

Are you prepared for an emergency?

The Okanagan is just starting to recover from flooding this spring and preparations are already underway for wildland fire season. The risk of an emergency varies depending on where you live in the Penticton, but all residents should have a basic level of preparedness including a family emergency plan and a 72-hour emergency kit. The getprepared.ca website from the Government of Canada is an excellent resource for preparing for an emergency. Here are some of the highlights to get you started.

Family Emergency Plan

Emergencies happen when we don't expect them, and often when families are not together. Suddenly, you need to think about your kids at school or elderly parents across town. If phones don't work, or some neighbourhoods aren't accessible, what will you do? Having a family emergency plan will save time and make real situations less stressful. Here is a list of items to think about when preparing your plan.

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health and insurance information
- Places for your pet to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical panel, gas valve and floor drain

72-hour kit content

In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. You may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. Here is a list of items to include in your list.

- Water – at least two litres of water per person per day; include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order
- Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (replace food and water once a year)
- Manual can-opener
- Crank or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries)
- Crank, battery-powered radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Extra keys to your car and house

- Some cash in smaller amounts, such as \$10 bills
- A copy of your emergency plan and contact information
- If applicable, other items such as prescription medication, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities, or food, water and medication for your pets or service animal (personalize according to your needs)

I want to prepare for an emergency

The City recently created a landing page on penticton.ca to provide a central resource for residents in the event of an emergency. Visit this page for information on current emergencies including maps and official notices. You can also find more information on what to do before, during and after an emergency. Go to Penticton.ca > I want to > Prepare for an emergency.



The neighbourhood of Riddle Road was recently recognized as a FireSmart Community. The FireSmart program encourages citizens who live on the outskirts of the City in the urban wildland interface to work together to mitigate the risk of wildland fire. In May, residents along with the Penticton Fire Department and local volunteers hauled two large truckloads of dried brush and other fuel from the entrance to 1400 Riddle Road. Sendero Canyon and Spiller Road residents have also participated in the FireSmart Community program.

Role of public emphasized in future park decisions

At an upcoming meeting scheduled for June, Penticton City Council will receive the following key recommendations supported by the City's Parks and Recreation Master Plan Task Force that, in addition to providing improved planning and governance, better allow community members to become involved in decisions surrounding park land.

That Council support the new Park Dedication Bylaw – ensures any lease or sale of park land contained in the bylaw requires elector approval.

That Council support the Park Land Protection and Use Policy – introduces a 10 step process for considering future park land use and includes requirements for public engagement.

That Council support the new Master Plan – marks the creation of a new long-term guiding document



for parks and recreation. Includes public input received through community engagement.

"I thought the Task Force did a great job challenging, debating and ultimately forming three key documents that will protect parks, better define usage and be the guiding document to parks and recreation needs, trends and opportunities into the future", said Penticton Mayor, Andrew Jakubeit.

"It took longer than expected but I think the end result closes the loop on the ambiguity surrounding park uses and the process to involve the public for input and approval. The past plan for parks and recreation was from 1993, so we are in desperate need of an update. The task force was community driven and we are very thankful for their dedication, commitment and fortitude throughout the entire process."

Repair work undertaken along Okanagan Lake pile wall

Efforts to reverse damage sustained during the spring 2017 high water event to the sheet pile wall along the Okanagan Lake waterfront, west

of the elevated walkway near the Peach, got underway in late April. The work involved removing temporary cobble rock and concrete

blocks and installing new sheet piles, a concrete cap and replacing sand. The City also began work under the elevated walkway, adding rock armouring along the frontage to protect the area from further erosion and damage.

"We are committed to maintaining this important infrastructure", said City Engineer, Ian Chapman. "The steps taken will ensure this stretch of waterfront remains protected should another high water event take place."



Building permit processing times drops

Shovels are hitting the ground faster with recent improvements to the City's building permit process. The City kicked off a modernization program in 2017 to make applications for building permits easier and it's starting to pay off. The building permit review times have decreased from an average of 8 weeks in 2017 to an average of 2.5 weeks in 2018. The improvements in processing times have occurred during another banner year as well. New single family and multi-family dwelling starts are on pace



to exceed 2017 numbers with 42 single family dwellings and 139 multi-family units after only four months of 2018 compared to 33 and

13 during the same period last year. The City is now turning its attention to improving the business license application process.