

FLOODWATCH TIPS

Flood Information for Licensed Child Care Facilities

As a result of widespread and heavy snowfall conditions this past winter, the River Forecast Centre of British Columbia is predicting that the spring runoff will be well above normal. This may lead to flooding in areas surrounding the Fraser River this spring.

Some licensed community care facilities within Fraser Health may be affected, either directly or indirectly, should flooding occur. It is imperative therefore, that licensees have a plan to address this type of emergency. Even if you have regular fire drills and have prepared binders with instructions from emergency response agencies, are you really prepared for such an event?

THE POTENTIAL FOR SPRING FLOODING IS REAL!

PREPARING FOR A FLOOD

The following considerations should be included in your emergency plan:

CHILD CARE

- Is your child care facility located in a flood risk area?
(Check with your local municipal office or municipal website.)
- If there is a potential for flooding, are the childrens' families aware of this possibility?
- Have you determined how you will contact numerous families within a short period of time?
- Has the parent notified the emergency contact that they may be required to pick up the child/ children on short notice if the parent is unable to do so?
- Are families aware that they may be required to arrange for alternate care with little or no notice should the child care facility need to close?
- Have you considered how you will preserve essential records/documents? e.g. emergency services, child contacts
- How will you manage utility disruptions and/or road closures? e.g. development of emergency kits; extra food supplies, medication, etc.
- How will you remain current of the emergency situation should you be without power or telephone? e.g. emergency kits equipped with battery powered or wind-up radio

It is anticipated that residents in the flood plain will be provided with notice from your Community Emergency Response personnel if an evacuation is necessary. This should allow licensees time to advise parents that alternate care arrangements are required.

If you experience flooding and there is a disruption in your ability to provide care, you must:

1. As soon as practical, contact your Licensing Officer to inform them of your service delivery problem.
2. Undergo a facility inspection before your child care facility can re-open. Please contact your Licensing Officer to arrange for an inspection.

Licensed Child Care Facilities that have been impacted by the effects of flooding cannot operate until authorized to do so by a Licensing Officer

For information on how to clean up after a flood, refer to one of the following:

- **One Step at a Time** (14 page booklet): www.pep.bc.ca/floods/docs/FloodRecoveryGuide.pdf
- **Cleaning Up After a Flood** (2 page handout): www.pep.bc.ca/floods/docs/cleaningup.pdf
- Fraser Health Authority:
 - o *Flood information for Homeowners*
 - o *Flood information for Personal Service Establishments*
 - o *Flood information for Food Premises*
 - o *Flood information for Swimming Pools and Hot Tubs*

Additional references that may be of assistance:

- River Forecast Centre (web site) provides advisories and warnings
www.env.gov.bc.ca
- PEP-(Provincial Emergency Program) BC Flood Preparedness Measures
www.pep.bc.ca/index.html
- Check your local municipal website for additional community specific information.