

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

May 24, 2017 3:30 pm

Emergency Operations Centre Update: Regional Flooding Update

Environment Canada and Provincial authorities caution that current conditions are predicted to exacerbate current localized flooding across the Regional District. Peak flows expected over the next week will continue to raise water levels in lakes, creeks and rivers.

It is vital that property owners in flood prone areas along lake edges, creeks, rivers and currently flooded areas remain vigilant. It is important to be proactive to protect structures and properties from damage. Plan and be prepared to implement safety procedures for your family, pets and livestock

- Do not remove any sandbagging already in place, and consider bolstering current defenses
- Structures that have basements or are close to rising flood water should consider procuring a pumping system; ground water saturation and intrusion into basements and crawlspaces in areas away from flooding have been reported
- If you may be isolated if roads are blocked or made impassable, consider emergency alternatives for lodgings, food supplies and personal products such as medications. It is smart to have a suitcase packed, ready to leave if you are required to evacuate
- Be cautious along trails and recreational areas. Trees may become unstable and fall without warning due to groundwater saturation, soil or bank erosion. Being aware of your surroundings is extended to trails and paths that may be dangerously undercut or unstable including possible sink holes; keep away from the edges of creeks and rivers
- The Regional District is continuing to maintain sand and sand bags locations throughout the region - An updated list of Sand and Sand Bag locations available at: www.rdos.bc.ca
- If, due to current flooding conditions, you feel in immediate danger or under threat, please call the Emergency Operations Centre – 250-492-0237
- Current Evacuation Alert information is available at: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/news-events/eoc/current-eoc/>
- Video and information on flood preparation available at: <http://www.rdos.bc.ca/departments/community-services/emergencyprotective-services/floodingsandbagging/>

CURRENT CONDITIONS:

BOIL WATER ADVISORIES AND NOTICES:

Electoral Area 'E' - Naramata – A boil water advisory is still in effect for all users due to turbidity in Lake Okanagan

Electoral Area 'F' - Sage Mesa – A boil water advisory is still in effect for all users due to turbidity in Lake Okanagan.

AREAS OF CONCERN:

Electoral Area 'A' – (Rural Osoyoos)

Osoyoos Lake - is expected to rise significantly over the next few days. The Town of Osoyoos has issued an information bulletin asking residents to monitor properties and sand bag as a precautionary measure.

Electoral Area 'B' – (Similkameen, Cawston)

Cawston - high flows in minor creek tributaries are contributing to localized flooding issues affecting many properties and farms in the area

Electoral Area 'C' – (Rural Oliver)

Evacuation Alerts are still in effect for properties adjacent to Tin Horn, Hester and Testalinden Creeks. Abnormally high waters are continuing to affect many properties and farms in the area.

Electoral Area 'D' – (East and west side Skaha Lake, Kaleden, Twin Lakes, Okanagan Falls)

Twin Lakes - An Evacuation Alert continues as lake levels threaten residential structures

Electoral Area 'E' (Naramata, Glenfir, Indian Rock)

Naramata - Crews are on-site sandbagging and laying tiger dams to protect infrastructure.

The KVR Trail - Along either side of Chute Lake Rd. the KVR trail bed is compromised and users are cautioned to avoid those areas.

Glenfir Road – Road open. A temporary bridge has been installed. Road repairs will take place once waters recede.

Chute Lake Road – Road closed, barricades will remain in place for the near future.

Electoral Area 'F' (West Bench, Sage Mesa, Faulder, rural Summerland)

Faulder - localized flooding continues along Fish Lake Rd.

Electoral Area 'G'– (Rural Keremeos, Hedly, Olalla and parts of the Similkameen)

Ollala – significant flooding has affected residents along the First St. and creekside properties. Sand and sandbags are being delivered to that community.

Electoral Area 'H' – (Rural Princeton, Similkameen, Tulameen, Osprey Lakes, Missezula)

Flood compromised properties along the Princeton to Summerland Rd. remain under observation for additional flooding related issues.

The Similkameen River flows are predicted to rise over the next few days as temperatures rise and snow melt continues .

For more information, go to: www.rdos.bc.ca, and on Facebook:

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

Emergency Operations Centre: 250-492-0237 or Toll Free at 1-877-610-3737

For after-hours emergencies, please call the **Provincial Emergency Program at 1-800-663-3456.**

Mark Woods, RDOS Emergency Services Supervisor

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