



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 individual and community resilience.

The theme of this year's Emergency Preparedness Week is *Be Prepared. Know Your Risks*. In BC, local and provincial governments use an all-hazard approach to emergency management. This includes preparing for the full potential scope of any hazard which may affect a region. It is, however, valuable to understand the hazards that pose the most risk. At a household level, this information can be used to take simple actions to protect ourselves and our families.

In the Oceanside region, the five highest risk hazards have been assessed as wildfire, overland flooding, drought, wind events and motor vehicle incidents. The [2019 Hazard Risk Vulnerability Analysis](#) explains the assessment process; these hazard risk rankings were calculated factoring in their likelihood of occurrence. It is important to remember many hazards are less likely to occur as they are thankfully rare events. Their impact would, however, be significantly higher than the previously listed hazards, a mega thrust earthquake, for example.

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. While developing your household emergency plan, think about how our community hazards could affect your family. How might your communications, reunification process and access to your home and utilities be affected?

Activities to watch for during EP Week

Shaw Spotlight Videos

EMO has teamed up with Shaw Spotlight to develop some short emergency preparedness videos which will highlight the easy steps we can all take to prepare for the first few days after an emergency or disaster and to display some of the dedicated EMO volunteers in our communities. Keep an eye out on EMO's website and social media for links to the videos to be released during Emergency Preparedness Week!

Parksville Popup in the Atrium - May 8, 10 am to noon

Emergency Management Oceanside will be setup in the Atrium at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre to answer questions and offer resources about emergency preparedness. Learn how to create a home emergency plan, enter a draw for a home emergency kit, and learn more about the Voyent Alert! notification service.

Qualicum Beach Popup at Town Hall – May 10, 10 am to noon

Emergency Management Oceanside will be setup in the foyer at Town Hall in Qualicum Beach to answer questions and offer resources about emergency preparedness. Learn how to create a home emergency plan, enter a draw for a home emergency kit, and learn more about the Voyent Alert! notification service.

Emergency Preparedness 101 - May 12, 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm

Emergency program coordinator, Kate Pocock, will present Emergency Preparedness 101 in the Forum at the Parksville Civic and Technology Centre, as an overview of emergency management in the Oceanside region. Learn about what's involved in community evacuations, community emergency management resources, the hazard and risk assessment for our region and how you can participate and be prepared. The presentation includes a question-and-answer session as well as the opportunity to pick up a fillable home emergency plan and other useful resources. There's a draw to win a home emergency kit!

Parksville *It's Your City* Open House - May 17, 10 am to 2 pm

Emergency Management Oceanside will be on site at Parksville's *It's Your City* open house on Wednesday, May 17 in the Parksville Community Park. Emergency support services and emergency communications team trailers will be setup to showcase emergency management resources available in our community. Stop by and pick up a fillable home emergency plan, ask questions and meet some of our amazing volunteers. Don't forget to enter the draw to win a home emergency kit!

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For more information:

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Voyent Alert! - is a multi-purpose communication service which sends alerts to those who call Oceanside region home. Alerts can be sent over a variety of channels including mobile apps, text/SMS, email, or voice dial. Registration is FREE and fast. Mobile app users can download the *Voyent Alert!* app from Apple or Google Play app stores. Email or SMS users may register online to receive email or text-based alerts at <https://register.voyent-alert.com>. Access to signup can also be accessed from the City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach websites.

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

