
INFORMATION BULLETIN

Abbotsford Emergency Preparedness Week

ABBOTSFORD – April 27, 2017: The City of Abbotsford and the Abbotsford Emergency Program are geared up to help residents prepare for an emergency during Emergency Preparedness Week from May 7-13.

The main focus of this year's Emergency Preparedness Week is Communication Plans. During times of crisis, communication is usually the first thing to break down. Being able to contact your loved ones is likely the most critical component to your response and recovery process. If you are able to establish that your family is safe and accounted for, you will likely be calmer, and able to focus on the steps required to address the emergency you are being faced with. A few key things to note when creating a family communication plan are:

- Make a list of what needs to be done ahead of time and think of disaster specific plans (ie. Earthquakes will require beds to be moved away from windows)
- Practice your plans at least once a year. Keep a copy of your family plan at work, school and in your car.
- Consider that there will be different plans to reflect whether you are at home, work or school at the time of the disaster. Include your pet(s) in your planning.
- Identify an out-of-town contact that can act as a central point of contact in an emergency for both your immediate family and your extended family.
- Plan emergency exits from each room of your home. Try to think of two possibilities for each room. If you live in an apartment, do not plan to use the elevators. Also, identify an escape route from your neighbourhood in case you are ordered to evacuate
- Identify safe places where everyone should meet if they have to leave home during an emergency. Have a safe place near your home and a safe place outside your immediate neighbourhood.
- Ask your children's school or daycare about their emergency policies. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency.

For a full list of tips on creating a communication plan, visit www.abbotsford.ca/emergency.

Life472 will also be selling Emergency Kits and providing personal preparedness information throughout the week at City facilities:

- Monday, May 8 - City Hall (8:30am – 1pm)
- Tuesday, May 9 - MRC (8:30am-1pm)
- Wednesday, May 10 - ARC (8:30am-1pm)
- Thursday, May 11 - City Hall (8:30 am– 1pm)
- Friday, May 12 - Clearbrook Library (11am-3:30pm - no kit sales)

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/emergency.

For more information contact:

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