

## Parksville-Qualicum Beach Community Update

### Emergency Preparedness Week

Emergency Preparedness Week, May 4 to 10, is recognized annually and this year, emergency program coordinators for Parksville and Qualicum Beach will be doing public outreach and education as well as providing information about the evacuation route planning survey now underway.

- **Monday, May 5, 10 am to 2 pm**  
**Outside Qualicum Beach Townhall**
- **Wednesday, May 7, 10 am to 2 pm**  
**Waterfront Gazebo in the Parksville Community Park**



Being prepared isn't just about what supplies you have; it's about working together so we can collectively respond to and recover from emergencies better. This year's emergency preparedness week theme, "*In it together*," recognizes the importance of relationships and community connection.



When disaster strikes the most immediate help will come from those around you, your neighbours. We encourage you to build connections with them now so that you have strong relationships when emergency and disaster events occur.

This can be simple steps like discussing what you will do in a prolonged power outage, or offering ways you can help each other. Or you may be ready to organize a neighbourhood emergency preparedness program (NEPP). NEPP teams are self-organized neighbourhood groups who come together to prepare and plan for emergencies and disasters. With the support of your local emergency program, you can quickly establish plans for self-reliant communities.

This emergency preparedness week there are some simple steps you can take to increase your personal preparedness:

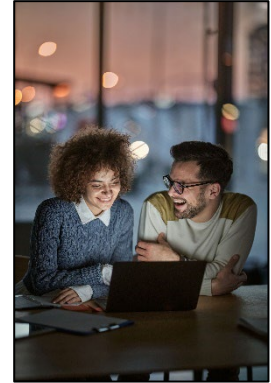
- **Know the risks** – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region can help you better prepare
- **Make a plan** – It will help you and your family know what to do
- **Get an emergency kit** – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency

Visit [www.getprepared.ca](http://www.getprepared.ca) or [Emergency Management Oceanside](http://Emergency Management Oceanside) for more resources to help you and your family prepare for all types of emergencies.

## Emergency Preparedness Webinars

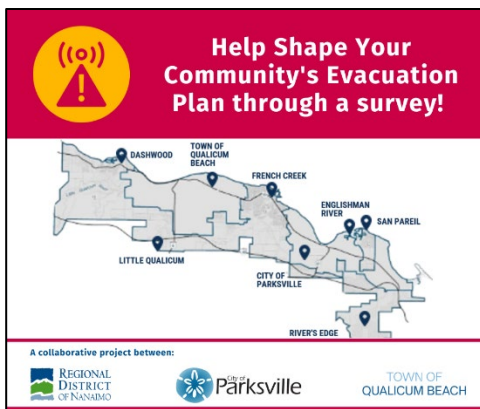
Throughout Emergency Preparedness Week the province will be hosting free webinars for public emergency preparedness. All participants will be entered to win one of five, four-person emergency kits. [Register via Zoom](#). All sessions will be held at 5.30 pm, Pacific Daylight Time.

- |                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Inclusive preparedness           | Monday, May 5    |
| • Cultural safety and preparedness | Tuesday, May 6   |
| • Animal preparedness              | Wednesday, May 7 |
| • Insurance: why it matters        | Thursday, May 8  |
| • Community preparedness           | Friday, May 9    |



## Evacuation Route Planning - Have your say!

The City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and Regional District of Nanaimo are working together to develop an evacuation route plan for Regional District of Nanaimo Electoral Area G, the City and the Town. Identifying local knowledge of hazards and potential evacuation barriers is vital to effective route planning. As part of the planning process, impacted and affected residents and groups are invited to provide their input through a survey until May 31. The feedback gathered will be used to help create a practical and effective evacuation plan.



Wildfires are one of the highest-ranking hazards faced by the region. Given this growing concern, it is critical to develop an operational evacuation route plan, especially considering recent and potential seasonal drought, continuously warming climate and the many single road access communities that exist within the project area. The planning process will consider many factors, including risk areas, population size and demographics, transportation resources and traffic management. Other considerations include evacuation route availability and capacity, communications, animal welfare, identification of vulnerable populations, immediate emergency actions, response and evacuation times, and time of year.

A Community Emergency Preparedness grant of \$88,500 from the Government of British Columbia is fully funding this evacuation route planning project. The funding enables the project partners to identify strategies and alternate evacuation methods for a coordinated multi-agency evacuation response.

For more information about the project, evacuation planning resources and to sign up to receive project updates, visit. [Evacuation Route Planning - RDN Electoral Area G, City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach | Get Involved RDN](#)

***If you live or work in the project area you are encouraged to complete the survey by May 31:***

- Parksville residents can follow this link: [Parksville evacuation survey](#)
- Qualicum Beach residents can follow this link: [Qualicum Beach evacuation survey](#)
- RDN residents can follow this link: [RDN Evacuation Survey](#)

If you would prefer to complete a paper survey, you can stop in at your local government office during regular business hours.

Don't forget to stop in at the emergency preparedness week outreach sessions May 5 and May 7 if you would like to talk about the program with emergency program staff.

## UBCM Emergency Support Services Grant

EMO was successful in securing \$45,900 grant funding from the UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund. The grant will support enhancing group lodging supplies, critical training for Emergency Support Services volunteers, and purchase of supplies to increase our ability to provide an inclusive environment in reception centres and group lodging facilities. We look forward to keeping you updated with the progress of our grant activities!

## Emergency Preparedness Week Voyent Alert! Test

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.

This emergency preparedness week we'll be testing our community emergency alerting system: Voyent Alert! so look out for a test alert during the week. There is still time to register, but if you have already registered and don't receive an alert, please reach out to your emergency program coordinator so we can troubleshoot. Registration for Voyent Alert! 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](mailto:kpocock@parksville.ca) (250) 954-4672 or Shinjini at [smehta@qualicumbeach.com](mailto:smehta@qualicumbeach.com) if 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) | [gbfirerescue.com](http://gbfirerescue.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"><u>info@parksville.ca</u></a>
Administration and Office of the Mayor	250 954-3060; <a href="mailto:administration@parksville.ca"><u>administration@parksville.ca</u></a>
Engineering	250 951-2484; <a href="mailto:engineering@parksville.ca"><u>engineering@parksville.ca</u></a>
Operations	250 248-5412; <a href="mailto:ops@parksville.ca"><u>ops@parksville.ca</u></a>
Parksville Fire Rescue	250 248-3242; <a href="mailto:fire@parksville.ca"><u>fire@parksville.ca</u></a>

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

### For more information:

Kate Pocock, Emergency Program Coordinator, City of Parksville  
[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)

