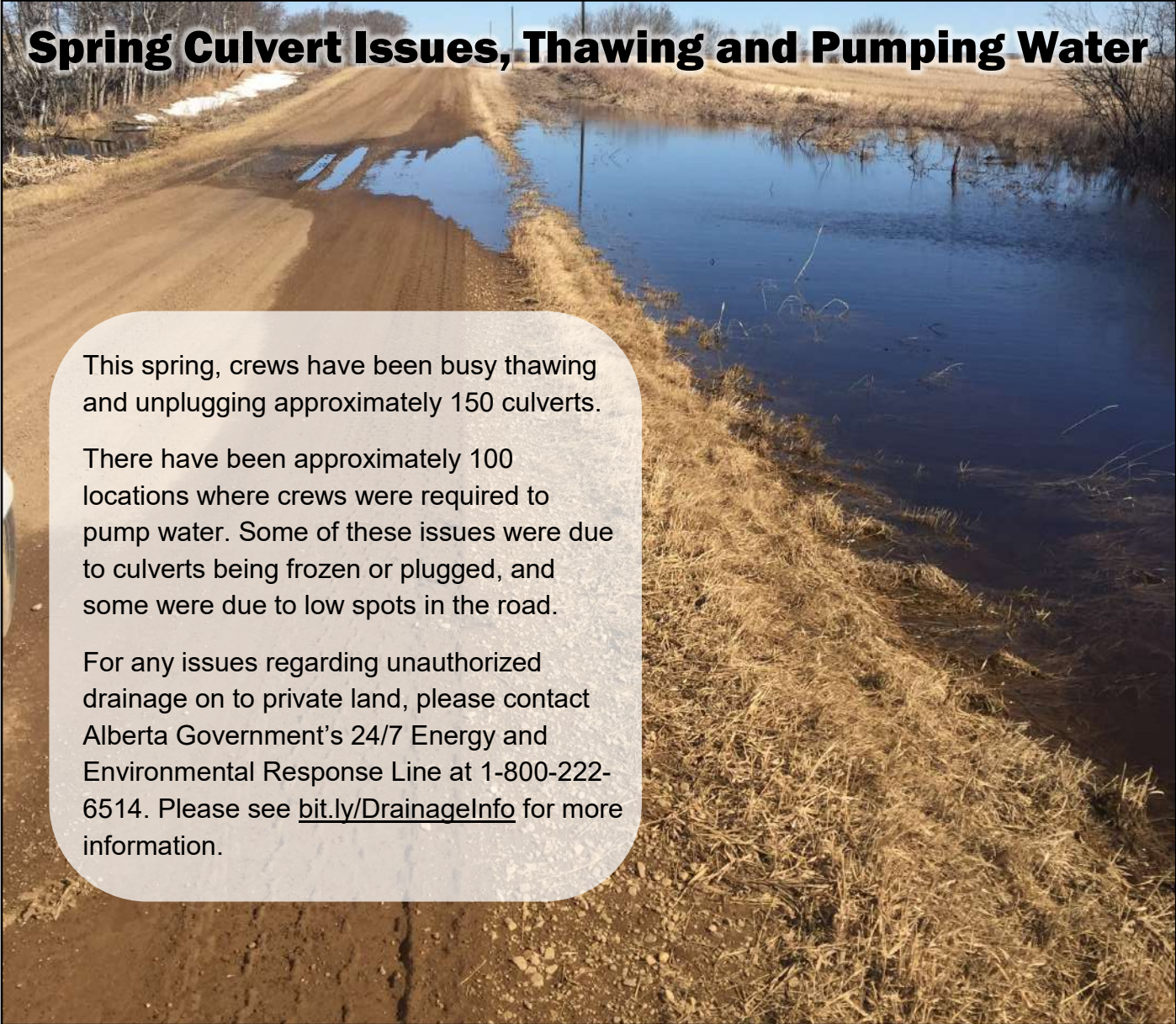
As well, strategic locations will be treated with MG 30 to help reduce the frequency of maintenance; these locations include hills and at intersections.

MG 30 will again be offered as cost-shared dust suppressant through the residential dust suppressant program in 2020.

Spring dust suppressant application forms will be on the Flagstaff County website and in the Community Press, and will need to be submitted to Public Works by June 1st, 2020.

Please contact Public Works at 780-384-4115 with any questions regarding the residential dust suppressant service.

Spring Culvert Issues, Thawing and Pumping Water



This spring, crews have been busy thawing and unplugging approximately 150 culverts.

There have been approximately 100 locations where crews were required to pump water. Some of these issues were due to culverts being frozen or plugged, and some were due to low spots in the road.

For any issues regarding unauthorized drainage on to private land, please contact Alberta Government's 24/7 Energy and Environmental Response Line at 1-800-222-6514. Please see bit.ly/DrainageInfo for more information.

Galahad Water Treatment Plant Upgraded

The upgrades to the Galahad water treatment plant have been completed. Disruption to water service was minimal during the project. Water was shut off February 4 for less than two hours to allow for the installation of new parts. All work was funded by provincial grants.



Before



After



Signs throughout Flagstaff County Fixed and Replaced

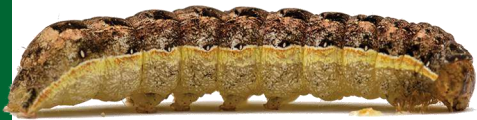
To manage risk, all regulatory and non-regulatory signs, including address signs, are inspected annually. Any sign that is reported by the public that is damaged, vandalized, faded or broken is entered into the Service Request Manager program. Vandalism includes bullet holes and other damage that appears intentional, as well as damage of uncertain origin. Routine maintenance includes miscellaneous repairs such as fixing broken hardware, bent posts, or loose bolts.

2019

- Faded – 692
- Routine maintenance – 139
- Vandalism – 117
- New installation – 92

Insect Report: What's Bugging Flagstaff

The results from the Alberta Ag and Forestry's latest Insect Survey are in for Flagstaff County. The provincial bug counters have provided the following summary.



Bertha Armyworm

There were 7 bertha armyworm monitoring sites in Flagstaff County. Three of the traps were above the 300 moth threshold (and one was very close). What does this mean for 2020? The population could

**Alberta Insect Pest
Monitoring Network**

go either way but likely the threat level will be minimal this year. Monitoring will need to continue to watch for a possible outbreak.



Wheat Midge

Wheat midge were found in 4 of 5 fields and two had high levels. A parasitoid was discovered in one of the samples. Producers and agronomists should monitor their fields in 2020 as the

wheat heads out, especially if seeding is late and/or wet conditions prevail.



Pea Leaf Weevil

Pea leaf weevil damage was low in the five fields looked at in the survey conducted in late May to early June. Two fields in the Flagstaff Region were surveyed for the flower midge in canola. The new midge larvae were found in one of the fields at fairly high levels but still below the level of concern.

Any questions? Email Shelley at shelley.barkley@gov.ab.ca.

Make Arrangements to Pick Up Strychnine

It's likely the last thing on your mind right now. But when infestations of Richardson's Ground Squirrels are wreaking havoc on crops and farmland in a few months, eradicating the irksome varmints will be top of mind. By then, however, it could be too late.

Flagstaff County is once again selling 2% Liquid Strychnine Concentrate. The best time to start using Strychnine is immediately after the female "gophers" come out of hibernation. For optimal results, it is widely recommended that Strychnine be used between early April and early May.

All qualifying producers are invited to contact the Flagstaff County Office to place your order. Please be forewarned that there are strict

guidelines in place regulating the purchase and use of this product. Prior to purchase, the producer will be required to sign an "Acknowledgement of Purchase & Use of Product" form. This form is available online at: <https://bit.ly/StrychnineForm>. Qualifying producers are restricted to a limit of three cases per visit.

2020 prices for Strychnine are as follows:

- 6 bottles – \$65
- 1/2 case (12 bottles) – \$130
- 1 case (24 bottles) – \$260



For more information or to place an order, call 780-384-4100.



Roadside Brush and Weed Control

The Flagstaff County Agricultural Service Department will soon begin applying herbicides to municipal right-of-ways to control noxious weeds and brush. Please note that spraying does not occur 500 feet before and after a residence.

Residents who do not wish to have herbicides applied to roadside right-of-ways adjacent to their property this year must sign a “No Spray” Agreement and put up new signs prior to June 1. New “No Spray” signs are available for

pickup at the Flagstaff County office. Agreement forms are available at the Flagstaff County office or at www.flagstaff.ab.ca. “No Spray” Agreements transfer the responsibility for roadside weed and brush control from Flagstaff County to the landowner. “No Spray” Agreements are valid for 5 years.

For more information on the Roadside Brush/Weed Control Program, contact a member of the Agriculture Service Department at 780-384-4100.



Haying along Right-of-Ways

Flagstaff County has implemented a permit system for all landowners wanting to hay municipal ditches.

All roads are intended to be mowed twice a year commencing June 1. The purpose of the permit system is to minimize conflict between the municipality and landowners who want to cut and bale hay along the municipal ditches.

Landowners must apply for a Roadside Haying

Permit from Flagstaff County prior to May 15th of each year. All landowners permitted to hay municipal right-of-ways must have their haying completed before July 15th of each year. Permits are available at the Flagstaff County Office or online at www.flagstaff.ab.ca.

Completed permits may be submitted to: Flagstaff County, Box 358, Sedgewick, AB T0B 4C0 or faxed to 780-384-3635. For more information, call 780-384-4100.

Flagstaff Region Economic Development COVID-19 Response

Flagstaff County's Economic Development Department continues to execute programs and services for our community and businesses throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. The potential trends and impacts on our community put the future sustainability and resiliency of the Flagstaff Region at risk. In order to help mitigate some of the potential impacts in the immediate term, we are focusing on 4 business supports for our region:

1. General Information/Concierge of Programs to the Government of Alberta and Government of Canada.
2. Business Consulting/Coaching – Free access to professionals' advice and consulting (HR consultants, marketing consultants, legal support, accounting support, management consultants)
3. Business Enhancement Support – Financial support up to \$5,000 (20% matching) for anything that enhances your business (non-repayable money)
4. Skill Enhancement Support – Financial support up to \$5,000 per business (0% matching, \$1,500 per individual) for enhancing skills within your workforce (non-repayable money)

If you are interested in any of the above programs, please contact Jenalee Waring, Flagstaff County Economic Development Officer at 780-384-4152 or jwaring@flagstaff.ab.ca.

6 Reasons to Shop Local in 2020

Shop local. Support locally sourced products and services. Support small businesses. These are a few mantras you've no doubt heard many times over the last few years, as a push to move away from the sterile and impersonal environments of big-box chains and department stores has swept through North America. But, while there is an increased willingness on the part of consumers to throw some extra coin at small businesses, others may see this push



as nothing but a fad or trend. After all, are the benefits of shopping local that well known? As we enter this new decade, we at Flagstaff

Crafted wanted to share a few reasons why supporting local is beneficial for everyone and how small businesses change the community for the better. It is, after all, what we do.

Read the complete story in [The Community Press](#) or visit flagstaffcrafted.ca/stories.



Featuring Amanda Wagner,
founder of The Complement,
and Liz Pittman, a Digital
Communications Specialist

CREATING AN UNFORGETTABLE CUSTOMER EXPERIENCE ONLINE:

3-PART WEBINAR SERIES

Sign up for this FREE,
3-Part Webinar Series
today!



Flagstaff Crafted is creating new online experiences for its community members through a 3-part webinar series. The free series provides support and expertise, keeping our mission to create strong connections, encourage exposure, and keep the Flagstaff community thriving beyond our geographic borders.

Part 1, featuring Liz Pittman, a digital communications specialist, was held April 22.

Parts 2 and 3 are coming up in May with Amanda Wagner, founder of The Complement.

You will learn about:

**PART 2 with Amanda Wagner — May 6th
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

- Offering value to your customers beyond price
- Using features and benefits to captivate customers

**PART 3 with Amanda Wagner — May 20th
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.**

- Creating meaningful bundles of merchandise (i.e. subscription boxes)
- Being a part of a resource swap

To register, visit [flagstaffcrafted.ca](https://www.flagstaffcrafted.ca) and click on the Events tab. Once registered, you will receive an email reminder two days prior to each event that includes the link to the webinar. Come ready to learn, be inspired and have fun. All registrants will receive a recording of the webinar.

Follow Flagstaff Crafted on Instagram <https://www.instagram.com/flagstaffcrafted/> or check out the Flagstaff Crafted website <https://flagstaffcrafted.ca/> to stay in the know.



Resources & Supports for Your Business to Succeed



Recognizing the importance of supporting local business, BREOC has developed a variety of services to support local businesses.

BREOC
Battle River Economic
Opportunities Committee

Some of the support programs for local businesses include:

The Business Success program

A unique, no-cost program for businesses to access specialists business consultants to help you through this time. We have a team that includes marketers/promotions, accountants, lawyers, human resource professionals and more to assist your business.

The Business Enhancement Support

This program focuses on businesses whom self-identify a need/opportunity that requires support to enhance a business's ability to carry out projects to be successful and competitive.

COVID-19 Resource Guide

We have researched and put together a complete list of COVID-19 resources available for business owners, please visit the Battle River Innovation Centre website for more:

www.brinnovationcentre.ca

Skills Enhancement Support

This program provides supports to allow businesses to invest in their current staff, in order to build capacity within their business as well as their community.

To learn more about these and other services contact us!

587-854-3233 / 587-844-2112

(Direct Local Toll-Free)

E-mail: projectmanager@breoc.com

www.breoc.com

BREOC wishes to recognize support from:





Nominate a Frontline Hero

It's time to show frontline employees in the Flagstaff Region some love. Nominate a frontline worker who you think deserves a shoutout during this unprecedented time. Flagstaff County will celebrate their story and spread the word. The contest launched online on Friday, May 1st.

We will randomly select a winner each week for five weeks to receive a \$50 gift certificate to a small business in the Flagstaff Region as a token of appreciation for the great work they are doing. The random nominee will be chosen every Thursday and announced on the

Flagstaff County Facebook page that Friday during the 5-week contest.

Special Thanks

The Flagstaff Economic Development team would like to thank our communities and our small businesses for their extraordinary strength and resiliency during this time of challenges and transitions. Together we will get through this and pave a new future forward. Please reach out to our team as we are here to help you connect and conquer this new reality.

A Reminder from Flagstaff Waste

Flagstaff Waste would like to remind residents to please use the community compost and recycling bins as they are intended. A small minority of residents have not been doing so, resulting in entire bins having to be disposed of in the landfill — which defeats the purpose of the composting and recycling programs.

Current global markets dictate that recycling streams must contain little to no commingling. Some recycling companies will refuse



Garbage is seen in a compost bin in this recent photo.

shipments if they are contaminated with other products, and some may even charge penalties for contamination. Due to the nature of their business, Flagstaff Waste does not have the manpower to sort the volume of materials that they deal with.

Each bin is clearly marked with information on what is accepted. For further information, visit: www.flagwaste.ca, email office@flagwaste.ca or call Flagstaff Waste at 780-384-3950.

2020 Tax & Assessment Notices

Tax & Assessment Notices for 2020 will be mailed to Flagstaff County and Hamlets of Strome and Galahad property owners on June 1, 2020.

If you have not received your notice by June 15, 2020, please contact our office at 780-384-4100.

If you require a receipt to be sent to you, please indicate on the bottom of the notice when you return your payment.

Utility Payment Deferrals

Please note that County Council has approved a Utility Payment Deferral Program.

This is available on request to customers experiencing financial hardship and will be available to all property types for the period of March 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020.

Deferred outstanding amounts are to be paid back over a six-month period with no penalty applied to the deferral balance.

ICFs Completed with Neighbouring Municipalities

As mandated by the Municipal Government Act, all municipalities that have common boundaries must create an Intermunicipal Collaboration Framework (ICF) with each other. ICFs were to be in place by April 1, 2020.

An ICF is a tool to facilitate cooperation between neighbouring municipalities in order to ensure municipal services are provided to residents efficiently. A framework must describe the services to be provided under it that benefit residents in more than one of the municipalities that are parties to the framework. In developing the content of the framework, the municipalities must identify which municipality is responsible for providing which services and outline how the services will be delivered and funded.

Frameworks are intended to:

- provide for integrated and strategic planning, delivery and funding of intermunicipal services
- allocate scarce resources efficiently in the provision of local services
- ensure municipalities contribute funding to services that benefit their residents

Every framework must contain provisions establishing a process for resolving disputes that occur while the framework is in effect.

Flagstaff County has completed 14 ICFs with all of the following neighbouring rural and urban municipalities listed below:

- Alliance
- Daysland
- Hardisty
- Heisler
- Forestburg
- Killam
- Lougheed
- Sedgewick
- Camrose County
- Beaver County
- Stettler County
- County of Paintearth
- M.D. of Provost
- M.D. of Wainwright

Do I require a Development Permit?

While there are a few exceptions, most projects require approval. For example, shelterbelts and dugouts require a development permit. A list of developments not

requiring a development permit can be found in the Land Use Bylaw (Section 3.5).

Please contact our office regarding setback and permit

regulations, or if you have any questions regarding your proposed development. It is always a good idea to contact us when planning proposed projects.

YES  **Permit required**

- Build or expand a house/major renovation
- Demolition
- Garage or Residential Shop
- Manufactured Home
- Dugout
- Farm Building
- Accessory Building 10m² (108 ft²) and over
- Operation of business, including home business
- Sign

Examples of developments

NO  **Not required**

- Minor renovations/maintenance (paint, shingles, etc.)
- A building under 10m² (108ft²) *
- Fence 2.2m (6.6ft) or under*

*Provided all setbacks and regulations are met.

Still not sure if you need a development permit?

Contact us at county@flagstaff.ab.ca

or at 780-384-4102.

Applying for a Development Permit

How do I apply?

To apply, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form
- A site plan
- Building plans
- Application fee

Please be aware that additional information may be required at the discretion of the Development Officer.

How long will it take to be approved?

The Development Officer has 40 days to make a decision on a permit application.

Typically, however, a permit for a permitted use is issued within one week.

A permit for a discretionary use can take a full month due to the extra processing requirements.

Development Permit applications may be found on our website at: <https://www.flagstaff.ab.ca/county-services/planning-development>.

2019 Fire Calls

In 2019, firefighters from the 10 fire departments in the region responded to a combined 98 calls within Flagstaff County. Included in that total are 15 structure fires, 31 vehicle collisions, 16 vehicle fires and seven wildland fires. Here is the 2019 breakdown.



2019 Fire Department Responses for Departments Within Flagstaff County

	Wildland Fires	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Vehicle Collisions	Medical Assist	Alarms Ringing	False Alarm	Other	Total calls 2019 (2018)
Alliance	1	1	1	1	5	0	0	0	9 (7)
Daysland	1	2	2	5	1	2	0	1	14 (12)
Forestburg	1	3	2	3	1	2	0	0	12 (7)
Galahad	1	4	1	3	0	0	0	0	9 (5)
Hardisty	0	0	3	8	1	2	1	0	15 (17)
Heisler	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	4 (3)
Killam	1	3	2	1	0	5	0	0	12 (16)
Lougheed	2	0	1	3	0	2	0	0	8 (4)
Sedgewick	0	1	1	3	0	0	2	0	7 (12)
Strome	0	1	2	1	1	3	0	0	8 (8)
Totals	7	15	16	31	9	16	3	1	98 (91)

2019 Flagstaff Rescue Responses Within Flagstaff County

	Wildland Fires	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Vehicle Collisions	Medical Assist	Alarms Ringing	False Alarm	Other	Total calls 2019 (2018)
Totals	0	2	0	15	3	0	1	1	22 (20)

2019 Flagstaff Tender Responses Within Flagstaff County

	Wildland Fires	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Vehicle Collisions	Medical Assist	Alarms Ringing	False Alarm	Other	Total calls 2019 (2018)
Totals	1	4	2	1	0	0	1	0	9 (11)

2019 Regional Emergency Services Coordinator Responses Within Flagstaff County

	Wildland Fires	Structure Fires	Vehicle Fires	Vehicle Collisions	Medical Assist	Alarms Ringing	False Alarm	Other	Fire Investigations	Total calls 2019 (2018)
Totals	6	6	7	14	11	17	1	7	21	90 (76)