

# FLOODWATCH TIPS

## Flood Information for Licensed Residential 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:

**RESIDENTIAL CARE** (Staffing, Medications, Equipment, Food & Water services, Physical facility)

- Is your residential care facility located in a flood risk area?  
(Check your local municipal office or municipal website.)
- If there is a potential for flooding, are the residents and/or families aware of this possibility?
- Are resident contacts aware that they may be requested to assist in arranging for alternate care of the resident in the event the facility needs to be evacuated? (e.g. resident home with their family).
- Have you determined how you will contact numerous families within a short period of time?
- In the event you must evacuate the premises, have you identified an alternate site(s) that will not be affected by flooding?
- Have you considered which records/documents are required and how you will preserve and transfer them to the alternate site? e.g. resident files, contact information, care plans, etc.
- Have you considered how you will address medication supply, delivery and storage?
- Have you ensured that you will have access to necessary equipment? e.g. mechanical lifts, oxygen, wheelchairs, etc.
- Have you considered how you will transport residents to the alternate site(s) if evacuation is necessary?



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- How you will transport necessary supplies? e.g. incontinence supplies, bedding, towels, cleaning supplies, etc.
- 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 and lanterns
- Have you identified staff that may be personally affected by flooding? How will you ensure you have enough staff to meet the resident's basic care needs?
- How will special diets be addressed?

It is anticipated that residents in the flood plain will be provided with notice by their Community Emergency Response personnel if an evacuation is necessary.

Licensees need to consider the number of persons in care requiring evacuation and ensure adequate time is allotted to remove all of the individuals. Equipment and supplies may be able to be stored ahead of time.

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 residential care facility can re-open. Please contact your Licensing Officer to arrange for an inspection.

***Licensed Residential 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](http://www.pep.bc.ca/floods/docs/FloodRecoveryGuide.pdf)
- **Cleaning Up After a Flood** (2 page handout): [www.pep.bc.ca/floods/docs/cleaningup.pdf](http://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](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca)
- PEP-(Provincial Emergency Program) BC Flood Preparedness Measures  
[www.pep.bc.ca/index.html](http://www.pep.bc.ca/index.html)
- Check your local municipal website for additional community specific information.