

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

May 27, 2017

Boaters and Tubers Use Caution on Local Lakes and Rivers

Debris and flooding are making it treacherous on local lakes and rivers. Logs and other debris are floating just under the surface. Boat wakes can send water over sandbags and into homes already dealing with flooding. High water is already impacting homes, cabins and docks along Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes. Boats can create a wake that send large waves to shorelines. These waves can crest over sandbags, damage property and flood homes.

The RDOS is asking residents and visitors to limit boat use, especially on Okanagan, Skaha and Osoyoos Lakes, that can create wakes or waves. Boat operators should also watch their speed to avoid floating or hidden debris. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is asking residents and visitors to be mindful when operating boats.

Rivers are faster and more dangerous than usual. Tubing on local rivers is not advised on the Penticton Channel, Okanagan River or Similkameen River for the time being. These rivers are exceptionally high and fast right now. Debris is moving through these systems that could seriously hurt people. The speed and power of the water can be deceptive putting people at risk.

The RDOS is actively helping people deal with flooding. Resources include [free sand and sand bags](#). **If you require sandbags, please call the 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**.

For more information, go to: www.rdos.bc.ca, and
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen/>

Regional District Emergency Operations Centre