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Emergency Preparedness. Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.

From the record breaking 2023 wildfires, the devastating 2021 atmospheric rivers, and the deadly heat dome, we have seen how the climate crisis has worsened natural disasters in BC and requires that we adapt to keep our loved ones and communities safe. With the number of climate-related disasters increasing, the financial cost to families, communities, and governments is increasing. The federal government has spent \$7.9 billion in financial support since the creation of the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements program in 1970, with three quarters of funding distributed in the past 10 years alone. It is more important than ever to mitigate risks and ensure we are all prepared for the natural disasters and emergencies we may face.

This newsletter will help you **Be Prepared. Know Your Risks** by highlighting the federal government's emergency preparedness programming and outlining local community resources in Squamish that you should be aware of. Visit our website at patrickweiler.ca or scan the QR Code for links to all of the resources listed in this newsletter.



FEDERAL SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

\$6.5B

Launching Canada's First National Adaptation Strategy, supporting flood mapping, funding climate resiliency infrastructure, and more



Investing in Canada's Humanitarian Workforce to ensure our ability to rapidly mobilize and deploy support to Canadians in need

2x

Doubling tax credits for volunteer firefighters and search & rescue volunteers from \$3,000 to \$6,000, saving them up to \$900 per year



Funding the training of over 1,000 firefighters in 2023 while investing in firefighting equipment procurement and satellite monitoring of fires

Local Emergency Preparedness Investments



Photo: Visiting Squamish Fire Rescue, Search and Rescue, and others during Emergency Preparedness Week

Flood Protection in the Sea to Sky

Through \$1.4 million in federal funding, the District of Squamish is making necessary upgrades to the Squamish River dike through the Jimmy Judd Slough Culvert Replacement project, including replacing two decommissioned culverts with a new flood box. This upgrade helps prevent dike failure and protect the surrounding community from potential flood threats.

Flood Mapping and Mitigation in the Sea to Sky

The Government of Canada has invested over \$800,000 in flood-mitigation projects in the Sea to Sky, including identification and risk-based prioritization of flood hazards within the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District, pre-design seismic and diking options assessment for Siyich'em/Eagle viewing area, and Van West Creek and Spring Creek flood mitigation planning.

3 Steps to Get Prepared



1. KNOW THE RISKS

Knowing the risks in your region can help you prepare, including wildfires and earthquakes. For more information on federal resources, please visit GetPrepared.ca



2. MAKE A PLAN

Every household needs an emergency plan. When an emergency occurs, your family may not be together so plan how to meet or contact each other, and discuss what you would do in different situations.



3. BUILD A KIT

In the case of an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. Include water, canned and packaged foods, flashlights, cash and IDs. Make sure it is easy to carry.

GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

District of Squamish & SLRD Emergency Management Programs

The District of Squamish Emergency Program uses **Squamish Alert**, an official emergency notification system to communicate with residents and visitors during emergencies.

Also sign up for **SLRD Alert** which provides free emergency notifications from the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

BC Provincial Government Resources:

- **EmergencyInfoBC.ca** for emergency updates
- **BCWildfire.ca** or the BC Wildfire app for wildfire and fire ban information
- **DriveBC.ca** for road conditions
- **ESS.gov.bc.ca** for evacuation and emergency support services
- **PreparedBC.ca** to help you prepare for emergencies
- **PreparedBC hazard map** to see what emergencies could happen near you
- **Interactive Emergency Ready Planner** for customized home emergency plans

LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

Squamish Search and Rescue

Budget 2024 is doubling the volunteer firefighter and search and rescue tax credits, for organizations such as Squamish Search and Rescue which are made up of volunteers who respond to emergency situations in the region. They are highly trained for the unique challenges that Squamish can present, including ground search and rescue techniques, Helicopter External Transport Systems (H.E.T.S.), technical rope rescue, swift water rescue, and mountain rescue and travel.

RULES FOR STAYING SAFE IN THE MOUNTAINS

- Do your research before you head out in the mountains.
- Even though it feels like summer, the mountains could still be very cold, so prepare accordingly.
- Call 911 early if you are in danger or hurt.

Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 4 Squamish & Howe Sound Marine Rescue Society

The tax credit will also benefit RCMSAR Squamish and HSMRS, which respond to marine emergencies in Howe Sound and Squamish, and are on call 24/7, 365 days/year. Station 4 Squamish has 38 active members with crews available within 30 minutes of a request for assistance.

RULES ON STAYING SAFE ON THE WATER:

- Always wear a lifejacket
- Always boat sober
- In an emergency, call on VHF radio channel 16 or phone #SAR/#727 or *16

STAYING FIRE SMART OUTDOORS AND WHILE CAMPING

- Get educated by visiting firesmartbc.ca and adventuresmart.ca
- Download the BC Wildfire Service mobile app to get up to date information on wildfire risks and alerts
- Follow local fire bans and restrictions at BCWildfire.ca
- If you see signs of wildfire, report it on the BC Wildfire Service app, dial *5555 on a cellphone or call 1 800 663-5555

PREPARING FOR FLOODS AND LANDSLIDES

- If you live on or under a steep slope, ensure that you meet bylaw requirements
- Be familiar with the debris flow hazard and risk associated with your property. You can find this information online with the SLRD.
- Mitigate risk by ensuring there is a proper drainage system in place, drain water away from steep slopes, and do not undercut a slope without professional consultation.
- If you see signs of debris flow (unusual rapid water flow, irregular or stopped stream flow, cracking or falling trees), immediately evacuate the building and dial 9-1-1)

STAYING FIRE SMART AT HOME

- Test your smoke alarms monthly
- Close your doors before you doze; this could save your life in the event of a fire while you're sleeping
- Carbon monoxide detectors in your home could save your life; carbon monoxide is odourless and colourless
- Regular maintenance and cleaning removes potential fire fuels; this includes keeping grass lawns shorter than 10 centimetres, cleaning under decks, and storing firewood and flammable material away from your home, ideally 10 metres