

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Voyent Alert! Test Message

This month we'll be sending out a test *Voyent Alert!* message to everyone who is registered to receive notifications. On Thursday, February 22 you can expect to receive notification from *Voyent Alert!* to all platforms on which you have chosen to receive alerts: text, landline phone call, app alert or email.

To avoid confusion, the messaging in the alert will not be a simulation of an emergency event. Instead, the language will clearly describe the alert is a test of the system. If you receive the alert as a digital message, you are encouraged to click any hyperlinks or attachments within the message to see how a real alert would be displayed on your device. Testing our emergency mass communication system is an important way for us to test our emergency plans. We hope it will provide you the opportunity to become familiar with the system, thereby increasing our community resilience.

It's not too late to sign up. Registration 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 ; 250 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com should you have questions about the system, registration process or the test alert.

Join the Emergency Management Oceanside Team!

Emergency Management Oceanside is seeking an Emergency Program Volunteer Coordinator. Responsible for overseeing the daily management of our Emergency Support Services and Emergency Communications teams, the coordinator is a valuable member of the EMO team. If you are interested in submitting a proposal for this contract, please find the information package on EMO [website](#) as well as City of Parksville's [website](#).



Volunteer with EMO

We need you! 2024 is shaping up to be an exciting year for our EMO volunteers. We have many plans for training, exercises, and collaboration with our partner organizations. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary, we will provide all the training you will need. If you're interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), please contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca

What is a personal disaster?

This information is provided by [Red Cross Canada](#). Personal disasters typically affect one household. House fires are one of the most common examples and those happen without notice and most often during winter months.



**Canadian
Red Cross**

Across Canada

Floods, major storms, forest fires and earthquakes make the headlines whenever they occur. But personal disasters often don't and they happen in Canadian communities each and every day.

10,000

Canadians receive personal disaster assistance from us each year.

97%

of Red Cross responses in the last 5 years have been for personal disasters.

In the Home

One of the most common emergencies that Canadians experience is a house fire.

In Canada, there are about
24,000
house fires each year.



2 out of 3
Canadians say they have not taken steps to prepare in the event of a disaster.

MAJOR CAUSES OF HOUSE FIRES IN CANADA ARE:



Cooking



Heating equipment-related fires



Arson/set fires



Electrical



Smoking



Candles



Clothes dryer, lighting and other equipment (combined)



Child fireplay

Protecting you and your family



KNOW THE RISKS:

1. Keep flammable items away from heat sources
2. Never leave candles or stoves unattended
3. Talk to your children about the dangers of fire
4. Water Christmas trees regularly and use approved lights



MAKE AN EVACUATION PLAN:

1. Make sure everyone can locate your emergency kit and water supply
2. Establish a safe place for everyone to meet
3. Include a plan for evacuating your pets
4. Practice the evacuation plan frequently



GET A KIT:

1. This kit contains basic items your household may need in an emergency situation
2. It should be able to sustain you and your family for 72 hours
3. Key items: water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, cash, keys and important family documents

Download the [72 hour guide](#) to emergency preparedness

Get more [planning advice](#)

See the [full kit list](#) suggested by the Red Cross

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 Beach
smehta@qualicumbeach.com



City of Parksville | Town of Qualicum Beach
emergencyoceanside.ca