

REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE

April 6, 2018, 5:00 pm

Emergency Operations Centre Update: Managing Spring Flooding

Willowbrook Area

The community of Willowbrook is still under a State of Local Emergency due to flooding and high water.

Dam level reduction via Prather Lake

The Province has ordered a private dam owner above St Andrews Golf course to lower volumes in the dam. The pumping draw down will increase water volumes into Prather Lake (in St Andrews), and downstream into Kearns Creek. A balanced release will allow water to flow in a controlled manner. This reduces the risk of uncontrolled flows later during spring rains and snowmelt. The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is liaising with the owners of the dam, St. Andrews Golf Course, Provincial agencies and professionals as these actions take place.

Kearns Creek dam

Kearns Creek runs downstream to the community of Willowbrook. An earthen dam on Kearns Creek above Willowbrook was near capacity this spring and will continue to be managed to maintain its stability. The risk to this dam has been reduced significantly with pumping already undertaken.

The involvement of the RDOS is to liaise with all agencies responsible for implementing the controlled movement of water through Willowbrook, and ensure the personal safety of residents. Moving water through the system in a controlled way now will help prevent uncontrolled or emergency pumping later this spring after expected spring rains and snowmelt.

Protecting and armouring homes and property

The RDOS has provided locations for sand and sand bags for property owners across the South Okanagan and Similkameen. These are for property owners to set up preventative defenses from water moving onto their property. Property owners should monitor their basements, move all valuables off the floor and prepare for higher water levels as upland snow continues to melt.

Up to date map link to sand and sand bag locations: <https://goo.gl/c8uQSc>

Click on markers on the map for location details.

Tips on Sandbagging: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yj19A01VAgE>

Information for Homeowners from the Insurance Bureau of Canada:

<http://www.ibc.ca/bc/disaster/water>

The Emergency Operations Centre continues will remain open as required. For inquiries, please call the 250-490-4225. For more information, go to: www.rdos.bc.ca, and on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RegionalDistrictOfOkanaganSimilkameen/>

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