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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 Whistler and Pemberton that you should be aware of. Visit our website at [patrickweiler.ca](http://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

### Protecting Against Debris Flow Risks in Lillooet Lake Estates

Extreme weather including heavy rainfall events are becoming more common, increasing the risk of significant landslides and floods. That is why we are working with our provincial and municipal partners to protect our communities. In 2021, we announced a combined investment of over \$7.7 million from the federal and provincial governments and the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District to help protect Lillooet Lake Estates and the surrounding area from dangerous landslides. This investment protects against major debris flow events on Catiline Creek, which originate from Twin Goat Mountain.

### 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 (SLRD), pre-design seismic and diking options assessment for Siyich'em/Eagle viewing area, and Van West Creek and Spring Creek flood mitigation planning.

### Protecting Homes from Wildfires in Whistler

Municipalities are on the frontlines in responding to the effects of climate change. As extreme weather events increase in frequency and severity, municipalities need the resources and funding to manage emergency situations to protect both people and properties.

Through the Disaster and Mitigation Adaptation Fund, the federal government is investing in projects such as wildfire fuel treatment programs for Whistler. This \$10 million project is being used to implement fuel management treatments in a dozen high risk areas in Whistler, which will safeguard homes, businesses, livelihoods, and the environment.



Photo:  
Announcing  
funding for  
wildfire  
resiliency in  
Whistler

# GOVERNMENT EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS RESOURCES

## 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](https://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.

### BC Provincial Government Resources:

- [EmergencyInfoBC.ca](https://emergencyinfobc.ca) for emergency updates
- [BCWildfire.ca](https://bcwildfire.ca) or the BC Wildfire app for wildfire and fire ban information
- [DriveBC.ca](https://drivebc.ca) for road conditions
- [ESS.gov.bc.ca](https://ess.gov.bc.ca) for evacuation and emergency support services
- [PreparedBC.ca](https://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

### Whistler, Pemberton, and SLRD Municipal Emergency Programs

Sign up for **Whistler Alert**, **Pemberton Alert**, and **SLRD Alert**, official municipal programs which provide free emergency notifications and information for critical events like fire, flood and extreme weather through app notifications, telephone, text (SMS) or email.

# LOCAL COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS & RESOURCES

## Whistler Search and Rescue Society and Pemberton Search and Rescue

Budget 2024 is doubling the volunteer firefighter and search and rescue tax credits, for organizations such as Whistler Search and Rescue Society and Pemberton Search and Rescue. These organizations are run by volunteers, providing emergency services in the surrounding areas on land and water.

## 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.

## 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 OUTDOORS AND WHILE CAMPING

- Get educated by visiting [firesmartbc.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca) and [adventuresmart.ca](https://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](https://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

## 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