



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

March 14th, 2018

Warmer Weather – Be Prepared

The weather is warming up, which raises the potential of flooding. Snow packs are very high right now. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen is working to prepare for the warmer weather...and you should too.

Karla Kozakevich, Chair of the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen states, “The forecast for warmer weather brings the real possibility of creeks and lakes flooding from melting snow. We have been busy preparing for what could happen while improving our resilience. We are encouraging home and property owners to also take action to be prepared.”

The Regional District is stocking up on sandbags, looking at locations that flooded last year and identifying strategic locations where homeowners could collect sand bags if required. The Regional District deployed hundreds of thousands of sand bags last year with the help of homeowners, staff, volunteers, and emergency services.

“If you flooded last year now is the time to act,” said Paul Edmonds, the Emergency Management Program Coordinator. He has already received a number of calls asking what property owners can do if waters rise again.

“We are seeing high ground water levels which in turn may create new areas of run off when the snow melts. Creeks, rivers and lakes are getting full. The snowmelt from the mountains may find new paths to move through and cause problems. If your property was flooded last year, or you think you may be affected this year, then act now.”

The RDOS is actively meeting with Provincial agencies to look for areas prone to flooding. The Province is monitoring local lakes and river systems. Emergency Management BC has organized weekly telephone meetings between Provincial and Local Government groups. This year the Okanagan lake system water level is being reduced early to increase the holding capacity of the lake.

Attached to this release is a simple guide with important information of what to do before, during and after a flood to assist home and property owners.

For more information, please search the Emergency Management section at www.rdos.bc.ca and visit Be Prepared at www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC



Serving the citizens of the Okanagan-Similkameen since 1966.

www.rdos.bc.ca

Karla Kozakevich

Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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