

January 2, 2019

EOC Update: Emergency Preparedness | What You Need to Know

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is constantly working to improve emergency preparedness processes and plans to respond to future emergencies. Due to high groundwater throughout the RDOS, there remains an imminent risk of flooding from rainfall events. Residents living in areas impacted by flooding in recent years should have a preparedness plan in place.

“Groundwater levels are currently higher than normal due to wet conditions experienced in 2017 and 2018, creating an increased potential for flooding during freshet in 2019.”

Ecora – Professional Engineers and Environmental Consulting / Dobson Engineering Ltd.

Prepare Now

- ➔ Protect Your Property
- ➔ Prepare to LEAVE Immediately in the event of an Emergency
- ➔ Prepare a Grab and Go Kit including Important Documents, Medications & Eyeglasses
- ➔ If an Evacuation Order is issued – you will be notified door-to-door by Search and Rescue or RCMP
- ➔ Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be available
- ➔ An ESS Reception Centre will be activated

What is the responsibility of property owners in flood preparation and response?

Property owners need to be prepared for the high risk of flooding. This includes taking steps to protect your property.

What is the role of the RDOS in flood preparation and response?

The RDOS provides sand and sandbags including information about sandbag placement. However, the RDOS does not have jurisdiction over roads, roadside ditches, streams or water bodies. Work in and around these areas must be directed by, or undertaken by, the relevant provincial ministries. During a flooding emergency, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) will assist with funding for response works such as tiger dams and sandbags.

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) is responsible for maintaining and upgrading public roadways. General enquiries: 1-800-663-7867 | 250-387-3198

Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) is responsible for the stewardship of provincial Crown land and natural resources, and for the protection of B.C.'s archaeological and heritage resources. General enquiries: 1-800-663-7867 | 250-558-1700

Working In or Around Water

If you plan to work in or around water, you must take care to minimize the potential risk to aquatic ecosystems and limit water pollution. Before starting any work in or around water, please contact **FrontCounter BC**. General enquiries: 1-877-855-3222

Recovery Team

The RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) has established a flood and wildfire recovery team to continue working through the challenges faced by people impacted by the 2018 spring freshet, as well as the 2018 wildfires. The RDOS EOC is actively working to support impacted individuals, as well as neighbourhoods and communities.

RDOS emergency services manager Sean Vaisler and RDOS community services general manager Mark Woods are working with the recovery team to assist residents in need, in addition to overseeing emergency response plans for 2019. The recovery team includes recovery manager Jon Wilson, ESS recovery coordinator Patty Otteson, and recovery information officer Erick Thompson.

If you require further information, please contact the RDOS main line: 250-492-0237

Thank you,
RDOS EOC Information Section

For media enquiries please email: infoofficer@rdos.bc.ca

RDOS EOC – Emergency Preparedness and Recovery Information

<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/news-events/eoc/active-eoc-information/>

Province of BC - Flood and Wildfire Recovery Programs

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/recovery-programs>