

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (EOC)



INFORMATION RELEASE

June 19, 2020 3:30 pm

EOC Update: High Lake Level Advisory

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (RDOS EOC) is advising residents to take steps to protect their properties. This advisory is for properties impacted by flooding in 2018 including those located adjacent to Okanagan Lake, Skaha Lake and Vaseux Lake. Okanagan Lake has exceeded full pool and is vulnerable to significant rainfall that could impact shorelines, docks and beaches. Property owners should be aware of active weather changes including wind and rain events that could initiate a further rise in lake levels.

Okanagan Lake is expected to remain higher than normal well into the summer due to delayed snowmelt at higher elevations. The Okanagan River system connecting Okanagan Lake, Skaha Lake and Vaseux Lake is also expected to maintain higher than normal flows until conditions change.

Property owners are reminded to:

- Secure motorized and non-motorized watercraft
- Remove any furniture near shorelines that could be impacted
- Secure docks with sandbags or water barrels to prevent damage from waves
- Monitor septic fields close to waterways
- Riverbanks are subject to rapid erosion, especially when water levels and flows are high.
- For your safety, please exercise extreme caution around fast-moving water and riverbanks.

Operators of motorized watercraft are reminded to reduce speed near docks, beaches, and critical infrastructure to prevent erosion of property.

Please visit the RDOS EOC website for information updates, resource links and preparedness tips. You can also find updated sand and sandbagging locations and information about how you can prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In British Columbia, property owners are responsible for taking the necessary steps to assess and protect their property. Monitoring current lake levels can help property owners prepare in advance. In addition, this is also the time to make plans to safely evacuate pets or livestock from your property. Having plans in place in the event of any emergency is extremely beneficial. Pre-planning to ensure the needs of all family members is key.

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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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Definitions You Should Know:

- **Flood Warning:** River levels have exceeded bankfull or will exceed bankfull imminently. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers is expected.
- **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. No major flooding is expected. Minor flooding in low-lying areas is possible.

Bankfull: The water level, or stage, at which a stream, river or lake is at the top of its banks and any further rise would result in water moving into the floodplain.

Follow the RDOS EOC on Social Media:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen/>

Twitter: [@EmergMgtRDOS](https://twitter.com/EmergMgtRDOS)

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karla Kozakevich".

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/>

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