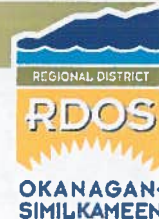


REGIONAL DISTRICT OF OKANAGAN-SIMILKAMEEN

INFORMATION RELEASE



June 23, 2017

Keep Flood Protections in Place / Starting the Recovery Process

Although lake levels in the South Okanagan are declining slowly, water levels remain at historic highs. This means residents along lake shorelines should remain vigilant and continue to bolster flood protection measures on their property. Locations for sand and sandbags available to the public can be found at: www.rdos.bc.ca/news-events/eoc/current-eoc

Recovery planning is now underway for the eventual removal of sandbags. The public can help inventory sandbags on private property by using the new online app from Emergency Management BC. The app will allow you to identify the location, number and types of sandbags for removal. The website is <https://embc-maps.lightship.works> or Google "EMBC Sandbag app". Alternatively, residents can register by calling the Emergency Operations Centre at 250-490-4225. Data gathered will be used for planning and assessment of the demobilization of flood protection measures in the coming weeks.

Sandbags:

All private properties along the foreshore are asked to continue to keep sandbags and other flood protection measures in place. Residents should not remove any sandbags at this time as windstorms and boat wakes can still potentially damage property.

Over 500,000 sand bags have been distributed throughout the Okanagan-Similkameen. The Ministry of Forest Lands Natural Resources, under the Water Sustainability Act, requires that no sand be dumped or emptied intentionally along any creek, river, waterbody or foreshore. Instead, the Province of BC will pay Local Governments to remove full sandbags. The disposal process will be coordinated by Local Governments and there will be no cost to residents. Again, please use the online app to identify your sandbags to the local authority for eventual removal.

Natural Debris:

Natural debris includes trees, branches and other organic materials. These materials that have washed into the foreshore of local lakes can be brought to local landfills as yard waste. There is no charge for the first 500 kg (1100 pounds) of natural debris brought to any landfill.

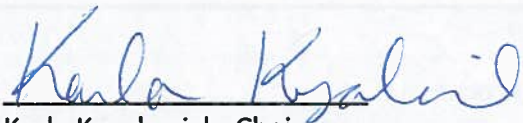
Introduced Non-Natural Debris:

The RDOS is working with other regional districts and the provincial government to coordinate the removal of non-natural material such as docks, lumber and large plastic drums from local lakes. This material cannot be treated as yard waste and requires special handling. Residents that wish to conduct their own clean up should ensure pieces of debris do not exceed eight feet in length. This material will be treated as garbage at the landfill.

For more information please visit www.rdos.bc.ca, e-mail info@rdos.bc.ca, call 250-490-4225 or toll-free 1-877-610-3737.



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Karla Kozakevich, Chair
Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen

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