



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

April 21, 2020

Regional Update | COVID-19 | Open Burning | Emergency Preparedness

COVID-19 Measures Remain in Place

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is reminding residents to follow provincial directives and avoid all non-essential travel to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. Health Minister Adrian Dix is asking residents to continue to maintain safe physical distancing precautions and follow good hand hygiene.

While Provincial parks remain closed until further notice, RDOS parks and trails owned by the province that are operated by the RDOS are currently open. This includes sections of the KVR Trail operated by the RDOS. Playground equipment and park washrooms remain closed. Landfills remain open but customers are asked to use curbside collection for garbage, recycling and yard waste. Payments are being accepted by credit or debit only. Cash will not be accepted. For the safety of staff and the public, please avoid visiting the landfill at this time.

Please click the link to view the RDOS COVID-19 Information Fact Sheet:

http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/NewAndEvents/HotTopics/2020/20200328_RDOS_COVID19_Info_Fact_Sheet.pdf

Open Burning Restrictions Continued

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy in collaboration with provincial public health partners has issued open burning restrictions for all High Smoke Sensitivity Zones across the province, including the RDOS until Monday, June 15, 2020. Pursuant to the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation, no new fires may be initiated and no additional material may be added to existing fires. These restrictions do not apply to campfires (any fire smaller than 0.5 metres high by 0.5 metres wide). All campfires must be kept under control and properly extinguished.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions/ofr_poster_-_email_distribution_72dpi_no_bleeds.pdf

These restrictions are directly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and the effect pollutants have on viral respiratory infections, and will also reduce demands on firefighting resources.

Please note, campfire bans are in place in some neighbouring fire service areas:

<https://www.regionaldistrict.com/your-services/fire-protection.aspx>

Please visit the BC Wildfire Service website for information about fire bans and restrictions:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-bans-and-restrictions>

Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Spring freshet typically occurs in May and it is important for property owners to prepare now by understanding the risks in advance. In British Columbia, property owners are responsible for taking the necessary steps on their property to protect their home and property from flooding, while government emergency programs focus on broader flood response measures.



Serving the citizens of the Okanagan-Similkameen since 1966.

www.rdos.bc.ca

Please visit the RDOS Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) website for information updates and resource links including sand and sandbagging locations, as well as flood and wildfire preparedness tips: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/>

Sandbagging Information and COVID-19 Precautions:

http://www.rdosmaps.bc.ca/min_bylaws/NewAndEvents/Press_Releases/2020/20200403_1630_EOC_Sandbagging_COVID19_Info_Release.pdf

Emergency Preparedness Week – May 3-9, 2020

Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) takes place each year during the first full week of May. EP Week is an opportunity to encourage Canadians to take concrete actions to be better prepared to protect themselves and their families during emergencies.

Emergencies happen. Depending on their severity, your household could be on its own for several days while officials help those who need it most.

Coping with the stress of being out of your home during an Evacuation Order is easier if you have a plan.

- **Prepare** and practice your family and business emergency plan
- **Prepare** a 72-hour emergency kit for your family and vehicle

PreparedBC

Please visit the link below for tips on how to get prepared for an emergency:

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

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For further information, please call 250-492-0237 or email info@rdos.bc.ca.



Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

CivicReady® Mass Notification System – sign up for routine and emergency notifications: <https://emergency.rdos.bc.ca/civic-ready/>