EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EMO OCEANSIDE

City of Parksville
Town of Qualicum Beach
Regional District of Nanaimo

NEWS RELEASE
emergencyoceanside.ca
September 5, 2019

Oceanside Emergency Preparedness Expo 2019 – October 5

To help residents be better prepared, Emergency Management Oceanside (Town of Qualicum Beach, City of Parksville and Regional District of Nanaimo) are hosting Emergency Preparedness Expo 2019.

Who:	Everyone living in the Oceanside region
What:	Emergency Preparedness Expo 2019
When:	Saturday, October 5 from 10 am to 4 pm
Where:	Qualicum Beach Civic Centre
Why:	Be aware, plan, prepare and survive!

Expo 2019 offers something for everyone and it's all free!
More than thirty first responders, government agencies, emergency supply vendors, utilities and emergency partners will host a variety of activities to help emphasize the importance of taking steps to improve emergency preparedness and response. Displays, demonstrations and workshops to learn about the challenges we face in an emergency and how to be better prepared. You can even bring your fire extinguisher to be tested for free. Everyone welcome!

FREE Workshops (pre-registration recommended)
For those who would like more in-depth information about preparedness in general, free workshops (one hour in duration) will be offered. Pre-registration is recommended to ecomm@qualicumbeach.com or 250 752-6232

10.30 am	Personal Preparedness (Ross Peterson, VIU Elder College)
11.45 am	Becoming FireSmart (BC Wildfire Service)
1 pm	Emergency Preparedness for Pet Owners (Brenda Scott, EMBC)
2.15 pm	Climate Change on Vancouver Island (VIU)

Vehicle extrication demonstrations by local fire departments at 11 am and 2 pm.

WHY YOU SHOULD ATTEND?
Are you prepared for an emergency? If the answer is "no", then we encourage you to stop by Expo 2019. Whether you are just curious, casually interested or someone seriously prepared, there will be something for you at this event. Disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face.

NEW *VOYENT ALERT!* NOTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR PARKSVILLE-QUALICUM BEACH
At Expo 2019, residents will have the opportunity to learn about and sign up for the new notification system for Parksville-Qualicum Beach region. Staff will be available to assist residents with sign-up for *Voyent Alert!* Provided by the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach, *Voyent Alert!* is a Canada-based-purpose communication service used to send alerts to residents, businesses and visitors during critical events such as floods or fire as well as non-critical notifications specific to each municipality.

Participants may receive alerts over a variety of communication channels including mobile apps, text/SMS alerting, email or voice dial at https://register.voyent-alert.com. Smart alerting capabilities ensure you will be notified when a communication is relevant to you or one of the locations you are tracking. Registration for the services is FREE, simple and no personal information is collected.

Residents in the RDN electoral areas can receive RDN emergency notifications delivered by both text message and voice call to those who have signed up to receive notifications. These notifications are intended to inform residents and visitors about incidents which could impact them. Register at www.rdnemergency.connectrocket.com or visit the RDN at the EXPO to learn more.

For more information, please contact emergency program coordinators:

Rob Daman	Town of Qualicum Beach	250 752-6232	rdaman@qualicumbeach.com
Aaron Dawson	City of Parksville	250 954-4672	adawson@parksville.ca
Melissa Tomlinson	Regional District of Nanaimo	250 390-6759	mtomlinson@rdn.bc.ca