

Central Okanagan  
**EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

*Central Okanagan Emergency Operations  
2024 Spring Emergency Preparedness Communications*



# Four phases of emergency management

## Mitigation



## Preparedness



## Response

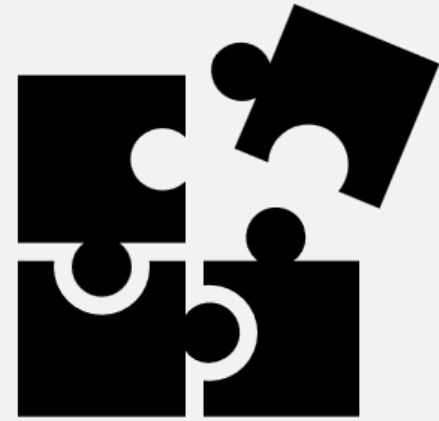


## Recovery



# Purpose

- To inform and engage residents across the Central Okanagan to help them better prepare for emergencies this season and in the future through [cordemergency.ca](http://cordemergency.ca)
- Residents know how to access information about risks (freshet-specific in post-wildfire areas, extreme weather events, wildfires, etc.)





# Who are we targeting?

- Residents in burn areas that may have higher risk of debris overflow or flooding
- Residents in interface areas
- Business community
- Members of our communities that may be more vulnerable to emergencies (seniors, new residents)
- Residents' associations, groups, service organizations



# Communication goals

1. Know where to get information about current emergencies.
2. Know how to prepare for future emergencies
3. Support their neighbours to better prepare for or respond to an emergency
4. Build stronger relations between members of the community and emergency officials



# Communications methods

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**Get involved!**  
**Community Readiness Public Engagement**  
**April 15 - May 12, 2024**  
**Learn more: [Yoursay.RDCO.com](https://yoursay.rdco.com)**

Provide your input on emergency preparedness, response and recovery to help create strong and resilient communities in the Central Okanagan. Feedback will help shape the future of the Regional Emergency Program and emergency preparedness.

**In-person**

**Drop by an open house**  
**4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.:**


- April 16 - Westbank First Nation - Gymnasium
- May 6 - Ellison Heritage Community Hall
- May 7 - Killiney Beach Community Hall
- May 8 - Joe Rich Community Hall

**Online**

**Visit [yoursay.rdco.com](https://yoursay.rdco.com):**

- Complete a questionnaire
- Add an idea
- Share your story
- Ask an Expert
- Email your feedback
- Subscribe [cordemergency.ca](https://cordemergency.ca) to receive updates

**Visit [yoursay.rdco.com](https://yoursay.rdco.com) before May 12, 2024.**  
✉ [communications@rdco.com](mailto:communications@rdco.com) | 📞 250-469-6193



**Are you ready in an emergency?**

- Know the risks
- Make a plan
- Build a 'grab and go' kit
- Sign up for emergency notifications

**Risk of landslides or floods are higher after a wildfire**

- Know the risks
- Protect our home and property
- Sign up for emergency notifications

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[cordemergency.ca](https://cordemergency.ca)

**Seasonal temps are breaking records**

- Know the risks and make a plan
- Check-in on family and neighbours
- Watch for advisories and alerts from official sources

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## Community Readiness



## Central Okanagan **EMERGENCY OPERATIONS**

### Community Readiness

Being prepared for emergencies is crucial for the safety and well-being of everyone who calls the Central Okanagan region home. We'd like to hear from you about your level of preparedness and communication preferences.

How would you:

- look after your household for 3-7 days without electricity or tap water?
- cope if you had to evacuate your home on short notice?
- contact your family and receive information during an emergency?

We are no strangers to disasters. There are increasing hazards in our communities such as flooding, debris flows, drought, wildfires, extreme weather in the Central Okanagan. That's why it's essential for residents and businesses to have a plan in place. By sharing your experience and awareness of emergency preparedness, your input will help us improve our emergency management communication strategies before, during, and after an emergency.

### Have your say on community readiness from April 15 through May 12, 2024.

Your input will make a difference in shaping our emergency response plans and increase the safety of our communities within the [Central Okanagan](https://www.cordemergency.ca) region. You are invited to:

- Complete a short [questionnaire](#) (10 minutes to complete)
- Share an idea on emergency preparedness
- Contribute a story about neighbours helping neighbours
- Submit a question during the Ask an Expert Series from April 15 - 26, 2024
- Drop by a family-friendly community open house:
  - Ellison Heritage Community Centre, May 6 from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
  - Killiney Beach Community Hall, May 7 from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
  - Joe Rich Community Hall, May 8 from 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Staff will attend to answer questions and provide information on emergency preparedness, including additional services provided by the Regional District of Central Okanagan. Volunteer Fire Departments in the Electoral Areas will be hosting a barbecue serving hotdogs and hamburgers by donation.

Printed copies of the questionnaire can be picked up at the Fire Departments located in the Electoral Areas, the EECO Centre located at the Mission Creek Regional Park, or the RDCO office at 1450 KLO Road. For paper copies mailed directly to your home call 250-469-6193. Completed printed questionnaires must be received by September 30 at the RDCO office and marked to the attention of the Communications Department.

The input provided will be compiled and shared with Central Okanagan Emergency Management officials to proactively prepare for the modernization of the Province of B.C.'s Emergency Management Act, which is expected this year.

### Who's Listening

**Deputy Chief Sandra Follack**

Regional Emergency Program Manager

Email [communications@rdco.com](mailto:communications@rdco.com)

**Kari O'Rourke**

Regional Emergency Program

Communications Officer

Regional District of Central Okanagan

Email [communications@rdco.com](mailto:communications@rdco.com)

### Project timeline

#### Public Engagement

📅 April 15 - May 12, 2024

Online and in-person open houses scheduled.

#### Ask an Expert Series

📅 April 15 - 26, 2024

Preparing for an emergency is best when there isn't one. Ask our experts on post-wildfire hazards, FireSmart activities and ways to prepare for an emergency.

#### Emergency Preparedness Week

📅 May 5 - 11, 2024

Learn ways to be prepared in an emergency.

#### What We Heard Summary

📅 Summer 2024

What We Heard Summary will be shared with partners, interested parties and local residents.

#### Emergency Planning Integration

📅 Fall 2024 and beyond

Communications recommendations implemented and evaluation



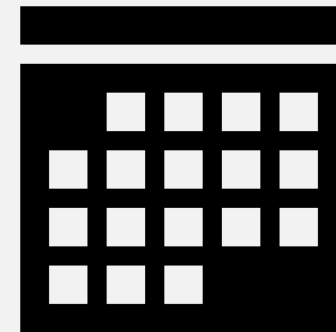
Posters and post cards

Emergency Preparedness campaign

[yoursay.rdco.com](https://yoursay.rdco.com)

# Key dates (in-person)

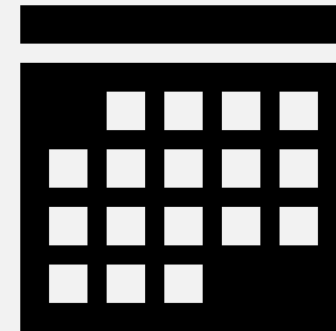
- Community readiness public engagement outreach: April 15 - May 12, 2024
- Tagging on to existing RDCO open house dates:
  - April 16 @Westbank First Nation Gymnasium
  - May 6 @Ellison Heritage Community Centre
  - May 7 @Killliney Beach Community Hall,
  - May 8 @Joe Rich Community Hall
- Additional scheduled community FireSmart/community days events (Peachland Apr 6 & June 8, West Kelowna Apr 27 & May 25, City of Kelowna, & District of Lake Country events)



# Key dates (online)

- Online

- Community readiness public engagement: April 15 - May 12, 2024 – [yoursay.rdco.com](https://yoursay.rdco.com)
- Ask an Expert Series – Call for questions April 15 - 26, 2024 – 3 topics (Landslide/debris overflow, FireSmart and Emergency Preparedness Week)
- Emergency Preparedness Week – May 5 - 11, 2024
  - Ask an Expert video series rolls out on cordmergency, including print and digital advertising
- Ongoing updates throughout the year





# Partner collaboration

- Regional partner toolkit to support amplification
- Outreach to EOC reps, fire departments, EDC, tourism organizations, neighbourhood associations and support agencies







# Recommendation

**THAT** the Committee of the Whole receives the 2024 Emergency Preparedness Communications update from the Director of Communication & Information Services, dated April 11, 2024 for information.