

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

Information Release

May 14, 2018 2:15 pm

EOC Update: Hedley & Similkameen River Area Residents Prepare for Evacuation Orders

This is an important advisory for residents in the Hedley and Similkameen River Area that are currently under Evacuation Alert. It's recommended that residents with limited mobility or health needs in this Evacuation Alert area **self-evacuate immediately**. At this time, within the Evacuation Alert only those with health and mobility issues will be eligible for food and lodging assistance. Please call the Emergency Support Services Info Line to determine coverage.

Residents within the Evacuation Alert eligible for support through ESS right now:

- Health concerns or medical needs (ensure all medications and health needs are packed)
- Residents with regular health appointments in Penticton or Princeton, please bring your important medications and emergency preparedness kit, in the event an evacuation order is issued while you are away from home and cannot return.
- Mobility issues

Emergency Support Services Reception Centre is located at the **Penticton Community Centre - 325 Power St.** Penticton. Please see the list on the next page of this release for important Evacuation Alert preparation. **All self-evacuated or evacuated persons** are asked to register in person, or by phone to Emergency Support Services Info Line at 250-328-2702 (starting at 3 pm). Residents can also contact the Emergency Operation Centre at 250-490-4225.

As well, all ranchers, agriculturists, horse owners, and residents with livestock or animals at risk can contact the Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT) to start moving these animals out of Evacuation Alert areas. **For livestock or animal** concerns, please contact ALERT at 250-809-7152.

The BC River Forecast Centre is predicting the Similkameen River to rise over the next few days. The RDOS recommends residents in Hedley and along the Similkameen River area, that are currently under Evacuation Alert - prepare for an Evacuation Order in the next few days.

Due to flooding concerns, Highway 3 will likely be closed in multiple locations and it is important that residents prepare now for a potential Evacuation Order. Closure of Highway 3 will potentially strand residents, and people with health issues, pets or livestock need to prepare to self-evacuate. Nickel Plate Road, from Hedley to Apex Mountain, is washed out and currently impassible.

If you require assistance or for more information, please contact RDOS EOC 250-490-4225.

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Issued by RDOS Director of Emergency Operations

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 possible, 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

