

Media Release

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF VERNON 3400 – 30 Street Vernon, BC V1T 5E6

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE DATE: February 18, 2021 MEDIA CONTACT: Christy Poirier, Manager, Communications & Grants TELEPHONE: 250-550-3539

Bench Road closed due to poor driving conditions from winter storm

The City of Vernon and Vernon Fire Rescue Services (VFRS) are advising the public to avoid travel, if possible, due to poor winter driving conditions.

Roads across Vernon and on area highways are reported to be very slippery and emergency responders have been called to multiple motor vehicle incidents this afternoon (Thursday).

City crews have closed Bench Road (between Okanagan Landing Road and Bench Row Road) following a motor vehicle incident where a truck went over the embankment. All occupants of the vehicle were able to get out safely and were assessed by BC Ambulance Service. No one was taken to hospital.

Bench Road will remain closed for the night.

"Winter is still here, and here in full force," said Deputy Fire Chief Dwight Seymour. "If you must travel this evening, please remember to slow down, leave extra space between yourself and other vehicles, and allow additional travel time to reach your destination. Please drive to conditions and if you do come across an emergency scene, slow down and give responders extra room to work."

The City's full fleet of snow clearing and sanding equipment has been deployed and is attending all parts of the City on a priority basis.

For more information on the City's snow clearing priorities and practices, please visit the <u>City's</u> <u>website</u>.

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