



# Media Release

**Date:** June 1, 2022

For immediate release

## RDCK encourages residents to be flood prepared

Nelson, BC: With snowpack levels the highest the province has experienced since 2012, the risk of flooding in the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) continues to increase. It is imperative that all RDCK residents take the necessary steps to be flood prepared.

Currently the West Kootenay's snowpack is at 128% of normal. With the reduced snowmelt rates, rivers, creeks and streams across the RDCK are flowing at seasonal to below seasonal levels. Weather plays a key role in whether flooding occurs, and cooler spring temperatures, periods of extreme heat, and wet weather can all exacerbate flood risk. The cooler temperatures through April and May have increased the risk of flooding if an extended period of extreme heat occurs in June.

The key to emergency preparedness is knowing the risks and having a plan. Know the hazards in your area and take the time **NOW** to assemble your family [Emergency Kit and Grab and Go Bag](#). Your plan should also include where you will meet if you need to evacuate, including how you would move pets and livestock to a safe area, in the event the situation worsens and an Evacuation Order is enforced. Sandbags and sand are also available for residents at any of the locations listed on the RDCK website: [www.rdck.ca/befloodprepared](http://www.rdck.ca/befloodprepared). It is also important to review your insurance policy. Standard home, tenant and condo insurance policies provide coverage for some of your expenses when you leave your home due to mandatory evacuation order.

[Sign up for emergency notifications](#), through Voyent Alert! The RDCK uses the mass-notification system to send out critical information to residents and visitors in the event of an emergency. Residents should also be aware that the province has expanded use of its broadcast intrusive system to include flooding and wildfire messaging. This allows local government and First Nations to use the service to alert residents if there is an imminent threat to life and public safety. This system will be used to amplify Evacuation Orders in the RDCK.

The RDCK warns everyone to exercise extreme caution around rivers and creeks and report any landslides or flooding to the [Provincial Emergency Coordinator Centre](#) at 1.800.663.3456. Residents and business along Kootenay Lake are encouraged to keep a close eye on lake levels and assess what impact rising lake levels may have on their property and be prepared in the event there is a sudden rise in lake level. FortisBC provides daily updates on current and forecasted lake levels. For the most current information and to sign up for lake level notices, visit [www.fortisbc.com/lakelevel](http://www.fortisbc.com/lakelevel). You can also subscribe to receive [BC Hydro email updates](#) on reservoir level forecasts for either the Lower Columbia River or the Upper Columbia River.

For details about evacuations and emergency preparedness, along with other resources, please visit [www.rdck.ca/eocinfo](http://www.rdck.ca/eocinfo). Follow the [RDCK website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the most up to date information.

For more emergency preparedness resources:

- [Current RDCK Evacuation Alerts, Orders and Rescinds](#) or call 250.352.7701
- Report flooding or any new hazards to the 24-hour toll-free provincial emergency number at 1.800.663.3456.
- [Sign up for RDCK Emergency Notification System to receive notifications](#)
- Follow the [BC River Forecast Centre](#) for flood warning and advisories
- [FortisBC Kootenay Lake Level Monitoring](#)
- [Prepared BC](#)
- [Public weather alerts for BC from Environment Canada](#)
- [Fortis BC Outage Map](#) or call 1.866.436.7847
- [BC Hydro outage map](#) or call 1.800.224.9376
- [Nelson Hydro](#) 1.877.324.9376
- [Drive BC](#) for highway closures and road conditions
- [Yellowhead Road and Bridge \(YRB\)](#) 1.888.630.1420
- [Insurance Bureau of Canada](#) 1.844.227.5422

*Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit [www.rdck.ca](http://www.rdck.ca).*

-30-

**For further information, please contact:**

**Chris Johnson**  
Manager of Community Sustainability  
Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Tel: 250.352.1530  
Email: [cjohnson@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:cjohnson@rdck.bc.ca)

**For media enquiries:**

**Dan Elliott**  
Communications Coordinator  
Regional District of Central Kootenay  
Tel: 250.352.1531  
Email: [delliott@rdck.bc.ca](mailto:delliott@rdck.bc.ca)