

OFFICE OF THE ELECTORAL AREA DIRECTOR

August 20, 2023

AREA H COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION

Here is some information that Area H residents may find helpful. Please take a moment to read through.

1. **Download Alertable** to receive the most up to date notifications and information on your cell, email or landline <https://alertable.ca/signup/index.html?site=BC5>
FVRD uses Alertable to keep residents informed of vital information for the area.
2. **Be prepared.** Have a Grab and Go Kit ready. During a major emergency/disaster you could spend an extended time away from home and you will want to have supplies to keep you as comfortable as possible. Create your own grab-and-go kit and keep the kit in your car or by your door. Don't forget your passport. Page 12 at link below.
<https://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Services/Documents/Emergency~Services/Emergency%20Preparedness%20Workbook-2022.pdf>
Here is another link for further information.
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-recovery/preparedbc/build-an-emergency-kit-and-grab-and-go-bag>
3. **Emergency Planning for Pets and Farm Animals**
Page 25 and 27 at link below.
<https://www.fvrd.ca/assets/Services/Documents/Emergency~Services/Emergency%20Preparedness%20Workbook-2022.pdf>
4. A terrific resource for our public is the Emergency Planning Guide for personal preparedness found on FVRD's website here: <https://www.fvrd.ca/EN/main/services/emergency-services/emergency-preparedness.html>. Residents can print out the whole guide or the area that is most relevant to them. Absolutely nothing beats personal preparedness as residents should expect to be without services or aid for up to 72 hours at minimum in an event that does not require evacuation to maintain critical life safety. Residents can also find more on this at www.GetPrepared.ca Information with regard to power outages can also be found on the Get Prepared site.
5. **Evacuation Types**
Evacuation Alert- This is the time to get prepared to leave your home on short notice. Get your grab-and-go bags ready, copies of important documents and important mementos. Those with livestock or farm animals should move them out of Area H to safety. Listen to local emergency officials for further information on the situation.

Evacuation Order: You are at risk and must leave the area immediately. This will be communicated through Alertable, and impacted residents **may** be notified by RCMP and first responders knocking on their door. In the event of an evacuation your primary sources of information and instruction will

be the local government and provincial government websites and information feeds. For example, <http://www.fvrd.ca/eoc> and <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

6. **Evacuation/Alternate Routes**- If the main road is closed due to an accident, tree falling or an emergency situation; a protocol is in place with Soowahlie First Nation and we are able to use Sleepy Hollow Road which goes through their land. Soowahlie First Nation is contacted and asked to open their gates. Once they are open, flaggers are put in place and those needing to get in or out will be able to use this route. The entrance from the Cultus Lake side is at the bottom of Sleepy Hollow Road and this road comes out at Vedder Bridge. Soowahlie First Nation, The FVRD and Ministry of Transportation have worked together, and some signage has been installed along the emergency route. Please remember to always drive slowly and respectfully through the Soowahlie lands. FVRD is grateful for the support Soowahlie is providing. *A busy Sunday is inconvenient but is not an emergency so they will not be asked to open their gates in those types of situations.*

There is also a way to travel out of Columbia Valley into Washington State. In the event of a critical life-safety emergency where roads are impassible FVRD can request assistance from the Provincial Government, Emergency Management BC, to activate the Pacific North American Emergency Management Arrangement for emergency cross-border procedures. First Responders will route the traffic.

PNEMA: http://www.nemacweb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/PNEMA_Agreement.pdf

7. **Be Fire Smart**

Protect your own home from wildfires - keep the grass cut, move debris, stacked firewood etc. away from the side of your home, keep hedges watered as much as possible. Consider purchasing roof top sprinklers. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/firesmart>

Free FireSmart Assessment

Residents can request a free **FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment** of their home and yard by a FireSmart Representative. These assessments look at any potential wildfire hazards on and around the home as well the vegetation around the home. The FireSmart Representative provides recommendations to the homeowner on how to mitigate any hazards found. Email Andrew at firesmart@fvrd.ca for more information or to line up an assessment.

Stay safe everyone.

Taryn

Taryn Dixon

Director, FVRD Electoral Area