



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

May 24, 2018 4:30 pm

Danger Posed by Wind and Rain Events during Spring Flooding

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is reminding residents about the potential danger caused by wind and rain events during and after spring flooding.

Falling Trees

Saturated ground can cause trees to become destabilized. If a strong wind event occurs, some trees, especially on hillsides and at the water's edge could be at risk of falling. Trees and other debris in creeks can block culverts, divert water and cause overland flooding. Homes, properties, businesses and agricultural areas can be damaged and people, pets and livestock can be at risk.

Any dramatic change in creek flow, either accelerated flow with debris or a sudden stoppage of flow, can indicate an escalating situation upstream. It is important that residents who live on or near adjacent streams observe and report any uncharacteristic changes in flows so professionals can be dispatched to assess and mitigate the situation for public safety.

Residents should exercise caution around trees on their property that may have been affected by flooding, and call a tree expert if you have questions or concerns. If there is an immediate risk to lives or property, call 9-1-1. If you observe blocked culverts or bridges that are compromised, please report these to Argo Road Maintenance at 250-493-6969 or 1-800-663-7623.

Keep Sandbags in Place

Property owners are advised to retain sandbags, or leave them in place until the spring flooding event has passed. A large rain event could lead to increased water levels and property owners should monitor their properties. Locations for dropping off full sandbags are being developed across the RDOS.

For images refer to Twitter @EmergMgtRDOS

For video click on the YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/ZT09vpXrxSk>

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

**Issued by Director of RDOS Emergency Operations Centre
RDOS EOC 250-490-4225**

