



Local Hazards

The City of Nanaimo has completed a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment to better prepare the community for the type of hazards that could affect us. As well as identifying the hazards, the assessment told us what risk the hazard poses, the likelihood of the incident occurring and shows us what we can do to eliminate or reduce the affect of the hazard.

There were 22 serious local threats named in the study. Of these 22 hazards, 6 are of primary concern due to our geography and location:

Hazard	Probability
Fire – Urban or Industrial	High
Hazardous Materials/Transportation Incidents	Medium
Seismic Event	Medium
Pandemics	Medium
Major Storms	High
Tsunamis	Low

The other identified threats are, in alphabetical order:

- Aircraft Crash
- [Dam Failure](#)
- Drought
- Explosion
- Flooding
- Landslide or Debris Flows
- Lost Persons
- Marine Incident
- Motor Vehicle Crashes
- Power Outages
- Rail Crashes
- Social Disturbance
- Structural Collapse

- Telecommunications Failure
- Terrorism
- Volcanic Ash Fallout
- Wildfires

Inundation Maps

The City has completed studies to analyze areas flooded in the remote event that its dams should fail following an earthquake or other disaster. These maps are used to determine the hazard rating of the dams, in accordance with the Provincial Dam Safety Regulation as well as to plan for emergency preparedness. These maps show inundation areas that are a result of total dam failure – an event that is highly unlikely. Even still, the City is in a process to determine seismic vulnerability of its dams, and to plan for upgrades to minimize downstream damage. For example, during the early summer of 2008, the City seismically stabilized Westwood Lake dam – a 100 year old structure. Should a large-magnitude earthquake occur, the dam is expected to slump, but the upgrade would slow the release of water to a manageable level.

- [Chase River Inundation Map](#)
- [Nanaimo River Inundation Map](#)
- [Westwood Inundation Map](#)