



Emergency Preparedness Week in Oceanside

Emergency Preparedness Week is an annual event held across Canada to encourage Canadians to be prepared personally, as an individual, a family and in the workplace. In 2017, the week is recognized as May 7 to May 13. *Are you prepared for an emergency?*

Disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face. Residents and business owners are encouraged to join Oceanside Emergency Management in becoming prepared. Emergencies can strike at any time, with very little warning and with no time to make plans about what to do. Being prepared is critical since it can take time for help to arrive. By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies. It is important to:

- **Know the risks** – although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region will help you be better prepared.
- **Make a plan** – being prepared ahead of time will help you cope with an emergency more effectively and enable you to make a faster recovery.
- **Prepare a kit** - assemble an emergency kit with items to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours of an emergency. Ideally you will have a seven day basic emergency kit, vehicle emergency kit and if required, a pet emergency kit. Kits should be checked at least once each year and a good time to do this is during EP week.

Residents can get involved during Emergency Preparedness Week with these two opportunities:

One-on-one consultations - the EMO emergency program coordinators for Parksville and Qualicum Beach will be available to meet with the public for one-on-one consultations; a great opportunity for residents and businesses to ask questions about individual plans and how to be better prepared for emergencies.

May 8	Qualicum Beach – Town office	11 am to 3 pm
May 11	Parksville – City Hall (atrium)	11 am to 3 pm

Disaster scenario – on May 9, EMO will conduct a landslide scenario with Eaglecrest residents who have volunteered to experience a disaster situation involving evacuation, registration and referral to emergency support services. The exercise is scheduled from 10 am to 1 pm at the Eaglecrest Golf Club and the public is welcome to observe.

Emergency Preparedness Expo 2017 - Saturday, May 27, 9 am to 4 pm, Parksville Curling Rink

Learn about the challenges we will face in an emergency and how you can be better prepared. Expo 2017 features displays, demonstrations and workshops. Local emergency services (RCMP, regional fire departments, BC Ambulance) will be joined by agencies, organizations and businesses such as Arrowsmith Search and Rescue, Aztec Off Grid Solutions, BCSPCA, BC Hydro, Civil Air Search and Rescue, Fortis BC, Insurance Bureau of Canada, Island Health, Outsider Adventures, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue, Red Cross and Wholesale Sports.

Workshops will be held from 10 am to 2 pm on topics such as *Adventure Smart – Outdoor Safety for Recreational Walkers, Importance of Insurance in Emergency Preparedness, Disaster! Surviving the First Few Hours* and *Preparedness Challenges at Different Stages of Life*.

For more information, contact emergency program coordinators:

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