

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)



INFORMATION RELEASE

Friday, May 15, 2020

EOC Update: Potential for High Water Flows in Keremeos and Surrounding Areas

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is advising residents to be prepared for high water flows in the Village of Keremeos and surrounding rural areas. Both the Similkameen River and Keremeos Creek have the potential to rise significantly in the coming days. Low-lying land and areas near rivers, creeks and drainages could see rising groundwater.

To protect their wastewater treatment plant, the Village of Keremeos has stated effective immediately, residents must take all possible measures to reduce household wastewater drainage. This guidance also includes septic systems that have the potential to stop working if flooded.

Here are some suggested measures:

- flush toilets only when necessary
- take brief showers instead of baths if possible, and don't leave water running when not needed
- when washing dishes by hand, don't leave the tap running
- only run dishwashers on quick cycles when full
- run washers on low water settings where possible
- water gardens by hand
- if you experience crawlspace flooding, pump into storm sewer if possible

It is expected that groundwater will rise for the next few days then start to recede within the next week or two. Residents should check basements and crawl spaces periodically and ensure materials are stored off the floor if possible.

Currently sandbag locations are located in Keremeos at 1st Ave. and Hwy 3A, and in Olalla on Main Street at the intersections of 1st St. and 5th St. Please prepare for localized flooding in Olalla over the coming days.

In British Columbia, property owners are responsible for taking the necessary steps to protect their property from flooding, while government emergency programs focus on broader flood response measures. The RDOS has developed a COVID-19 sandbagging procedure video, linked below, to help residents prepare for the freshet while maintaining physical distancing.

Please see links below for sandbagging safety procedures.

Follow RDOS on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [YouTube](#)
For more information, please visit <http://emergency.rdos.bc.ca> or call 250-490-4225
Issued by Director of RDOS EOC

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The Province of BC has created a “Flood Preparedness Guide” as a resource for property owners:

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

Please follow provincial directives to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

RDOS EOC Sandbagging and COVID-19 Precautions Video: <https://youtu.be/HgJE-8XDzwU>

RDOS EOC Sandbagging How To Video: <https://youtu.be/thZwVWyXjMQ>

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

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Karla Kozakevich'. The signature is written in black ink on a white background.

Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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