

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)



INFORMATION RELEASE

Friday, May 29, 2020

EOC Update: Safety around Waterways

With consistent hot weather in the forecast, followed by an anticipated cold front and rain toward the end of this weekend, the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is reminding residents and visitors to stay safe around waterways. Please be aware of the potential freshet or spring melt which can result in higher than normal spring runoff. As a result, waterways including rivers, creeks and drainages could become hazardous.

Spring freshet can destabilize soil and rock, causing mudslides, landslides and rock slides which are unpredictable. Please stay alert near or around waterways due to the potential for sudden changes in conditions. As of May 28, 2020 no immediate risks have been identified. The River Forecast Centre has indicated higher than usual water around the Ashnola River and Similkameen River and other small and medium waterways.

Now is an opportunity for property owners in vulnerable areas, on or near floodplains, or those who have experienced spring flooding in the past, to be ready.

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

Monitoring current freshet conditions can help property owners prepare in advance.

Flooding Terms

- **Flood Warning:** River levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers will result.
- **Flood Watch:** River levels are rising and will approach or may exceed bankfull. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.
- **High Streamflow Advisory:** River levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

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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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Freshet Conditions

Current snowpack conditions and water supply: [River Forecast Centre](#)

Provincial advisories and flood information: [EmergencyInfoBC](#) | Twitter: [@EmergencyInfoBC](#)

PreparedBC Twitter: [@PreparedBC](#)

Current RDOS sand and sandbag locations:

<http://rdos.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=576e8ee9797f41a7878b4e5258c64d5e>

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

Please see links below for sandbagging safety procedures.

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

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

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

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-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/floods>

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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

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