
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Abbotsford Prepares For the ‘Big One’

ABBOTSFORD – April 18, 2016: The City of Abbotsford and the Abbotsford Emergency Program are geared up to help residents prepare for an emergency, including large magnitude earthquakes, during Emergency Preparedness Week from May 2-9, announced Mayor Henry Braun.

There are several events throughout the week that residents can take part in to educate themselves and their families on how to be prepared in the event of a major earthquake.

“The local earthquake on August 27, 2015 was a good reminder that we never know when an emergency will happen,” said Abbotsford Mayor, Henry Braun. “What we do know is that we can always be prepared in the event of an earthquake or other emergency. I encourage all residents to participate in the events during Emergency Preparedness week to get a better understanding of how we can protect our families.”

One way to gauge just how major an earthquake can be is to take a ride in the earthquake simulator “Shake Zone.” The City of Abbotsford has partnered with the Insurance Bureau of Canada, and other municipalities to bring the “Shake Zone” to Abbotsford as it travels around other Metro Vancouver locations during Emergency Preparedness Week.

“IBC is pleased to have the opportunity to join with Abbotsford for the Shake Zone tour. Preparing Canadians for an earthquake is a priority for Canada’s insurance industry,” said Bill Adams, Vice-President, Western & Pacific, IBC. “More than 3,000 earthquakes occur in BC every year and, luckily, very few cause damage. But at some point, a big one will hit. It is not a matter of if, but when.”

The public can experience this simulated 8.0 magnitude earthquake on May 2 at Highstreet Shopping Centre from 10am to 4pm. In addition to the earthquake simulator, there will be emergency organizations on site with information booths including Central Fraser Valley Search and Rescue, St. John Ambulance, Abbotsford Fire Rescue Services, Abbotsford Police Department and more.

Residents are also encouraged to register for a free earthquake seminar by earthquake expert Taimi Mulder on May 4 at 2pm or 7pm. Mulder, an earthquake specialist with Natural Resource Canada, will provide a detailed look at the two tectonic plates that are responsible for the earthquake hazard in Abbotsford. Registration is required at www.abbotsford.ca/quake.

All of these events are planned to ensure residents and their families learn life saving tips from emergency responders and to be better prepared in the event of emergencies such as earthquakes, flooding, and other disasters. For more details on these events and Emergency Preparedness Week, visit www.abbotsford.ca/quake.

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For more information contact:

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Backgrounder:

MAY 2 - 9 EVENT LISTINGS

EXPERIENCE THE 8.0 SHAKE ZONE EARTHQUAKE SEMINAR

Join Mayor, Council and Emergency Responders on May 2 at 10am as we kick off Emergency Preparedness Week with a ride in the Shake Zone earthquake simulator!

Date: May 2, 2016

Time: 10am - 4pm

(Mayor & Council Kick Off Event at 10am)

Location: Highstreet Shopping Centre, 3122 Mt. Lehman Road

In front of the Cineplex VIP Cinema

ATTEND A FREE SEMINAR: SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL

Hear from earthquake expert, Taimi Mulder of Natural Resource Canada and learn about earthquakes in the southwest corner of BC. [Registration is required.](#)

Date: May 4, 2016

Times: 2pm & 7pm

Location: Matsqui Centennial Auditorium

32315 South Fraser Way

Cost: Free

EMERGENCY KIT SALES AND INFORMATION DISPLAYS

1. May 2, 2016
Highstreet Shopping Centre, 10am-4pm
2. May 3, 2016
JAMES Plant, 8:30am-11:30am
Matsqui Rec Centre, 12:30pm-3:30pm
3. May 4, 2016
Abbotsford Rec Centre, 8:30am-11:30am
City Hall, 12:30pm-3:30pm
4. May 5, 2016
Operations Yard, 8:30am-11:30am
Abbotsford Airport, 12:30pm-3:30pm
5. May 6, 2016
Garden Park Tower, 12:30pm-3:30pm