

New Emergency Management Plan Template for Parksville

The City of Parksville is a member of Mid Island Emergency Coordinators and Managers (MIECM), a group of emergency managers and coordinators from the Malahat to Port Hardy including Powell River and the Sunshine Coast as well as Island Health and provincial government representatives from Emergency Management BC. This group provides emergency management planning, support and leadership to our communities in an effort to protect people, property and the environment during emergencies.

In 2000, MIECM created an emergency plan template for local governments in the region; the City used this format to develop a Parksville plan. Due to privacy concerns and sensitive material in this plan, the release of which is protected by freedom of information legislation, the plan could not be released to the public in its entirety. Responding to public desire to see the plan, MIECM created a new plan template, separating private and sensitive material into operational guidelines which will be used when an emergency operations centre is activated in response to an emergency or disaster. The City has organized the Parksville Emergency Plan content to meet this new format and is now releasing it to the public.

On October 1, Parksville Council was presented with the City's emergency plan consistent with the MIECM format which provides residents with the opportunity to prepare their families and homes in line with how local governments prepare to respond in an emergency or disaster. Using the same plan template on Vancouver Island also facilitates faster, more effective support from neighbouring local governments when we need help and enables the city to support its neighbours when they need help.

This plan outlines the structure and organization required to effectively coordinate response and recovery to emergencies within the area served by Emergency Management Oceanside. The plan provided [here](#) aligns with the British Columbia Emergency Management System, a comprehensive framework to help ensure a coordinated, organized and effective approach to emergencies and disasters.

The emergency programs of the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo work in unison to provide large scale emergency support and disaster service to Oceanside residents. The Emergency Management Oceanside partnership provides a more efficient, effective and cooperative approach to managing emergencies in our region. This same plan is being considered by the other partners in EMO and is a living, breathing document which is intended to be adjusted and amended over time.

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