



Emergency Response And Disaster Preparedness



Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Plan.

The location of Seymour Arm and area makes preparedness more difficult in that in most cases phone or most other means of communication do not exist here. Also hydro power is not available through commercial resources. Most residences here do have some form of communication and/or electric generating ability. In many emergency cases these resources may not be available for use.

The preparedness plan has basically five levels of resource;

- 1 - Personal. (Yourself, your family and your company)
 - 2 - Community. Your community could be your household, your apartment complex, your city block, etc. (each community size is dictated on a local requirement to be manageable)
 - 3 - Local government (Seymour Arm Community Association)
 - 4 - Provincial government (C.S.R.D. – Columbia Shuswap Regional District)
 - 5 – Federal Government. (Military, police, search and rescue)
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Personal:

Each Family and person of each family should have an emergency plan and, “KIT”, in place at all times. Emergency plans should be discussed and practiced by all. The kits should be inspected and updated on a regular basis. Any visitors should be made aware of the plan in place.

Each emergency plan should include escape routes, gathering sites and actions necessary to ensure safety. Each plan should include a contact person, one from outside the province if possible. The contact person should be aware of your plan. They should also be aware of your current location, (whether you are actually at the site or a different location). The contact should be advised that in an emergency, contact will likely not be possible. When they become aware of an emergency in this area, they can attempt contact. If unable to make contact, they would attempt to make authorities aware of your situation and plan. Communication avenues will be saturated and nothing but the extremely necessary calls should be made.

For our area, local communication should be initiated if available on the Co-op North radio channel frequency 157.32.

At the family gathering site a count should be done to ensure all of your group can be accounted for. Contact with others in your neighbourhood should be made to gain and give awareness and current status. When all is done to ensure the safety and preparedness of your immediate group, contact and movement to your closest community gathering site should now take place. Community gathering sites are posted on the area maps located on the SACA website. Situation awareness and investigation should be processed at this time, safety permitting. Communication to all is very important.

Personal Kits:

Each kit should include items to support your group for a period of at least 48 hours, and because of our remote situation 72 hour kits are suggested. All must be made aware that these kits are not toys and must never be tampered with or compromised.

Kits should include such items as may be necessary to provide normal survival aids. They must be kept to a manageable size as they will likely have to be transported without any mechanical assistance.

Flashlights should be a self powered kind to avoid battery dependency. The combination crank flashlight/radio combination is a good idea to maintain news from the outside world. Fire igniters should be matches in a waterproof container, or a lighter, (Bic or barbeque type that is more likely to still work if they get wet).

Some examples for a, “KIT”, and, “grab and go bag”, follow.

[See the following pages for Kit Building Information and Grab and Go Bag Information](#)

Build A Kit

After a major disaster, the usual services we take for granted, such as running water, refrigeration and telephones may be unavailable. Experts recommend that you should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days. Store your household disaster kit in an easily accessible location. Put contents in a large, watertight container (e.g. a large plastic garbage can with a lid and wheels) that can move easily.

The basic emergency kit will help you get through the first 72 hours of an emergency, suggested items are as follows:

- WATER** - two liters of water per person per day
- FOOD** - that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (remember a can opener)
- FIRST AID** - kit along with instructions
- WARM CLOTHES AND BLANKETS** - don't forget footwear and rain gear
- FLASHLIGHT AND BATTERIES**
- GARBAGE BAGS AND BUCKETS**
- BASIC TOOLS** - hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, etc.
- PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS** - don't forget the toilet paper
- SPECIAL ITEMS** - such as medication, infant formula, glasses, etc.
- CANDLES AND MATCHES**

In addition to the basic kit, we recommend you also have the following additional emergency supplies. Then you will be well equipped for even the worst emergency situations.

- TWO ADDITIONAL LITRES OF WATER** per person per day
- HAND SANITIZER**
- UTENSILS, CAN OPENER**
- HOUSEHOLD CHLORINE BLEACH**
- SMALL STOVE AND FUEL**
- DUCT TAPE**
- WHISTLE**
- RADIO** (battery powered or wind-up)
- CASH**



Don't have the time to make a kit? You can buy an emergency kit online and in many stores in your area. The Canadian Red Cross has a kit available at www.redcross.ca and the St. John's Ambulance and The Salvation Army have jointly prepared an emergency kit that is available at www.sja.ca.



Want more Information? See [GET LINKED](#) for links to websites dealing with this topic.

For more information please contact:
Shuswap Emergency Program
Direct Line: (250) 833-5927
Fax: (250) 832-1083
Email: sep@csrd.bc.ca

Grab And Go Bag

Many emergencies and disasters require a rapid evacuation of your home or your office. Prepare one Grab and Go-bag for each family member and make sure each has an I.D. tag. You may not be at home when an emergency strikes, so keep some additional supplies in your car and at work. Here are a few important items to include:

- ▶ **Food that won't spoil**
- ▶ **Water**
- ▶ **Blanket**
- ▶ **Change of clothing**
- ▶ **Candle and matches**
- ▶ **First Aid kit**
- ▶ **Important documents**
- ▶ **Money**
- ▶ **Battery operated radio**
- ▶ **Medications/Prescriptions**
- ▶ **Personal Care Products**
- ▶ **Basic Tools**
- ▶ **Garbage bags and buckets**

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