

April 19, 2020

EOC-20-03

For Immediate Release

## Early preparation key to minimizing potential flood impact to Cariboo Chilcotin residents

With continued warm weather in the forecast, the Cariboo region will continue to see high stream flows or flooding. In particular, residents in low-lying areas and near waterways should prepare for possible flooding. With faster than normal melt rates, flows are unpredictable in means of direction and volume and historical conditions may not apply.

Taking preparatory steps in advance is the best way to reduce the potential of damage to property or to personal safety. It is the homeowner's responsibility to undertake temporary and sufficient flood protection to protect homes and property. Have an emergency plan, prepare emergency supplies, assess your property and buildings for potential drainage issues and take proactive steps to prevent flooding.

- Prepare personal emergency supply kits for your home, car and work (plan for at least a three-day supply of food and water for each family member)
- Have a grab-and-go kit ready if you must leave your home quickly
- Keep important papers in watertight containers and have a record of your valuables in a safe place
- If flooding is likely in your area, pay attention to the local media for information
- Watch for warning signs: increase in height and intensity of water flows, mudslides, debris in creeks, colour changes in water or leaning trees
- Know that banks of rivers and streams may be unstable and dangerous
- Keep a safe distance away from fast flowing water, especially children
- Teach your children about flood safety
- Consider arrangements for your pets and any livestock

Learn more about proper sandbagging techniques: <https://bit.ly/2XUnZGi>

Residents are strongly encouraged to register for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System to receive a text, call or email regarding Evacuation Alerts and Orders or other emergency updates: [www.member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612292#/signup](http://www.member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612292#/signup)

The CRD's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will currently activated at Level Two to enable a quick response to any flooding and to support residents who may be impacted by flooding.

**In the event of an emergency, please call the CRD's Emergency Information Line at 1-866-759-4977. To report a CRD-related emergency, call 1-800-665-1636 (after hours, press 5).**

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**Media Contact:**

Public Information Officer

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