

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Campfire Ban in Effect June 8

Parksville - Qualicum Beach

Effective at noon Thursday, June 8 and until further notice, all open burning, including campfires, beach fires and fireworks, are prohibited within the entire Qualicum Beach Fire Protection area and the Parksville Fire Protection Area to help prevent human-caused wildfires and protect public safety. This ban has been implemented by the fire chiefs of Qualicum Beach Fire and Parksville Fire Rescue in conjunction with BC Wildfire Service.

This ban applies to open fires of any size, campfires, fireworks, sky lanterns, tiki torches and burning barrels. The ban does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes, or to portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating using briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel, that are not capable of producing a flame longer than 15 centimetres. Portable campfire apparatus that do not meet these conditions are prohibited.

The ban does not apply to cooking stoves that use gas, propane or briquettes or to portable campfire apparatus with a CSA or ULC rating using briquettes, liquid or gaseous fuel that are not capable of producing a flame longer than 15 centimetres. Portable campfire apparatus that does not meet these conditions are prohibited.

Beach fires are not permitted at any time in the Parksville Qualicum Wildlife Management Area which includes the entire waterfront area in the Qualicum Beach and Parksville Fire protection areas.

Reporting should be as follows:

Fire emergency (threat to lives and/or property)	911
Beach fires (RAPP line)	1 877 952-7277

For information on provincial wild fire activity, conditions and prohibitions, visit the Wildfire Management Branch website at bcwildfire.ca. To report a wildfire, call 1 800 663-5555 or *5555 on a mobile phone.

For more information, contact the fire department in your area:

Qualicum Beach Fire Protection Area	Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue	250 752-6232
Parksville Fire Protection Area	Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242

Home Emergency Kits

If you have been following along over the last few months, your home emergency kit will be starting to look like you're well on the way to emergency preparedness. This month we'll add a radio and copies of important documents to our kits. Don't forget to add batteries for the radio if it isn't powered by a hand crank!



Radio

Knowing how to access reliable information is vital during times of emergency or disaster. Emergency Management Oceanside has many ways of contacting the public to communicate emergency information. Depending on the communication methods available in the time following an emergency or disaster event, EMO may communicate important information to you via Voyent Alert!, social media, news releases, municipal websites, door-to-door communications or by radio and TV media.



A radio in your emergency kit is useful as a backup communication method for times when internet or television is not available. If you are required to shelter in place following an emergency and you have no access to the internet, tune your radio to a station and wait for emergency information. Although a radio will not enable you to communicate out, it will allow you to access critical information on how to stay safe in the coming hours or days.

Important Document Copies

Packing copies of your important documents won't necessarily help you shelter more comfortably in the initial hours or days after an emergency. They may however, help smooth your recovery process by ensuring you have copies of documents that provide access to important services.

Consider adding copies of:

- BC Services/Care cards
- Homeowner/tenant insurance
- Passport
- Birth certificate
- House deed/lease information
- Medication lists



Heat Preparedness

As summer begins to make an appearance, we must remember to think about rising temperatures and the potential health effects that come with extreme heat.

Extreme heat is the leading cause of illness and death from weather related hazards in Canada. An extreme heat emergency occurs when daytime and nighttime temperatures are unseasonably high and remain high for a prolonged period. On Vancouver Island, a heat warning is issued when temperatures are forecast to be 29°C during the day, 16°C at night and 29°C the following day. An extreme heat emergency is declared when heat warning criteria have been met and daily highs are forecast to increase for three or more consecutive days.



The extreme heat event (heat dome) that occurred between June 25 and July 1, 2021, caused 619 deaths in BC. Of these fatalities, the BC Coroners Service reports most resulted from excessive indoor temperatures in private residences.

Climate change is increasing the summer temperatures in BC. Higher average temperatures lead to a higher likelihood of extreme heat emergencies like the heat dome in 2021. It is vital we all take steps to prepare for heat emergencies before they happen to keep people safe.

Make an extreme heat plan:

- Identify the coolest location in your home.
- Modify your home to reduce the inside temperature:
 - *Put covers on the windows to keep sunlight out. This can be as simple as cardboard on exterior of the windows*
 - *Make one room an air-conditioned space*
 - *Have fans ready to move the cooler evening air inside*
 - *You may need to move your sleeping location to the coolest area in your home*
- Identify where you can go to cool down if temperatures get too high in your home. This could be a friend/family member's house, or a public space like a library, mall or shaded park
- Reduce activity outside
- Check in with neighbours and those you know are vulnerable to extreme heat. Check in multiple times a day, especially later in the day when it is hottest.

- Recognize the negative signs of heat on the body:
 - *Rapid breathing, rapid heart rate, extreme thirst, decreased urination.*
 - *Confusion, no sweating but very hot and red skin, dizziness, high body temperature*
 - *Seek immediate medical attention, apply wet cloths to the skin, submerge in cool water if safe to do so.*
- If you have pre-existing health conditions, talk to your doctor about how you can stay safe in extreme heat.
- Stay hydrated



[Prepared BC: Household Preparedness Guide](#) [Tips for Staying Healthy in the Heat](#)

Join the team!

If you are interested in joining the Oceanside Emergency Support Services or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team, contact Chris James at oesd@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
communications@parksville.ca



City of Parksville | Town of Qualicum Beach
emergencyoceanside.ca

