

# **2007 Flood Risk and Personal Preparedness**

**for  
Houston & Area  
Residents**



## *Did You Know???. . . . .*

- Flooding is a common, naturally occurring event in B.C.
- Unusually high snowpacks naturally raise the risk of future flooding.
- The rate at which snowpacks melt in the spring may determine flood risk.
- Rain, coupled with warm weather and snow melt, increases the risk of flooding .
- The drainage area for the Upper Bulkley River and Buck Creek is currently 15% above the highest level recorded in the previous flood years of 1997 and 2002.
- Area snowpacks have been recorded as 70-90% above the 20 year average.

## *Are you prepared???. . . . .*

**Here's what you can do right now to minimize personal risk and property damage before a flood:**

- Know if you live in a flood-risk area.
- Prepare personal emergency supply kits for your home, car and work (plan for at least a three-day supply of food and water for each family member).
- Have a grab-and-go kit ready if you have to leave your home quickly:
  - Ensure each member of your family has warm clothing and waterproof footwear.
  - Ensure that each family member has identification. Name tags on children's clothing, wallet cards and wristbands are useful in case you are separated.
  - Remind every member of your household on the location of your family emergency meeting place.
- Keep important papers in watertight containers and have a record of your valuables in a safe place.

- If flooding is likely in your area, pay attention to the local media for information.
- Watch for warning signs: increase in height and intensity of water flows, mudslides, debris in creeks, color changes in water or leaning trees.
- Know that banks of rivers and streams may be unstable and dangerous.
- Teach your children about flood safety.
- Make arrangements for an alternate person to collect your children from school or preschool in the event you are not able to (ensure you advise the school/preschool).
- Consider arrangements for your pets and any livestock.
- Check on elderly or disabled neighbors to ensure they are aware of the situation.
- Go to [www.houston.ca](http://www.houston.ca) and follow the Public Notice/Flood Information link for detailed preparedness information.

## ***What to do.....***

### ***If rising water threatens your property –***

- If you have time, bring in outdoor furniture; move essential items and any hazardous materials such as cleaners or pesticides to an upper floor or away from area.
- Turn off utilities at the main switches or valves and unplug electrical items.
- Prepare for the possibility of evacuation; **listen for the Fire Hall Air Horn and stay tuned to local radio stations** for directions from local officials as to what to do in case of severe flooding risk.

Remember that if rising waters become a threat to your safety, follow the instructions of officials who are involved in rescue or flood response operations, including those directing traffic, as water can be deeper than it appears. Keep disaster response routes clear.

## **Who to call.....**

### **Sandbags:**

For **pre-flood** preparations only – sandbags may be collected from the Fire Hall on:

Thursdays from 10:00 am to Noon and  
7:00 pm to 9:00 pm

Pickup on other days/times shall be by appointment. Call the Municipal Office at 845-2238 (Mon to Fri 8:00 am – 5:00 pm).

### **To Volunteer:**

In the event of a flood, volunteers may contact the Municipal Office for directions:  
845-2238

### **Evacuation Information:**

Stay tuned to the local radio stations and check our website at:

[www.houston.ca](http://www.houston.ca) and follow the **Public Notice/Flood Information** link.

### **Emergency Numbers:**

Municipal Office	845-2238
BC Hydro	1-888-769-3766
PN Gas	1-800-663-1173
Telus	310-2255