

## Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update



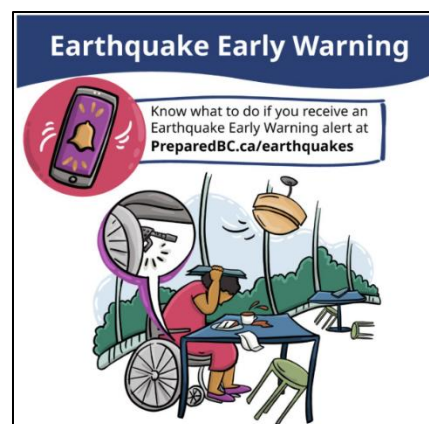
Spring is here and a great time to look ahead and prepare for what the warmer months may bring.

### Earthquake Early Warning

We are passing along the information from Emergency Management and Climate Readiness provided following recent seismic activity along Vancouver Island.

Recent seismic events are a reminder that earthquakes are a reality in BC; however, not every quake will result in an alert to your mobile device, and when an alert is issued, not everyone will receive one.

Within [Earthquake Early Warning \(EEW\) system](#) coverage areas, public alerts will be sent for earthquakes estimated to be at or above [magnitude 5](#), causing shaking at [intensities of IV or greater](#). The EEW system in Canada is managed by the federal government. Visit the [Natural Resources Canada](#) website to learn more, or check out EMCR's [recent blog post](#) on how EEW systems work.



Remember, if you feel the ground shake or receive an alert on your phone, TV or radio, immediately [Drop, Cover and Hold On](#).

### Tsunami Preparedness Week - April 13-19

Tsunami Preparedness Week is a great time to learn about tsunamis and how to prepare for them. During Tsunami Preparedness Week, coastal communities around the province highlight the importance of tsunami preparedness.

Tsunami Alert Levels		
There are five alert levels and each of which has a distinct meaning. The alert levels are:		
ALERT LEVEL	THREAT	ACTION
<b>WARNING</b>	Flood wave possible	Full evacuation suggested
<b>ADVISORY</b>	Strong currents likely	Stay away from the shore
<b>WATCH</b>	Danger level not yet known	Stay alert for more information
<b>INFORMATION STATEMENT</b>	Minor waves at most	No action suggested
<b>CANCELLATION</b>	Tidal gauges show no wave activity	Confirm safety of local areas

BC's coastal communities are divided into five tsunami notification zones. Our Oceanside communities are in Tsunami Notification Zone E. Although Zone E is low risk for tsunamis, it is still important to know how to recognize when a tsunami is possible. Tsunamis are often caused by earthquakes which happen deep under the ocean floor. The shaking causes a series of powerful waves to travel across the open ocean, amplifying as they move. The immense force behind tsunami waves can cause devastating destruction when it reaches land.

If you are near the ocean and feel an earthquake, immediately move inland to high ground, and stay there until you are told it is safe by the local authority. When a tsunami is imminent, water levels often recede extremely quickly, much faster than a regular tide. If you haven't felt an earthquake, but see the ocean level rapidly decreasing, leave the area and head inland to high ground away from rivers and estuaries.

When tsunami warnings are made, they will broadcast over television, radio and mobile devices through BC's emergency alert system. In Oceanside, EMO may also release notifications through Voyent Alert!, social media and local authority websites. Some communities may have tsunami sirens or other tsunami notification procedures. It is a wise practice to be aware of the tsunami notification zone and procedures of any coastal community you visit. Watch for tsunami hazard zone signs and evacuation maps posted in areas at high risk of tsunamis.

## Emergency Preparedness Week – May 7-13

Emergency Preparedness Week is a national event which takes place during the first full week of May, this year from May 7 to May 13. During the week, communities across Canada take the time to think about how everyone can get involved in emergency preparedness and the small steps we can all take to increase resilience.

EMO is a partnership between the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Regional District of Nanaimo to provide large scale emergency and disaster support to the Oceanside community. During this year's EP week, we are asking you to get involved by developing a household emergency plan. The process takes less than an hour and can be completed in sections over the week. We even have a fillable template you can use.

Sign up for our [EMO newsletter](#) to follow along with the instructions on how to make the plan. Visit the [EMO website](#) for many great emergency preparedness resources.

## How extreme weather affects health

British Columbia is experiencing extreme climate events like wildfires, storms, floods, and droughts with increasing frequency and intensity. These events can impact people's physical and mental health. The [Climate Change and Health in British Columbia: From Risk to Resilience](#) report, released by the Ministry of Health, aims to enhance understanding of how extreme weather events and climate change affect individuals and the healthcare system. It also identifies effective and equitable strategies to strengthen adaptive capacity and resilience.

Emergency preparedness is for everyone. Taking the time to prepare ahead of a climate emergency, such as a wildfire or flood, can help address fears you and your loved ones may have. Set aside an hour or so and follow these three tips to get started on your emergency preparedness journey. Being prepared will help you stay calm and focused during an emergency.

### [Know your hazards](#)

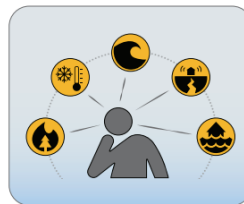
Identify which hazards you need to prepare for.

### [Make an emergency plan](#)

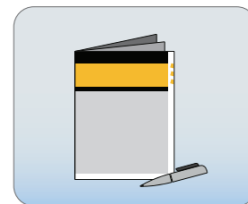
Use the [online emergency ready planner](#) or the [PreparedBC fill-in-the-blanks home emergency plan](#). Spend time with the people you live with to complete it together.

### [Gather your supplies](#)

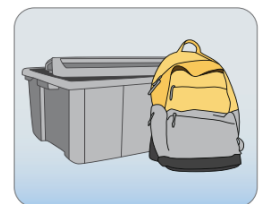
Start by taking ten minutes after work or school to check the [supply list](#) and gather the items you already have in your home in to one place. Start with food and water and go from there. You'll be surprised how quickly you can get your kit together!



1. Know your hazards



2. Make your plan



3. Gather your supplies

## Volunteer with EMO

If you're interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), contact [emergencyprogram@parksville.ca](mailto:emergencyprogram@parksville.ca). Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we can provide all of the training you'll need.

## 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. Don't forget that 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.com](http://voyent-alert.com) to sign up. Contact Kate at [kpocock@parksville.ca](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca), 250 954-4672 or Shinjini at <mailto:smehta@qualicumbeach.com> should you have questions about the system or registration process.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Town of Qualicum Beach

Town Hall is open from 8.30 am to 4 pm Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays.

Email [gbtown@qualicumbeach.com](mailto:gbtown@qualicumbeach.com)  
 Phone 250 752-6921  
 Mail PO Box 130, Qualicum Beach V9K 1S7

[qualicumbeach.com](http://qualicumbeach.com)  
[qbfirerescue.com](http://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, planning and finance departments	250 248-6144; <a href="mailto:info@parksville.ca">info@parksville.ca</a>
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; <a href="mailto:administration@parksville.ca">administration@parksville.ca</a>
Engineering	250 951-2484; <a href="mailto:engineering@parksville.ca">engineering@parksville.ca</a>
Operations	250 248-5412; <a href="mailto:ops@parksville.ca">ops@parksville.ca</a>
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; <a href="mailto:fire@parksville.ca">fire@parksville.ca</a>

[parksville.ca](http://parksville.ca)  
[letstalkparksville.ca](http://letstalkparksville.ca)  
[parksvillefirerescue.ca](http://parksvillefirerescue.ca)

### For more information:

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[kpocock@parksville.ca](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca)

Shinjini, Climate Action and Emergency Program Coordinator, Town of Qualicum Beach  
[smehta@qualicumbeach.com](mailto:smehta@qualicumbeach.com)

Linda Ryan, Emergency Planning Coordinator, Regional District of Nanaimo  
[lryan@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:lryan@rdn.bc.ca)

