

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Home Emergency Kits

This month marks the final addition of essentials to our home emergency kits. Hopefully you've been able to follow along each month and not to worry, if you've missed some, we'll recap the contents again next month.



For December, we'll add weather and work-appropriate clothing. Sturdy footwear, a warm jacket or hat, and work gloves are valuable additions to your kit. After earthquakes and windstorms, it is likely the ground will be covered in debris. It is wise to have footwear available which provides some protection for your feet and gloves to protect your hands to clear what you are able.

Cold Weather Preparedness

When you're outside for work or recreation, it is important to dress for the cold. Remember to wear layers, a hat and gloves, sturdy footwear, and a wind-resistant outer layer. Finally, consider wearing reflective clothing so you can be seen by drivers. Before you go out, check in with the local weather forecast to make sure you are ready for what the weather may have in store for you.

[Environment and Climate Change Canada](https://www.ec.gc.ca/ccc/Environment and Climate Change Canada) issues four types of weather alerts and it is valuable to learn the difference between them.

 <p>Warning</p>	<p>Urgent message that severe weather is either occurring or will occur.</p>
 <p>Watch</p>	<p>Alerts you about weather conditions where there is potential for a significant storm or severe weather. A Watch may upgrade to a Warning as certainty about the path and strength of a storm system increases.</p>
 <p>Advisory</p>	<p>Issued for specific weather events (like blowing snow, fog, freezing drizzle and frost) that are less severe, but could still significantly impact people.</p>
 <p>Special Weather Statement</p>	<p>The least urgent type of alert. Issued to let you know that conditions are unusual and could cause concern.</p>

Emergency Communications Exercise

The emergency communications team (ECT) met on November 29 for *Exercise Sweeper*. The exercise was designed by the Mid Island Emergency Regional Communications Team to practice various methods of communicating between communities in the event of a full grid-down situation: an event where there is no power, no cellphone network and no internet. *Sweeper* took months of planning by all involved and included practice exercises in September and October.



Our Oceanside team deployed the emergency communications trailer to a location in Qualicum Beach. It was a busy day, with setup beginning at 7.30 am and the team working solidly until 1 pm. It was a valuable way to test our radio equipment and identify areas for improvement and future training. It is imperative in a large emergency or disaster event, we can communicate with other communities and government organizations who might provide us the resources we need to respond and recover or who we may be able to assist. Thank you to all volunteers who came out to take part in the exercise.

Volunteer with EMO – We can't do it alone!

If you're interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), please contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we can provide you with the training you'll need. *We can't do it alone!*



Emergency Notifications

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. 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.

Registration for Voyent Alert! is free. Go to [Voyent Alert!](#) to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpocock@parksville.ca 250 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you have questions about the system or registration process.

Interested in being a firefighter?

Recruitment Information for Qualicum Beach and Parksville Fire Departments

This region's fire departments rely on volunteer paid on-call firefighters to provide fire and emergency response services. Here you will find recruitment information from Parksville Fire Rescue and Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue. If you would like to learn more about firefighting, please contact the department where you live.

PARKSVILLE FIRE RESCUE

Serving the area since 1942, Parksville Fire Rescue volunteer paid on-call and career firefighters provide fire and emergency response services in the Parksville Fire Protection Area. Our firefighters are highly skilled professionals who value integrity, honesty, selflessness, commitment, courage, and are hardworking and family oriented. We provide an outstanding training program, the opportunity to make a difference in people's lives and the chance to join a dedicated team.



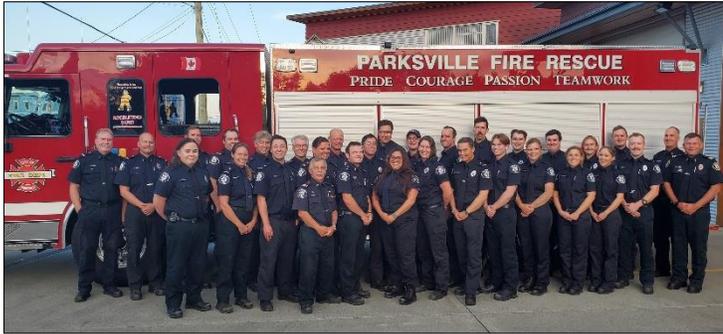
So far this year, Parksville Fire has responded to almost 800 calls - structure fires, rescues, motor vehicle incidents, medical assistance, and public service requests. We rely on the commitment of paid on-call volunteer firefighters dedicated to public safety and community service and offer:

- Professional firefighter certification and ongoing training.
- Opportunity to serve your community.
- Personal growth, sense of achievement.
- Part of a team, your chance to be awesome.
- Great benefits - paid on-call, WorkSafe, additional accidental death and disability insurance (on and off duty), and more.

We are your neighbours, co-workers, family, and friends and we need your help with our recruiting efforts; please encourage those who may be interested to contact us. Finding the right balance between family, work and volunteering is challenging, but also rewarding. We'd love to chat about what we do at Parksville Fire Rescue and if you are ready to *answer the call*. Call us at 250 248-3242 to speak with an officer or arrange a tour. Application deadline is Friday, March 1. More info on our [website](#).

Recruitment Open Practice - Monday, January 22, 7-9 pm

Regular practice on January 22 will be open to those interested in being a firefighter and learning more. Arrive by 6.30 pm, dress for the weather, and stay as long as you wish. This is a perfect chance to observe a practice, see firsthand what's involved in training, ask questions, and chat with members. The firehall is located at 160 Jensen Avenue West.



Contact details:

Website www.parksvillefirerescue.ca
Email answerthecall@parksville.ca
Phone 250 248-3242

QUALICUM BEACH FIRE RESCUE

For 76 years, Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue has served the community. You may be wondering who your firefighters are. Simply put, we are your neighbours. Whether new to our community, have grown up here, own and/or work in local businesses, are working in the trades, are stay-at-home parents, or are retirees, everyone is committed to ensuring our town has a fire department to respond when needed.



The responsibilities of the fire department have evolved since 1947; back then, the department responded to only a handful of fire incidents. Today, Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue volunteers can respond to three hundred incidents. As members of an all-hazard agency, we're capable of responding to vehicle accidents, downed power lines, structure fires, technical rescues, alarm activations, medical calls, and more.

Annually, Qualicum Beach Fire Rescue recruits between five to ten residents to become new firefighters. During the first 24 months of training, these new recruits spend three hours a week training to Answer the Call to assist their fellow neighbours. Each new firefighter is trained in a myriad of skills, including automobile extrication, fire suppression, and medical aid. They are also provided with the opportunity to obtain an Air Brake Endorsement and then a Class 3 Commercial Driver's Licence. On average, each recruit will be active in the department for five years before moving on to other commitments.

New recruits join a group of people who support one another, a group that embodies camaraderie and teamwork, all while giving back to the community. And as a new firefighter, each volunteer receives experiences and life skills not found in any other organization or profession.

If you or your neighbour is interested in becoming a volunteer firefighter in Qualicum Beach, stop by the fire station at 130 Rupert Road East to see if it's right for you. Our volunteer firefighters Answer the Call whether they are at home or at work; we ensure the safety of our community every day, and we welcome you to join us!



Contact details:

Website www.qbfirerescue.com
Email firerescue@qualicumbeach.com
Phone 250 752-6232

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

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

Shinjini Mehta, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum
smehta@qualicumbeach.com



City of Parksville | Town of Qualicum Beach
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