

Background Paper 3 of 9

Hazards and Emergency Management

The City of Pitt Meadows provides and supports emergency services for the community, including fire and rescue and community policing. The City also has its own emergency preparedness program which focuses on preparing the City, and its citizens and businesses for emergencies.

Current Trends

- Increasing amount of information and tools available to determine hazard risks and climate change impacts for communities.
- Preparation on the part of municipalities to deal with potential hazards and to mitigate their effects on the community.
- Planning for climate change adaption, particularly with regards to infrastructure.



Challenges

- Ongoing maintenance of the diking system.
- Potential for an earthquake event.
- The proximity of some areas of the City to the forest increases the chances of impacts from wildfires.
- Need to formalize the municipal business continuity plan.
- Maintaining and keeping all emergency plans up-to-date.
- Emergency preparedness does not always appear to have tangible results to the general public.
- Community growth places greater pressure on emergency services.
- Over 78% of Pitt Meadows is located within the flood plain.
- Frequency and severity of flooding expected to increase over the next 85 years

Opportunities

- Partnering with nearby municipalities and Katzie First Nation in emergency response and preparedness.
- Continuing to apply for grants from senior levels of government and other agencies that are available to help fund emergency preparedness initiatives.
- Continuing to enable people in the community to look after themselves and their neighbours as much as possible in the case of emergency.
- Constructing earthquake resilient municipal buildings when building new or replacing old structures.

Current & Upcoming Projects

- Construction of a new fire hall on the site of the existing fire hall.
- Emergency preparedness workshops open to the public.
- Evacuation route planning.

To provide input, visit haveyoursaypittmeadows.ca