

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed May 5, 2023

Emergency Preparedness Week is May 7 to 13, 2023

Be Prepared. Know Your Risks.

Summary

Being prepared is important and something the whole family can do. As Emergency Preparedness Week approaches, the City of Nanaimo is encouraging residents to prepare for an emergency by making a kit, drafting up a plan and signing up for the City's Voyent Alert! Emergency Notification System.

Natural disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face - whether natural or human-induced. By taking a few simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies – anytime, anywhere. It is important to:

- Know the risks – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community can help you better prepare.
- Make a plan – It will help you and your family know what to do
- Build an emergency kit – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water.

From May 7 to May 13, the City of Nanaimo encourages residents to take concrete actions to be better prepared. Experience has shown that individual preparedness goes a long way to help people cope better - both during and after a major disaster. It can make a world of difference.

For more information about how you can prepare for emergencies and to make a kit, visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/emergencykit or the Province of BC website www.preparedbc.ca.

Strategic Link: Providing information and resources for residents to be prepared for an emergency supports a livable community.

Key Points

- Emergency Preparedness Week is a national event coordinated by Public Safety Canada. This year's theme is, "Be Prepared. Know Your Risks."
- The City of Nanaimo is encouraging residents to make a kit during this week or check kits that have already been prepared.
- Voyent Alert! can send emergency information a variety of ways. Residents can choose to receive a push notifications through the Voyent Alert! smartphone app, an email, text or a phone call are also options should there be a local emergency impacting City of Nanaimo residents. Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/alerts to learn more and sign up.
- Being prepared also means making sure to FireSmart your home to reduce the risk of wildfires. The City of Nanaimo Fire Rescue is hosting two FireSmart workshops in May. Visit the FireSmart page on the City website to sign up.

Quotes

"By becoming aware of risks in your area, you can plan ahead and be better prepared to face a range of emergencies. There's no time like today to create your family emergency plan."

Leonard Krog
Mayor
City of Nanaimo

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