



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

May 8, 2018 6:00pm

Flood Warning For All Low Lying Properties Along the Similkameen River

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) together with the Town of Princeton, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Village of Keremeos and Lower Similkameen Indian Band, are warning properties owners along the Similkameen River that due to the expected increased flow over the next few days access to properties (roads and/or highways) may be compromised or become impassable.

BC River Forecast Centre, Environment Canada and the Emergency Management BC are predicting increasing water flows over the next several days with potential of high flows of the Similkameen River and nearby creeks for the next 10 days due to spring snow melt. All agencies are actively assessing the situations and should conditions deteriorate, each local government will put Evacuation Alerts in place for their affected residents.

Information on how residents should prepare themselves is listed below. If the situation deteriorates, strategic Evacuation Orders may be implemented. All affected residents will be given as much advance notice as possible prior to road closures or evacuation orders. However, situations may dictate that residents may receive limited notice due to changing conditions. It is important to be proactive, assess your property for potential flooding or damage, and make mitigation efforts. Sand and sandbags are available throughout the region: <https://goo.gl/c&uQSc>

WHAT YOU SHOULD DO WHEN A PRECAUTIONARY ALERT OR EVACUATION ALERT IS IN EFFECT

Upon notification of an EVACUATION ALERT, residents should be prepared for immediate evacuation by:

- Locating all family members or co-workers and designate a meeting place outside the evacuation area, should an evacuation be called while separated;
- Gathering essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), cell phone charges and immediate care needs for dependents and, if chosen, keepsakes (photographs, etc.). Have these items readily available for quick departure;
- Preparing to move any disabled persons and/or children;
- Moving pets and livestock to a safe area;
- Arranging to transport household members or co-workers in the event of an evacuation order. Affected residents needing transportation assistance from the area can call the RDOS Emergency Operations Centre at 250-490-4225;
- Arranging accommodation for family members if possible. In the event of an evacuation, Reception Centres will be opened if required. Contact 250-490-4225 for information;
- Monitoring news sources for information on evacuation orders and locations of Reception Centres.

For more information visit the RDOS website www.rdos.bc.ca

**Issued by RDOS Director of Emergency Operations on behalf of: Town of Princeton, Upper Similkameen Indian Band, Village of Keremeos and Lower Similkameen Indian Band
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