

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Emergency Preparedness Week - May 7-13

Over the week, people across Canada are encouraged to consider their personal preparedness and take small steps to increase their resilience.

Emergency Management Oceanside (EMO) will be out in the community offering a chance for you to ask emergency preparedness questions, learn about EMO resources and our volunteer groups and pick up a fillable home emergency plan. Stop by one of the events to enter the draw for a chance to win a [deluxe home emergency kit](#) for two, valued at \$300.



[Schedule of Events](#)

Home Emergency Kits – Food and a Plan!

FOOD

If you've been following along with us each month, your home emergency kit might be looking somewhat sparse. You currently have a big box and at least 72 hours of water supplies. This month we'll add non-perishable food supplies and a household emergency plan.



When it comes to adding food to your home emergency kit there are many options depending on space, budget and dietary preferences. Canned goods are an easy way to add nutritional food into your emergency kit. They are cost-efficient, offer plenty of variety, but take up a considerable amount of space. Some people purchase purpose made emergency ration meals, some of which are self-heating. These are more expensive per meal than canned goods but are easy to pack, store and prepare. Others choose to simply include enough meal replacement ration bars to meet their daily calorific intake needs. These are not the tastiest option for food in an emergency but take up minimal space and require no preparation.

Consider food needs specific to your household. This could mean baby formula or pet food. The good news about emergency food supplies is that they won't need to be changed as often as water. It is wise to check your food stores when you renew your water supplies, but most non-perishable food supplies will last a few years without needing replacement.

Whatever you choose to put in your kit, make sure you have enough for at least three days for every person in your household. Remember to pack the tools needed to prepare and eat your food!

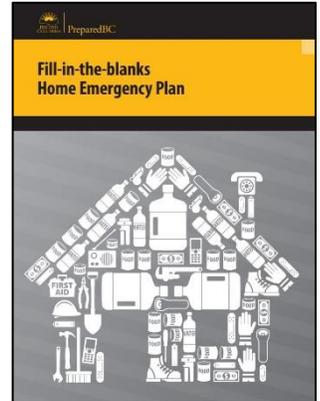
PLAN

Making a home emergency plan doesn't have to be a daunting task. The PreparedBC fillable guide helps you to quickly gather all the information you need to prepare your household for the first few hours after an emergency or disaster.

Communication: How will you get in touch with the members of your household? Sometimes after emergencies or disasters the regular communication methods we use are unavailable. Consider avoiding phone calls, as the lines may be congested due to the emergency response.

Location: Where will you meet if your home is inaccessible? Decide a location close to home and one further away. Even if there's no communication available, you will all know where to meet.

Information: Make a list of all the people you may need to contact. This could be a landlord, insurance, family doctor etc. Record useful information like medication names and care card numbers.

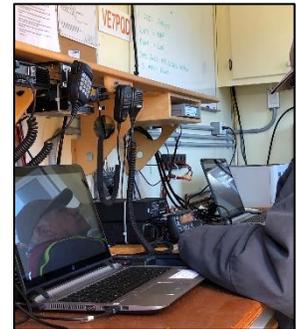


Download Guide

Most importantly, talk about the emergency plan with the people in your household. When everyone is aware of an emergency plan, it is more likely that the plan will succeed!

Coast to Coast Exercise

The Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT) recently led a radio communications exercise called "Coast to Coast". The exercise checks the radio communications capabilities of radio teams across Vancouver Island. Teams check in to a radio net controlled by OECT and the information collected is used to build a picture of emergency communications pathways and options in our area. Over the morning, teams checked in from all over Vancouver Island and even as far away at Whitehorse, Yukon!



Join the team!

If you are interested in joining the Oceanside Emergency Support Services or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team, contact Chris James at oessd@parksville.ca or 250 937-0448. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we will provide the training you will need.

Emergency Notifications with Voyent Alert!

In the event of an emergency, one of the ways Emergency Management Oceanside may notify you is by using alerts sent through Voyent Alert! This system allows community members to register online to receive messages relevant to their community through email, app, text message, or voice call. Registration for Voyent Alert! is free. Go to register.voyent-alert.com to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca or 250 954-4672 with questions about the system or registration process.



GENERAL INFORMATION

Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open to the public with full services. Hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9 am to 4 pm (except statutory holidays). Although the office is open, residents are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the other payment options including payment through your financial institution; mail a cheque; or drop off a cheque at Town Hall drop box (location below). If you do wish to visit Town Hall to conduct business, masks are recommended while in the building.

- Email qbtown@qualicumbeach.com
- Phone 250 752-6921
- Post PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7
- Mail Slot Out front of Town Hall, near the fountain
- Websites qualicumbeach.com
qbfirerescue.com

In accordance with public health orders from the Province of BC, the public is welcome to attend to in-person Council meetings. Council and select staff will attend in person, capacity limits will be monitored, and if required, alternative viewing location(s) will be provided.

City of Parksville

City offices are open to the public from 8 am to 4 pm and the operations department from 8 am to 4 pm, closed noon to 1 pm. Contact information:

General inquiries and finance department	250 248-6144; info@parksville.ca
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; administration@parksville.ca
Operations	250 248-5412; ops@parksville.ca
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; fire@parksville.ca

For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville
kpocock@parksville.ca

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications, City of Parksville
dtardiff@parksville.ca



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