

Emergency Preparedness

Resident Resource Guide



HARRISON HOT SPRINGS

Naturally Refreshed

Emergency Preparedness:

Resident Resource Guide

Stay Informed. Be Prepared.



The Village of Harrison Hot Springs gratefully acknowledges that we are situated on the traditional and ancestral territory of Sts'ailes.

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About This Guide



This guide was prepared by the Village of Harrison Hot Springs in response to a recommendation made at an Age-Friendly Committee meeting. The draft guide was presented to the Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program (KHJEP) Committee, and we appreciate the contributions by the other KHJEP communities - the District of Kent and Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island).

This guide is intended to be a reference to empower residents in understanding the emergency processes and resources in place, as well as some tips on how to best prepare yourself and your home. Every emergency situation will be different, however, understanding the programs and procedures in place, and taking steps to ensure personal preparedness will support enhanced resiliency in the face of uncertainty.

Residents are encouraged to sign up for Alertable at **alertable.ca**, a multi-purpose communication service used to send alerts during critical events. The Village will utilize Alertable in the event of an emergency while also posting any critical information to its website: **www.harrisonhotsprings.ca**

Please note, the Village has reviewed the information provided in this guide for accuracy at the time of publication. This guide will be updated from time to time, and the most current version will be available on our website. The PreparedBC website and other trusted resources found at the end of this guide, should be consulted for additional information.

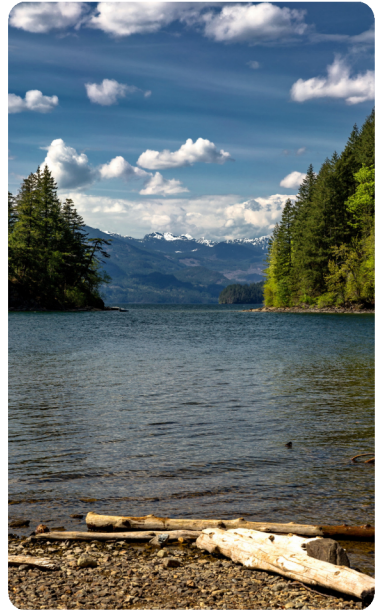
Emergency Planning

How the Village's Emergency Program is Organized

Kent-Harrison Joint Emergency Program (KHJEP)

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs and the District of Kent are partners in the Kent-Harrison Joint Emergency Program (KHJEP). This program addresses the four phases of emergency management:

- 1 **Mitigation**
- 2 **Preparedness**
- 3 **Response**
- 4 **Recovery**



The Emergency Program Coordinator is responsible for regular updates to the Emergency Plan and facilitates meetings of the Kent-Harrison Joint Emergency Program Committee. Along with the Village and District of Kent, the Committee has representation from Sq'éwqel (Seabird Island), Kent Harrison Search & Rescue, Emergency Management BC, and other key stakeholders who participate in regular meetings, planning sessions, and training.

Emergency Planning

Village of Harrison Hot Springs

Village staff have participated in a number of Emergency Management training courses and will continue to advance skills through further Emergency Management training and operational exercises. The Village is following a pathway to implementation of the new Emergency and Disaster Management Act.



Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department consists of approximately 24 paid on-call volunteer firefighters. They are a committed group of individuals who train year-round to ensure they are prepared in the event of an emergency. Recent training exercises have included structure protection training to enhance resiliency in the event of an interface fire. In 2024 a trailer was purchased with the hoses, pumps, and sprinklers to support a structure protection unit.



Emergency Planning

Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island)

Sq'ewqel (Seabird Island) has a full time Emergency Manager and a number of EOC trained staff members.

Sq'ewqel uses Alertable as a community emergency notification system. Alertable is a free app that anyone can download onto their smartphones to be notified about emergencies happening at Sq'ewqel and other locations of their choosing.

The Sq'ewqel Fire Department is a paid-on call department with a strong mutual aid partnership with the District of Kent.

Sq'ewqel has a FireSmart Coordinator who conducts home assessments and is working towards a more wildfire resilient community.



Sq'ewqel

(Seabird Island Band)

District of Kent

The District of Kent utilizes Alertable for emergency notifications and updates.

The District of Kent has a FireSmart Program that performs home assessments and Home Partners Program inspections.



Emergency Planning

Kent Harrison Search and Rescue



Kent Harrison Search and Rescue (KHSAR) is an unpaid volunteer organization with approximately 25 trained members serving the community. Their team is highly trained in a multitude of disciplines, including ground search and rescue, inland water rescue, swift water rescue, and rope rescue.

The KHSAR team assists the RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, and local Fire Departments in a variety of search and rescue, and other emergency situations. In the event of an evacuation, the KHSAR team may play a role in notification and implementation.



Search & Rescue services
are activated through 911
dispatchers

During wildfires and interface fires, BC Wildfire Service would be the lead agency making recommendations.

Preparedness

Before an Emergency

Local Hazards

Potential hazards that could impact the area include but are not limited to: floods, wildfires, landslides, and earthquakes.



While we cannot predict when disaster will strike, we all have the power to be as prepared as possible.

The Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program team will utilize Alertable to notify residents in the event of an emergency.

Please ensure you are signed up for notifications in the area(s) you reside and travel through. FVRD, City of Mission, City of Chilliwack, and a number of other nearby communities elsewhere in BC use this system.

Sign up at alertable.ca



Preparedness

What You Can Do Now

PreparedBC

**Have you ever thought about how to prepare for an emergency?
What if you...**

- *Didn't have electricity, heat, or water for up to 2 weeks?*
- *Had to leave your home on short notice?*
- *Needed to contact your family and get official information during an emergency?*



PreparedBC

Make your Home Emergency Plan today so you and your loved ones know how to respond to an emergency.

Create your plan at **PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyPlan**. Knowing what to do will reduce anxiety and keep you focused and safe.



Don't forget to gather your emergency supplies. Following an emergency like an earthquake, you may need to stay at home with an emergency kit. Other emergencies, like a flood or wildfire, may require you to leave quickly with your grab-and-go bags. Learn what to include in your emergency kit and grab-and-go bag at:

PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyKit



Having insurance coverage is an important part of being prepared for emergencies.

Whether you rent or own your home, insurance can help you rebuild and replace your belongings after a loss.

Check your coverage for additional living expenses/evacuation coverage before a disaster occurs.

Preparedness

Build a Support Network



PreparedBC: Individuals with Diverse Abilities or Accessibility Challenges

Before an emergency happens, it is critical to make a plan that recognizes the individual needs or circumstances of yourself and those around you.

Make a plan for how you will accommodate any special medical or mobility needs in the event of an emergency like an earthquake.

When an emergency happens, the most immediate help will come from those around you — your neighbours. Connecting and building relationships with them today will mean a better response and faster recovery.

Use **PreparedBC's Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide** as an icebreaker and reach out to your neighbours by organizing a get-together.

Consider talking about the possible dangers in your area, if there are neighbours who have specific needs, or service animals to consider and include in your plan.



Build a trusted support network of at least three people you can ask to help you during an emergency. Practice your plan in advance.

Discuss the following:

- How your support network will communicate and check on you after an emergency.
- Exchange important keys and any necessary medical information. Plan multiple ways to share information.
- Show them where you keep your emergency supplies and plan.

Preparedness

Increase Your Home's Resiliency

FireSmart



FireSmart™ Canada developed practical, effective, and science-based programs that provide residents with tools to be better prepared when wildland fires occur.

FireSmart™ programs empower residents to take small steps around their home and property that reduce the negative impacts of wildland fire. Discover the steps you can take to protect your home at: **www.firesmartbc.ca**

Thanks to funding from the Province's Community Resiliency Investment - FireSmart program, the Village of Harrison Hot Springs has a Local FireSmart Representative contracted to perform home ignition zone assessments and other related duties in the Village. Contact the Village Office to schedule your free Home Ignition Zone Assessment.

The Village of Harrison Hot Springs, Seabird Island, and the District of Kent all have FireSmart representatives who can provide home assessments and host community information sessions.



Did you know that over 90% of home ignitions are caused by embers? This is why it's so important to take steps to FireSmart your home.

Response

What the Village Will Do

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

An Emergency Operations Centre, or EOC, may be activated in the event of an emergency at the request of the KHJEP Coordinator or senior municipal officials.

An EOC operates to provide overall direction and control, coordination, and resource support for an emergency incident. EOCs are set up with trained staff from the affected community. An EOC is not a space that is open to the public.

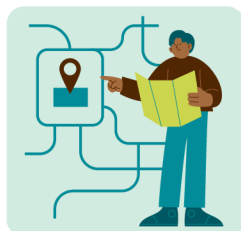
The EOC can receive support from the Province through the PREOC (Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre) when resources are exhausted or coordination outside the local jurisdiction is required.

EOC roles consist of five functions: Management, Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance. The size and scope of the disaster will inform which functions need to be staffed.

The Village maintains healthy relationships with many key partners to be ready for emergencies, and through the graduated system of emergency management in BC, can call upon those partners as necessary to meet the needs of an incident.



The Village of Harrison Hot Springs has many resources which can be used to host an EOC.



Response

What You Can Expect

Evacuation Info

It's important to know what to expect in the event of an emergency that requires an evacuation.

The Village's EOC team, in conjunction with the KHJEP Coordinators would follow the Province's Evacuation Operational Guide to manage an evacuation as part of our emergency response.

The Province has additional guidelines for evacuees. Be sure to stay up to date with **EmergencyInfoBC.ca**. You can bookmark this website in your desktop browser or save a link to your mobile device's home screen for easy access to maps and reliable emergency information.

Evacuation Notice Types

EVACUATION ALERT

Be ready to leave on short notice.

This is a great time to review your Emergency Plan, pack your grab-and-go-bag and prepare your home.

EVACUATION ORDER

You are at risk. Leave the area **immediately**.

Take your grab-and go bag, follow official directions and check in at a reception centre (this information will be communicated in your evacuation notice and may include facilities in the Village of Harrison Hot Springs or nearby communities).

EVACUATION RESCINDED

The threat to life and safety has passed.
You may return home.

Response

Who Will Support You

Emergency Support Services (ESS)

ESS provides short-term services to preserve the emotional and physical well being of evacuees and response workers in emergency situations. Assistance is provided on a case by case basis and may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification. More information can be found at: ess.gov.bc.ca.

The Village's ESS team of volunteers is coordinated through our Kent Harrison Joint Emergency Program Coordinator. This team participates in training and meetings throughout the year.

Supports provided to those eligible are determined by a case-by-case basis. Services may be available for an extended period depending on the emergency and the circumstances of an evacuation.

Primary services include temporary lodging, food, clothing, and incidentals (such as toiletries).

Specialized services include emotional support, health services (such as first aid), pet care, and transportation.



Create a profile in advance for Emergency Support Services with the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool at: ess.gov.bc.ca

This will allow for faster assistance and opportunities in the event of an emergency.

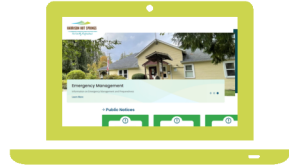


Stay Informed

Know Where to Find Information



Before, during, and after an emergency, Harrison residents and visitors are encouraged to visit **www.harrisonhotsprings.ca** for the latest information.



To receive emergency alerts for local events, download the **Alertable App** for free from the App store or Google Play store.



Before an emergency, familiarize yourself with preparedness tips through **PreparedBC**.



During and after an emergency, connect with **Emergency Info BC** and other resources applicable to your needs.

EmergencyInfoBC

Q&A

What is the cost of having my property evaluated by a Local FireSmart representative?

\$0 - there are no fees associated with having your home and property evaluated by a Local FireSmart Representative. Wildfire loss is excluded from provincial Disaster Financial Assistance. An assessment can help you take action to reduce your risk, protect your home, and be a key partner in the collective risk reduction for wildfire throughout our community.

In an emergency, can I evacuate before receiving an evacuation order?

Yes - if you require additional time or supports to evacuate, it's recommended that you do so before an evacuation order comes.

If ordered to evacuate, where do I go?

Leave the area as quickly as you can. If you require public aid emergency sheltering support, you may choose to proceed to a Reception Centre. A Reception Centre may be listed on an evacuation order. It is always advisable to stay where you have planned in your household emergency plan.

If ordered to evacuate, how am I supposed to get out of the Village?

Utilize your personal vehicle upon receiving an evacuation order. If you have room in your vehicle, take a neighbor or someone who needs transportation.

If ordered to evacuate, do I leave the doors to my house unlocked?

No - close all doors, windows, and secure your home upon evacuating. Additional instructions may be provided on evacuation notices, specific to the hazard.

Additional Resources



Alertable	alertable.ca
Agassiz Harrison Community Services	agassiz-harrisoncs.ca
BC Housing	bchousing.org
BC Hydro	bchydro.com
BC Wildfire	bcwildfire.ca
BC Centre for Disease Control	bccdc.ca
BC Emergency Health Services	bcehs.ca
District of Kent	kentbc.ca
Drive BC	drivebc.ca
Emergency Info BC	emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca

Additional Resources Cont.

Emergency Support Services	ess.gov.bc.ca
FireSmart	firesmartcanada.ca
First Nations Emergency Support Services	fness.bc.ca
First Nations Health Authority	fnha.ca
Harrison Hot Springs Fire Department	harrisonhotsprings.ca
Kent Harrison Search and Rescue	khsar.ca
Prepared BC	preparedbc.ca
Seabird Island	seabirdisland.ca
Weather (Government of Canada)	weather.gc.ca

Reporting Lines:

Provincial ECC Public Reporting Line for Spills, Landslides, and Floods	1-800-663-3456
BC Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP)	1-877-952-7277



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Village of Harrison Hot Springs
Municipal Office
495 Hot Springs Road, PO Box 160
Harrison Hot Springs, BC