



ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT
REGIONAL DISTRICT

ACRD Emergency Executive Committee Meeting

May 15, 2025

Emergency Management Update



EMERGENCY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT



Emergency Operations Centre



Grant 2025

- 100% grant funded
- Grant partners → City of Port Alberni, ACRD, District of Tofino

Supplies & Equipment

Improving response efforts through EOC enhancements and updated technology.

- Laptops
- Smartboards
- TV and display units
- Office supplies and storage units
- Response vests and section totes

Training

Building capacity, enhancing preparedness, and improving response readiness through training.

- EOC section training sessions
- Full-day, joint finance training facilitated by JIBC
- “Just in Time” training materials
- Joint functional exercise to enhance regional readiness

Emergency Satellite System



There are lots of satellite Internet providers, but not many that are suitable for our needs

- **Telesat** – in startup phase and won't be operational until at least 2026
- **Viasat, HughesNet, XploreNet** – slow Internet service and high latency with satellites in high-earth orbit – not suitable for voice communications
- **Strigo (Terrastar)** – Very slow speeds and high latency – slightly faster than 90's dial-up
- **Galaxy Broadband** – Good speed and latency due to low-earth orbit (LEO) satellites, but very expensive
- **Starlink** – Good speed and latency with LEO satellites, significantly less expensive than Galaxy Broadband

Galaxy Broadband Versus Starlink

Both Galaxy Broadband and Starlink could be suitable services for first responder communications in remote locations

	Galaxy Broadband	Starlink
Number of satellites	648 satellites	12,000 satellites
Satellite altitude	1200KM above Earth	500KM above Earth
Maximum speeds	50Mbps download 10Mbps upload	220Mbps download 20Mbps upload
Hardware cost	~\$11,000 monthly hardware lease	~\$2500 one-time hardware purchase
Monthly service cost	\$135 for 50GB	\$94 for 50GB



Possible Alberni Valley

Emergency Satellite Network



Grant funding supports:

- Purchase of equipment
- Installation costs or a mobile carrying case

Grant does NOT support:

- Operational expenses

Locations:

- ✓ Emergency Operations Centre
- ✓ Emergency Support Services
- ✓ Sproat Lake Fire Department
- ✓ Beaver Creek Fire Department
- ✓ Port Alberni Fire Department x 2

Arrowsmith Amateur Radio Club (AARC)



To ensure continuity of communication during disasters when traditional communication infrastructure is damaged or inoperable.

- Licence agreement with Mosaic for the continued use of the repeater on the Mount Cokley site.
- This site is an essential component of the AARC's communications network.
- Enables communication between Bamfield, Tofino and Ucluelet, as well as Qualicum, Parksville, Comox, Courtenay, Campbell River, and Nanaimo
- Licence renewal requires a change in fee structure

- Prior to 2021: \$1 per three-year term
- 2021-2024 term: \$650 (plus GST). Ended Sept. 1, 2024.

- Renewal agreement:
 - Five-year term: 2025-2030
 - Administration Fee: \$725 (plus GST)
 - Annual Fees:
 - Year 1: \$1,600
 - Year 2: \$1,630
 - Year 3: \$1,660
 - Year 4: \$1,690
 - Year 5: \$1,720

= Total of \$9,025 (excluding GST) ~ increase of 1,300% from the last term



Emergency Support Services:

2025 ESS

Grant Update



Response & Recovery Supplies

Building capacity to improve response & recovery capabilities and enhance overall regional resilience. Supporting the activation of group lodging & reception centres.

- Cots & bedding
- Water
- Ready-made meals
- Storage units
- Information display boards
- Charging kits
- Childcare items
- Recreation materials
- Pet care items
- Hygiene kits



Emergency Support Services



2025 ESS Grant Update Cont.

Training

Building capacity, enhancing preparedness, and improving response readiness through training.

- Training sessions
- Tabletop exercise
- Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool
- Network of Emergency Support Services Team (NESST) conference

Volunteer Recruitment & Retention

Supporting volunteerism and investing in volunteer-based programs that foster resilient communities.

- Responder equipment & supplies
- Volunteer appreciation gifts
- Identifiable gear
- Training recognition achievement awards

FireSmart:

2023 – 2025

Grant Highlights



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart[™]

Home Assessments:

Total: 257

City of Port Alberni: 160

Bamfield: 7

Beaver Creek: 25

Cherry Creek: 19

Long Beach: 16

Sproat Lake: 54

Tseshaht First Nation: 41

Hupacasath First Nation: 19

Home Rebates:

Total: 39 properties

Funds allocated: \$27,336.24

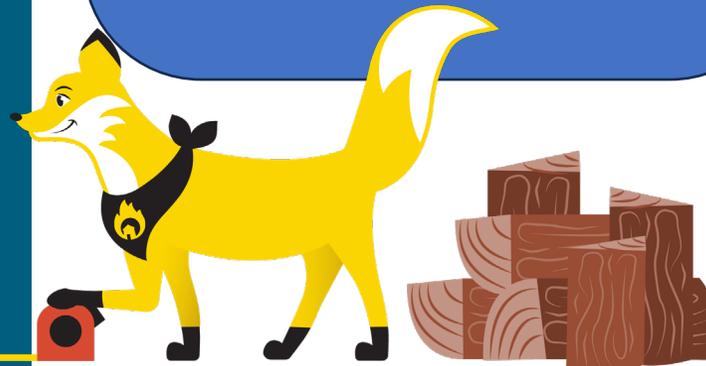
Residential Curbside Debris Removal Program:

Total: 162 requests

Critical Infrastructure Assessments

Total: 47

Since 2021: 76



FireSmart



BRITISH COLUMBIA
FireSmart™

Recent Training:

- ✓ Wildfire Resiliency & Training Summit (FireSmart Conference)
- ✓ Seasonal Readiness & FireSmart Exercise

Public Education & Engagement:

- ✓ Social media engagement
- ✓ Community events
- ✓ Presentations

2025-2027 FireSmart Grant

- ✓ Grant application submitted, pending approval

Alberni Valley Evacuation Route Brochure

EVACUATION MESSAGES

Evacuation Alert	<p>Prepare to leave on short notice</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare your home • Review your emergency plan • Gather your grab-and-go bags
Evacuation Order	<p>You are at risk, leave immediately</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Follow instructions from officials • Take your grab-and-go-bags • Access Emergency Support Services
Evacuation Rescinded	<p>It is safe to return home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use caution when returning home • Monitor official information • Restock your grab-and-go-bags



ALBERNI VALLEY Emergency Evacuation Route Guide

PREPARE NOW

KNOW WHAT TO DO

STAY INFORMED

KNOW WHAT TO DO Steps For Safe Evacuation



PLAN & PREPARE

BEFORE an evacuation

- Know which hazards may impact you (ie. tsunami, flood, wildfire, earthquake).
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Know your evacuation routes.
- Review and practice your plan annually.
- Make a grab-and-go-bag.
- Register for Voyent Alert! to stay informed.



TAKE ACTION

DURING an evacuation

- Evacuation notices may be delivered by Voyent Alert!, sirens, or via platforms by trusted sources.
- Activate your emergency plan, evacuate, and take your grab-and-go bag(s).
- Move to a safe location and follow instructions from officials.
- Communicate by text and limit phone calls.



GET SUPPORT & RECOVER

AFTER an evacuation

- Register as an evacuee with Emergency Support Services (ESS). Officials will provide instructions and designate a reception centre. This is a safe place to receive information and access support.
- Contact your insurance provider.
- Stay informed by using trusted sources.
- Return home only when officials have announced it is safe.

Emergency Preparedness Engagement & Public Education



Emergency Management Education & Engagement:

Tsunami Preparedness Week

- ✓ Staff lunch and learn presentation
- ✓ Hike to High Ground with Tsuma-as Elementary School students
- ✓ Newspaper & social media
- ✓ Information display at Echo Centre, City Hall and ACRD office

Emergency Preparedness Week

- ✓ CPA and ACRD staff trivia
- ✓ Radio campaign
- ✓ Newspaper & social media
- ✓ Information tables at Echo Centre, City Hall and ACRD office

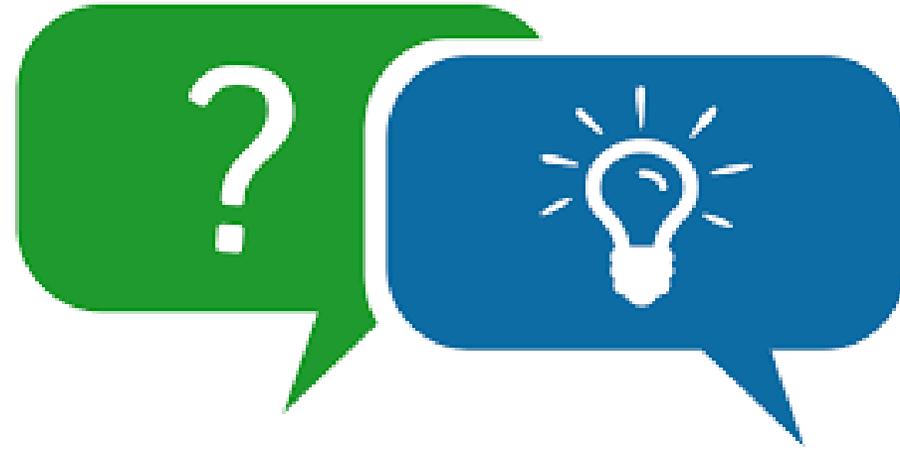
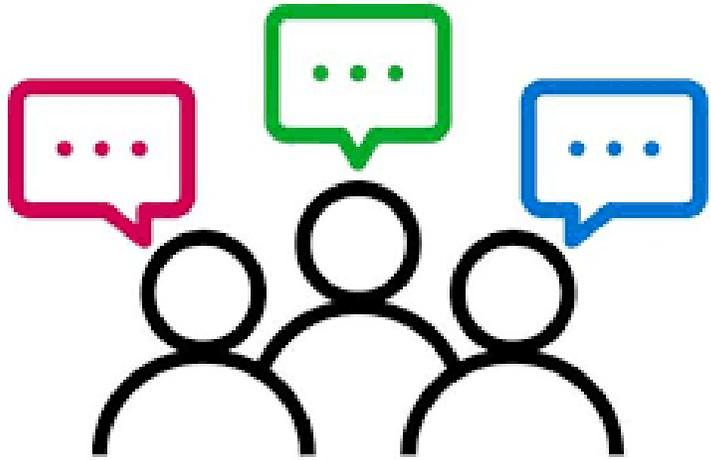
Engagement Opportunities

- ✓ Social media engagement
- ✓ Accessibility Committee Meeting
- ✓ Abbeyfield
- ✓ Sproat Lake Community Association – ESS presentation
- ✓ ESS meet and greet with fire departments
- ✓ Emergency Network meeting

Moving Ahead in 2025

- Continuing with the development of the Communications Plan
- Engagement for the West Coast Emergency Cultural Safety and Awareness Plan
- Completing EOC and ESS grant initiatives
- Planning and facilitating training sessions and exercises
- Public engagement (community events, open houses, markets, fairs, presentations)
- Education campaigns (ShakeOut)
- FireSmart initiatives (pending grant approval)
- Development of an EOC GIS strategy and implementation of improvements
- Enhancing EOC readiness through the creation of digital EOC files
- Inventory, contact lists, and training record updates
- Development of Policy Group binders





Discussion



Thank you

