



May 8, 2012

Emergency Preparedness Week

May 6-12 is Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George is reminding people to be prepared for potential emergencies in their area, such as flooding. Floods can have a significant effect on people and property. It's important to know what to do to reduce the impact of flooding on your home.

As part of Emergency Preparedness Week, the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George offers the following suggestions to people living in areas prone to seasonally high water.

- Keep an emergency kit on hand with enough supplies to sustain you and your family for 72 hours
- Put weather protection sealant around basement windows and the base of ground-level doors
- Install the drainage for downspouts a sufficient distance from your residence to ensure that water moves away from the building
- Consider installing a sump pump and zero reverse flow valves in basement floor drains
- Ensure driveway culverts are clear of debris to permit water flow
- Ensure the ground around your home slopes away from the home
- Fill any low lying ground areas on your property during the summer months

For some residents in the region, preparing for emergencies means more than just having a plan in place for your family and home, but for those in the agriculture industry, it's also about protecting livestock and crops.

Emergency Tips for Farms

- Cattle producers in the flood plain should investigate the availability of alternative livestock accommodation on higher ground. Consider moving some cattle, especially non-milking stock, in the days leading up to potential flooding.
- All cattle should have positive identification and a record kept of the identification in case animals from different herds have to share a relocation site.
- Keep a supply of materials such as rope, sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing.
- Remove all chemicals and store away from any flood levels. Pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers may cause pollution and even poisoning.
- Ensure that your wellhead is protected by a surface seal and a cap to prevent downward movement of water and contaminants. Be ready to turn off the electricity to your well pump just prior to the flood.
- Make arrangements with buyers to accept early shipment of product to reduce inventory.
- Secure copies of insurance policies and other essential farm documents.

For more information about what you can do to prepare yourself for an emergency, visit the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George website at www.rdffg.bc.ca

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