

Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

Home Emergency Kits

Our home emergency kits are almost complete! This month we'll be adding hygiene equipment to our supplies.



It is important to be able to wash hands, dishes and even hand wash clothes in a makeshift camping setup without access to your regular kitchen or bathroom. Add hand soap or hand sanitizer, dish soap or laundry detergent to your kit. Small leftover containers or reusable plastic containers are a good way to pack small amounts that will be easier to fit in your kit. When we packed our water supplies earlier this year, the suggested amount of water needed per person accounted for washing.

Don't forget to add toothbrushes, toothpaste and any other basic hygiene supplies you and your family members may need.

Winter Storm Preparedness

Summer is behind us, and the wintery weather has begun. There are some easy ways we can stay safe this winter by preparing our homes, our vehicles and ourselves. PreparedBC's new Severe Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide provides some useful tips for staying safe this season.



As with all potential hazards, making a home emergency plan, putting together a home emergency kit, and checking in with a trusted friend or neighbour to help out each other are easy ways to prepare for severe winter weather and storms.

This season, consider adding an emergency kit to your vehicle. Having a flashlight, warm clothing, a snack, reflective triangle, jumper cables and additional windshield washer fluid in your car are wise choices when travelling in winter. Weather conditions can quickly change; be sure to check weather forecasts before you leave home and remember to drive to the conditions of the road.

[Winter Weather and Storm Preparedness Guide](#)

Highway 4 to Port Alberni

New highway closure gates have been installed on Highway 4 between Port Alberni and the Qualicum/Parksville area. Travellers should be prepared for Highway 4 to close when major weather events occur requiring closures for safety. Check for road updates from [DriveBC](#). If the highway is closed the local governments will work together to quickly establish a welcome centre for stranded travellers. We will post the details of any welcome centre on social media, websites and in the community.

Emergency Operations Centre Exercises

In April, Emergency Management Oceanside was awarded a grant from the Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM) to develop an emergency operations centre (EOC) exercise program focusing on community response to extreme wind events in the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum. In October, two drills were held as the first step in the exercise program. A wide range of municipal staff members met at the EOC's in each community to practice responding to a wind event scenario. An EOC is a facility operated to support emergency responses by completing functions including finance, logistics, operations, and planning.

The drill encouraged municipal staff to practice solving emergency problems together by identifying which resources would be needed and determining response objectives. It was also a valuable way to identify training opportunities and additions that can be made to strengthen our emergency plans. A second drill is scheduled to be held in each municipality in January and a final joint exercise is scheduled in February.

Community Emergency Preparedness Presentations

Are you part of a group or society interested in learning more about emergency preparedness? We regularly meet with community groups to provide emergency preparedness presentations, tips, and resources. We are happy to tailor presentations to meet your group needs and areas of interest. Contact either Kate at kpcock@parksville.ca or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com to discuss options or book a meeting.

Volunteer with EMO – We can't do it alone!

If you're interested in joining either the Oceanside Emergency Support Services (OESS) or Oceanside Emergency Communications Team (OECT), please contact emergencyprogram@parksville.ca. Previous emergency support services or emergency communications experience isn't necessary as we can provide you with 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 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.

It's important to know 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! \(voyent-alert.com\)](http://voyent-alert.com) to sign up today. Contact Kate at kpcock@parksville.ca (250) 954-4672 or Shinjini at smehta@qualicumbeach.com if you have any questions about the system or registration process.

District 69 Firefighters Support Fill the Boots for Food Drive

Firefighters from the eight fire departments in District 69 annually support the Fill the Boots for Food drive collecting donations for the Salvation Army foodbank as well as unwrapped toys for the Society of organized Services. Each year, Oceanside residents generously contribute and firefighters in District 69 look forward to another successful year.

This [link](#) provides the details about collection times and dates. Participating are Bow Horn Bay Fire Department, Coombs Hilliers Volunteer Fire Department, Dashwood Volunteer Fire Department, Deep Bay Fire and Rescue, Errington Volunteer Fire Department, Nanoose Volunteer Fire Department, Parksville Volunteer Fire Department and Qualicum Beach Fire Department.

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

Deb Tardiff, Manager of Communications, City of Parksville
communications@parksville.ca



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