

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Home Emergency Kits

This month we'll be adding two items to our home emergency kits - flashlights and items for those with additional needs.

Flashlights are a quick addition to your kit. Pack at least one flashlight and a pack of batteries. Even if you're camping in your own home after an emergency, flashlights are handy to have around for power outages.

Items for those with additional needs may not apply to you. If, however, your household has a baby or young children, now is a good time to pack diapers, wipes, or anything else that might make the situation easier. Maybe a toy or two will fit! You may wish to put these supplies in a separate backpack if they cause your emergency kit too full.



Evacuation Awareness

This summer, we've already seen many communities evacuated from their homes due to wildfire. But evacuations can happen at any time of year, due to events including flooding and landslides. It is useful to understand what an evacuation process would look like in our communities. There are different types or stages of evacuation. If you are evacuated, it is important you do not return to your home unless you are advised it is safe to do so by your local government.

Tactical Evacuation

This is the type of evacuation initiated by emergency first responders when there is a sudden threat to life. There is no time for advance warning and there won't be any legal documentation accompanying the evacuation. You'll be told you need to leave as the risk to your safety is immediate. Examples of when a tactical evacuation may be used is the police evacuating in an active shooter situation or the fire department evacuating in a hazardous materials incident. A tactical evacuation is generally expected to last for a brief period.

Evacuation Alert

This is when your local authority notifies that a hazard has the potential of affecting your safety and you need to be ready to leave your home quickly should you be told to do so. You should pack all the supplies you will need to leave your home on very short notice and expect to be out of your home for many days. An evacuation alert requires local officials to provide documentation to verify the alert. The alert will contain a map of the affected area, dates, instructions, a description of the hazard, and will be signed by local authority officials. There will be contact information for you to make inquiries for further information. Evacuation alerts will be posted on our websites, released to the media, posted to local authority social media channels, and will be released via Voyent Alert!



STAGES OF EVACUATION

EVACUATION ALERT

Be ready to leave on short notice:

STEP 1 Download the BC Services Card App

STEP 2 Pre-register all household members for ESS online at ess.gov.bc.ca

Evacuation Order

This means there is a threat to your safety and your life is at risk. You must leave your home immediately. Local officials do not take the decision to issue an evacuation order lightly. Evacuation orders require documentation to be provided to verify the order. Like with alerts, an evacuation order will contain a map of the affected area, dates, a description of the hazard and will be signed by local authority officials. The order will be posted on our websites,

released to the media, posted to local government social media channels, and released via Voyent Alert! During an evacuation order, first responders will also notify people door to door. Follow the instructions provided by officials and in the documentation provided. As every event is different, direction on how to leave your home and where to travel may also be different. If you need assistance during an evacuation, please let us know! You can let us know by identifying your additional needs to the first responder who provides the order, or by calling the number provided on the evacuation order to request assistance in evacuating.

STAGES OF EVACUATION

EVACUATION ORDER

You are at risk. Leave the area **IMMEDIATELY**. Follow all instructions in your Evacuation Order.

STEP 1 Download the BC Services Card App

STEP 2 Pre-register all household members for ESS online at ess.gov.bc.ca

STEP 3 Contact the Reception Centre as directed in your Evacuation Order

As with other emergencies, personal preparedness is crucial to your safety. Having a household emergency plan and a grab and go bag provides flexibility and speed to your ability to evacuate your home at short notice.

Where should you go if you are evacuated?

It is possible that your regular routes of travel will be restricted by the event causing the evacuation. Local officials will tell you which way to travel. Only travel to support locations designated by your local authority as assistance may not be available at undesignated locations. Evacuees should first look to use their own resources, such as insurance. If you don't have your own resources, the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program may be able to help. Register at your designated reception centre to receive supports.



Evacuees may also register in advance online:

[Evacuee Registration and Assistance \(ERA\)](#)

Join the team!

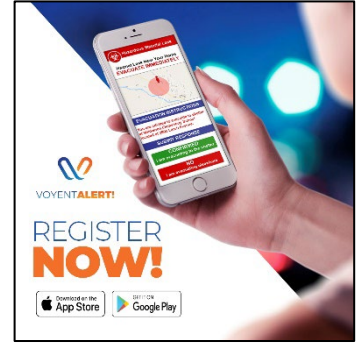
If you are interested in joining the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), please contact Chris James at oesd@parksville.ca or 250 937-0448. No previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience necessary as we can provide you with the training you'll need.



Emergency Notifications

Thank you to everyone who has signed up. Don't forget that you can sign up for notification from more than one community. If, for example, you work in a community other than the one in which you live, it is wise to sign up for notifications in both locations. 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 [Voyent Alert! \(voyent-alert.com\)](http://Voyent Alert! (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
Engineering	250 951-2484; engineering@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

