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For Immediate Release

TIME TO PREPARE FOR FLOODING

CRD residents asked to plan ahead as forecast calls for warmer temperatures

With warm weather in the forecast, spring snowmelt (freshet) isn't far behind. Now is the time for residents of the Cariboo Regional District to assess their property for potential drainage issues and ensure they are prepared.

"It's important that residents take steps now to be prepared and proactively address any flooding issues on their property," says Stuart Larson, CRD Manager of Protective Services. "We are setting up sandbagging stations in key areas, but property owners are responsible to have the tools and equipment they need to protect their properties from potential flooding."

Unfilled bags and sand will be available at the CRD's Wildwood and Miocene Volunteer Fire Departments for residents who are experiencing or want to be prepared for flooding. If you require sandbags, stop by the Wildwood or Miocene fire halls to pick up unfilled bags and fill them with sand. The sand and sandbags are provided free to residents for protecting their homes; however, there is a limited supply of sandbags, so residents are asked to take only what they require. Bags and sand will be placed in other communities depending on need.

Here are some additional steps residents can take to be prepared:

1. Sign up for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System.

Sign up or make sure your contact information is up-to-date at cariboord.ca. You will be notified when an emergency affects you.

2. Assess your property and buildings for potential drainage issues.

Assessing and addressing potential issues now can help avoid major problems when the snowmelt begins. Pick up sandbags if you need them and [read this resource](#) about how to use sandbags effectively.

3. Have an [emergency plan prepared](#) for your household.

Have a plan for your family members and their needs, consider how you will care for or transport pets and livestock and identify how you will get information in an emergency. Planning ahead of time will mean you can respond quickly in an emergency.

4. Have an [emergency kit prepared](#).

Creating a home emergency kit doesn't need to take long. Follow [this basic list](#) and remember to add personal items, such as prescription medications, an extra pair of eyeglasses and copies of important documents like passports, birth certificates and insurance papers. Make sure emergency kits are in easily accessible locations.

If you are experiencing flooding issues that affect your home or business, please call the Provincial Emergency Reporting Line at 1-800-663-3456. For other concerns, contact the Cariboo Regional District at 250-392-3351 or after hours at 1-800-665-1636 (press 5).

Find more information on flood preparedness, current freshet conditions and emergency updates at:

- **Cariboo Regional District Website**
www.cariboord.ca/services/emergency-and-protective-services/emergency-operations-centre-eoc/recovery
- **CRD Emergency Operations Facebook Page**
www.facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations
- **Prepared BC – Flooding Readiness Information (including sandbag info)**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/floods>
- **BC River Forecast Centre – Snow Conditions and Water Supply Bulletin**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre/snow-survey-water-supply-bulletin>

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