

# **NEWS RELEASE**

emergencyoceanside.ca August 22, 2024

# **Emergency Preparedness EXPO 2024 - September 7**

Who: Everyone living in the Oceanside region
What: Emergency Preparedness Expo 2024
When: Saturday, September 7, 10 am to 4 pm

Where: Qualicum Beach Civic Centre, 747 Jones Street

**Why:** Be aware, plan, prepare and survive!

Expo 2024 is free and there's something for everyone! We look forward to welcoming you for a full day featuring everything emergency preparedness! See you on Saturday, September 7!

As partners in Emergency Management Oceanside, the City of Parksville, Town of Qualicum Beach and the Regional District of Nanaimo, are excited to invite you to Emergency Preparedness EXPO 2024. The event is a great way to learn about emergency management in the Oceanside region, meet emergency responders, emergency management organizations, learn how you can prepare yourself and your family, and perhaps win a few prizes! As well, PreparedBC will hold a table draw for a four-person home emergency kit and the Shriners will host a pancake breakfast from 10 am to 1 pm. Cost is \$8 per adult and \$5 per child.

### **QUALICUM BEACH CIVIC CENTRE - EXHIBITION HALL**

Set up in the main hall at the civic centre, there will be more than thirty emergency management organizations to visit and chat with. Some will offer emergency preparedness items for sale, while others will offer tips and provide an insight in their roles in emergencies in our region. This is a great opportunity to see the breadth of planning and cooperation in our region and to meet some of the faces working hard behind the scenes to keep us safe.

### **GUEST SPEAKERS - Lions and Booth Rooms**

There's an exciting lineup of guest speakers presenting during the day. Speakers are experts in their field and have planned engaging and insightful presentations with time for your questions after each session. No need to pre-register, just arrive and take a seat before the presentation begins.

### In the Lions Room, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

# Ministry of Forests 10 am to 11 am

Meet Devon Barnes, Wildfire Risk Reduction Coordinator for the South Island! He'll discuss his work in our forests, wildfire risk and answer all your "burning" questions.

#### Island Health 11 am to noon

Meet the Healthy Communities Team! This session is presentations from four team members.

- Community health promotion emergency preparedness and response, food and nutrition.
- What to do before, during and after emergencies.
- Strengthening flood resilience through hazard risk reduction and recovery measures.
- Understanding and preventing injuries from natural hazards.







### FireSmart Noon to 1 pm

Meet Dave Moore with the Nanoose Bay Fire Volunteer Fire Department as he talks about the importance of FireSmart in Oceanside communities. He will answer your FireSmart questions and have top tips about steps we can take to protect our homes.

# PreparedBC 1 pm to 2 pm

Vicki Swan will talk about how we can take steps towards personal preparedness in, "When you're ready for earthquakes, you're ready for anything!" This will be a fun, interactive session, so come ready to ask questions and get involved.

# Ministry of Agriculture 2 pm to 3 pm

The Ministry of Agriculture will talk about planning for emergencies with farming and livestock in mind and will discuss the BC Premises Identification Program and their role in emergencies.

# Zach Haigh 3 pm to 4 pm

Join Zach Haigh as he discusses food security on Vancouver Island.

# In the Booth Room, Qualicum Beach Civic Centre

# Tsunami 11th Relative

# 10.15 to 10.45 am AND 12.15 pm to 12.45 pm AND 2.15 pm to 2.45 pm

We are honoured to screen this fascinating documentary exploring the history of west coast tsunamis from an Indigenous perspective. Learn about the rich history of tsunami resilience on the Pacific west coast and how combining Indigenous knowledge with ocean science can better prepare communities for the next "big one".

# **Voyent Alert! Helpdesk**

#### 11 am to noon AND 1 pm to 2 pm

Drop in to this helpdesk session to ask questions, register and learn about our emergency mass notification system, Voyent Alert! Emergency program staff will be available to walk you through the system, so you are Voyent Alert! ready.

#### **OUTSIDE DISPLAYS**

But wait, there's more! We'll have some of our region's emergency response resources set up for you to have a look at, sit in, and try out... fire, ambulance, emergency communications, emergency support services and Air Search and Rescue will all be on site with equipment. We hope you will stop by the displays to chat with the fantastic staff and volunteers who operate the equipment.

### **QUAKE COTTAGE**

And finally, Quake Cottage will be on site operating their earthquake simulator from 11 am to 2 pm. The machine provides a realistic simulation of an 8.0 magnitude earthquake for thirty seconds. Three people can experience the simulation at a time, so there will be plenty of time for everyone to experience. Here is a video which will give you a sense of what to expect. Quake Cottage - Canada's Earthquake Simulator (motionsafe.ca)

# For more information, please contact emergency program coordinators:

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