

HORNE LAKE COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

The purpose of this document is to encourage Horne Lake Strata Owners to educate and prepare themselves and their family for any emergency or disaster that could occur in the Horne Lake area. The information and links provided below (links are identified by blue font) are intended to help Owners consider, develop and put into place plans and procedures that could save lives, prevent injuries and protect property in the event of an emergency.

If a major disaster happens in BC, on Vancouver Island or in our community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach us. Owners should be prepared to evacuate quickly and safely if the need arises as well take care of themselves and their family for a minimum of 72 hours, but ideally much longer. Knowledge is important, but being comfortable putting that knowledge into action is vital. Owners are encouraged to practise their emergency plans and keep them up to date.

Emergency Events

- ❖ Property fires or wildfires
- ❖ Earthquake
- ❖ Heavy rain, flooding and landslides
- ❖ Strong wind (likely a shelter-in place event)
- ❖ Extreme heat or heavy snowfall (check on vulnerable neighbours)
- ❖ Accidents or medical emergencies
- ❖ The RDN declares an emergency. The provincial government and the RCMP also have that power.
- ❖ If residents see an emergency situation, call **911**.

Emergency and Evacuation Considerations

❖ Post clear and reflective property address

- In order for emergency personnel to locate your cabin or lot, ensure that your **legal civic address** (not just your lot number) is clearly posted near the road with **reflective signage**.
- One of the biggest obstacles to a quick response in an emergency is a residential address sign which is difficult to read or not there at all. [E-Z-See reflective address signs](#) are endorsed by the BC Volunteer Firefighters Association.

❖ Emergency information and updates

➤ *As a Strata Owner, you must ensure that **Pacific Quorum (Vancouver Island) Properties Inc.** has your up to date contact information.*

➤ In advance of an emergency, bookmark relevant websites on your phone. Download and become familiar with helpful resources.

❖ **Voyent Alert! mobile app** is a smart notification service that enables users to receive critical events and general day-to-day communications from participating municipalities, regional governments and organizations. Available on the [Apple app store](#) and for android on [Google Play](#)

❖ **BC Wildfire Service mobile app** allows users to report a fire, to receive a message when there are active fires & evacuation orders, fire bans & prohibitions plus area restrictions within the desired radius of your saved locations and to see the latest news from the [BC Wildfire Service \(@BCGovFireInfo\) Twitter](#) feed. It is available on the [Apple app store](#) and on [Google Play](#).

❖ **Social Media:** Consider following relevant social media feeds:

➤ Twitter:

- [BC Wildfire Service: @BCGovFireInfo](#)
- [Emergency Info BC: @EmergencyInfoBC](#)
- [Prepared BC: @PreparedBC](#)
- [BC Government News: @BCGovNews](#)
- [CBC BC: @cbcnewsbc](#)
- [DriveBC Vancouver Island: @DriveBC_VI](#)
- [Red Cross BC & Yukon: @RedCrossBCY](#)

➤ Facebook:

- [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [PreparedBC](#)
- [BC Provincial Government](#)
- [Horne Lake Community BC CA](#) (a private group for our community of owners)

- ❖ **CBC News** is also available through the **CBC Listen** app on the [Apple app store](#) or [Google Play](#).
- ❖ **Go old school!** Keep a **radio with separate batteries** in your emergency kit. Figure out and make a note of what radio stations you can get in your specific area.

❖ **Neighbourhood Pods and Communication**

- Foster a “pod” with your immediate neighbours. Share contact information using the **Horne Lake Community Neighbourhood Pod Emergency Contact Information** sheet provided to you.
- With your neighbourhood pod, set up a group email, iMessage, WhatsApp or text thread for easy communication in an emergency or extreme weather event or agree to a “phone tree” plan to ensure everyone is informed, safe and accounted for.
- Get to know your neighbours and coordinate emergency resources and procedures:
 - ❖ Are your neighbours at the lake full time or seasonally?
 - ❖ Who would need assistance in an emergency?
 - ❖ Is anyone medically trained?
 - ❖ Who has keys for other neighbours?
 - ❖ Who has had a recent orientation on the strata fire tenders and who has their own fire fighting equipment?
 - ❖ Let your pod know when you are at the lake and offer to check on adjacent properties.
 - ❖ Does everyone know the evacuation route?
- At Horne Lake, **three long vehicle or boat horn blasts** means **“FIRE”!** Ensure that your neighbours are aware of this and agree to respond accordingly.
- Some neighbour groups have agreed that a **vehicle alarm sounding off** is also a call for emergency assistance. In an emergency, setting off your vehicle alarm after calling 911 allows you to tend to the emergency (e.g. set up pumps, tend to a fire, provide medical help) while also alerting your neighbours that you need assistance. Discuss this with your neighbourhood pod and agree to a communication plan.

❖ Emergency Preparation

BE PREPARED IN ADVANCE! Preparedness is critical in remote and isolated areas such as Horne Lake.

Resources for Getting Prepared

- Review the **federal government** [Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) for emergency planning. It helps you to prepare to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours.
- The **Province of BC** also has a website to help you with [emergency preparation and recovery](#), including information about how to prepare your [emergency kit and grab and go bag](#) and various emergency guides such as the [In It Together: Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide](#).
- The **Regional District of Nanaimo** provides useful information and resources on its [emergency preparedness webpage](#), including the local [Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program Manual](#) which encourages residents to be prepared for a minimum of one week, but ideally two weeks or more in the event of a major disaster.
- The **City of Parksville** and the **Town of Qualicum Beach** provide information and resources through [Emergency Management Oceanside](#), including tips on how to [Get Prepared](#).
- [Buy](#) or [Download](#) a double-sided **OK/HELP sign** for your emergency kit. In case of disaster, display the appropriate side of the sign in a visible window of your cabin or vehicle depending on whether you require assistance.

❖ Evacuation

- Emergencies such as wildfires can impact road access and highways. Check DriveBC before you go: [DriveBC](#) or [DriveBC mobile version](#)
- It is important to be knowledgeable about Horne Lake geography and possible evacuation routes. There is an established route to be used in case of an evacuation if regular roads in and out of Horne Lake are not an option. Become familiar with this route in advance of an emergency!

- **PRINT** THE [HORNE LAKE EMERGENCY ACCESS MAP](#), post it in your cabin or trailer and keep a copy with your emergency kit or in your vehicles.
- **SAVE** the [Horne Lake Emergency Access route](#) on your phone.
- The ATV route to Port Alberni and the Big Qualicum River Regional Trail to the hatchery are not official emergency access routes and may be impassable to all types of vehicles or blocked by locked gates.

Wildfire Safety

The risk of wildfires presents a significant threat to our personal safety, forests and property at the lake. All owners are responsible for safe conduct, including monitoring and abiding by fire bans and restrictions.

❖ **Report a wildfire:** To report a wildfire or irresponsible behaviour that could start a wildfire in BC, call **1 800 663-5555 (or *5555 from a cell phone)** as soon as possible (in addition to 911 if appropriate). All calls to these two numbers are answered by BC Wildfire Service staff at the Provincial Wildfire Reporting Centre. Expect to provide details about the fire such as:

- **Location** (*i.e. Where is the fire? How far up the hillside? Closest intersection?*)
- **Size** (*e.g. Metres? Hectares? Size of a house? Size of a football field?*)
- **Rate of spread** (*i.e. How quickly is the fire spreading?*)
- **Fuel** (*i.e. What is burning? Grass, bushes, trees?*)
- **Smoke/flames** (*i.e. What colour is the smoke? Are flames visible?*)
- **Threat** (*i.e. Are there any people or buildings at risk?*)
- **Action** (*i.e. Is anyone fighting the fire?*)
- **Campfire** (*If reporting a campfire can you tell if it is wood burning or is it a propane campfire?*)

❖ **Strata Fire Equipment**

- Become familiar with the location and how to use the **Strata fire pumps** and practice each season. Label your **fire equipment key**, keep it in an accessible place and ensure people know where it is.

- In an emergency, the Strata fire pump in your area might not be available so consider getting **your own portable fire pump/cart**. There are various suppliers on Vancouver Island including:
 - **Ajac's Equipment**, 160 Cliff Street, Nanaimo, (250) 754-1931
 - **Terry's Power Equipment**, 1750 Spruce Street, Campbell River, (250) 287-9755
 - **Mill Bay Power**, 865 Shawnigan-Mill Bay Rd., Mill Bay, (250) 743-7994

❖ BC Wildfire Service

- Check out the resources at the [BC Wildfire Service webpage](#), including the latest information on current wildfires, alerts and evacuations, fire bans and restrictions.

❖ Fire Risk Assessment

- Fire prevention and mitigation takes on extra importance when living in a forest community such as Horne Lake. Diligence is required to ensure the safety of our loved ones, homes, and the surrounding wilderness we value so much.
- The **Bow Horn Bay Fire Department** offers fire mitigation and prevention planning to Horne Lake cabin owners for free. This is a positive and non-threatening service to assist owners in their fire prevention plans. Owners are encouraged to contact the fire department and set up an assessment appointment.

BOW HORN BAY FIRE HALL ADDRESS

220 Lions Way, Qualicum Bay, BC V9K 2E2

Non-emergency: (250) 757-9433

Website: [Bow Horn Bay Volunteer Fire Department](#)

- [FireSmart™](#) is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts.
- The “**FireSmart Begins at Home**” app engages homeowners in voluntary wildfire mitigation activities through a self-conducted home assessment. The app guides users through a series of questions to help identify specific actions that may reduce the impact of wildfires on homes and properties.