

**Sproat Lake Community Association  
Annual General Meeting**

**Monday, March 31, 2025 at 7:00 pm  
Sproat Lake Community Hall, 9346 Bomber Base Rd**

Welcome to all residents of the Sproat Lake area

**Call to Order: 19:04**

**Mike Gerigk, Acting President of the SLCA** welcomed everyone.

- 2025 was a busy year for the SLCA, most notably the Bomber Farewell event. A huge thank you to all the volunteers and sponsors that helped make the event so successful.
- Several projects were completed in and around the hall, including new perimeter fencing for the Pickleball courts and completion of the bar and a downstairs bathroom and meeting room.

**Adoption of the Agenda:**

**Motion to accept Agenda as distributed: John Thorpe; Second: Brian Cote; Carried**

**Approval of Previous AGM Minutes February 26, 2024 (as posted with Agenda)**

**Motion to accept minutes: John Thorpe; Second: Sheri Gerigk; Carried**

**Delegate, Petitions & Presentations:**

1. **Dragon Boat Program: Walter Konkin; Angela Debruijn; Lindy James (speaking notes attached)**
  - Brief overview of the history and evolution of Dragon Boating and Canoe Club at Sproat Lake
  - Overview of upcoming season (April – September)
    - Looking for new participants to join
    - One team recreational, one team more competitive
    - Youth Change Race August 9<sup>th</sup> – need volunteers with boats
    - Thank you to Sproat Lake Landing for free moorage and allowing the dragon boats to operate from there, and SLCA for winter storage
2. **Mosaic Forest Activities Update: Colin Koszman & Jimmie Hodgson (PowerPoint attached)**
  - Overview of current acts and regulations that govern what they do

- 50+ domestic customers get first option to buy lumber before any lumber is exported
- Discussion about reforestation, wildfire management, management of erosion and sediment control
- Noted a growing issue with Illegal dumping on Ash main - \$10,000 plus per year in prevention and removal
- Recreation access
  - gate openings, 14 not for profit campgrounds,
  - need to close gates during high fire risk to limit ATVs, human risk factors;
  - hunting agreements, snowmobile agreements, atv agreements in place
- Questions from audience:
  - When will firewood come available?
    - No spring firewood collection this year. Likely September/October. Information available on website
  - Harvest trees now seem quite small; question about sustainability if we are harvesting smaller trees
    - would not be harvesting 20 year old trees, some recent stands have been in the 90 year range.
  - What is planned for the Bomber Base property?
    - Licence for the SLCA Community Hall and Pickleball courts.
    - Not aware of anything being contemplated at this moment
  - Are there plans for a Horne Lake route in the event of a highway closure?
    - The Transportation Advisory Committee is looking at alternative emergency routes; Horne Lake route has challenges related to narrowness, terrain, and sight lines
- **Broombuster Invasive Plant Society: Charles Burrell (PowerPoint Attached)**
  - Our hearts go out to the family and friends of Gary McCaig. The recent passing of Gary McCaig is a profound loss to the community; Gary and his wife, Juliana have been instrumental in the success of the Broombuster initiative around Sproat Lake. With his very recent passing the plans for Broombusting this year are not yet determined. Hoping to arrange pick-up for cut broom.

- Scotch Broom – biggest contributor to loss of biodiversity in BC; toxic to grazing animals, highly flammable because of the high oil content and naturally occurring dry branches
- They are opportunistic and can quickly take over cleared land
- Must cut it when it is in bloom: right at ground level; don't pull out or disturb the ground
- Encouraging everyone to take the time to clear their properties and help their neighbours

### **3. Sproat Lake Area D Report: Penny Cote**

- Broombusters and Woodlands Society – heartbreaking at the loss of Gary
- Working on official community plan for Sproat Lake; in the beginning stages of collecting data; will be coming out to the community for visioning exercises and input
  - Please take time to think about what you would like our community look like in 5 years, 10 years, 50 years etc.
- Recent water testing for Sproat Lake Residents:
  - only 1 tested positive for e-coli; likely because people are increasingly using filtration and uv light.
  - SLCA paid for testing of the natural spring down Taylor Arm; pretty good results this time but parts per million levels of e-coli can vary throughout the year:
  - Question from audience: How many parts per million at the Spring:
    - Total Coliforms = 7.5 MPN/100ml (Drinking water guideline <1); e-coli = 0

### **4. Emergency Support Services program : Karen Freethy (PowerPoint attached)**

- Shared service between the city and ACRD
- Provides short term, basic support to people who have been evacuated from their home due to an emergency such as fire, flood, tsunami, wildfire, earthquake. Provincially funded but most personnel are volunteers
- In Alberni valley we have 35 team members and community volunteers
- SLCA would be used as a reception centre and group lodging in the event of a significant emergency situation; cots and bedding stored at Sproat Lake fire hall

5. **FireSmart Program: Randy Thoen (PowerPoint slides attached)**

- Overview of 3 main influences: fuel; weather topography
- Overview of the 3 home ignition zones, how to assess, and how to create a FireSmart property
- Property assessments are free for residential home owners in Sproat Lake

**Elections of Sproat Lake Community Association Board of Directors: Penny Cote chaired**

- By acclamation the following board appointments are made:

President: Mike Gerigk

Vice President: David Brooks

Treasurer: Rene Lacoursiere

Secretary: Catherine Mackay

Director at Large/Past President: Tamara Thorpe

Directors at Large:

Barbara Smith

John Thorpe

Tara Oscarson

Ian St. Martin

Terri Weiler

Aaron Terepocki

Sarah Shoemaker

**Note:**

The deadline for nomination to the board of directors was Friday, March 28, 2028. The SLCA was pleased to receive nominations to fill all positions; i.e. one nomination was received for President; one for Vice President, one for Treasure, one for Secretary, and 7 total nominations were received for Director at Large. The Past President position is an automatic appointment. This is in contrast to previous years where there has been difficulty filling all positions and it has been necessary to try to recruit more volunteers at the AGM.

**Treasurer's Report: Rene Lacoursiere**

Rene provided an overview of 2024 revenues, expenses, and investments:

- Year end Financial Statement distributed to attendees; Statement available on the website.



- Hall operating expenses have risen due to inflationary cost pressures; most notably insurance and heating/electricity costs.
- Annual operating costs now exceed the taxpayer grant of \$11,900; revenues from fundraising, pickleball, and rentals cover these increasing costs
- SLCA has been very fortunate to have received a number of grants over the past few years for capital improvement projects. SLCA has been advised that future grants are unlikely

**Hall Projects Report: John Thorpe**

- With the meeting time running over, John thanked

**Motion to accept SLCA reports: Rene; Second: Tamara; Carried**

**Adjournment: 21:07**

**Note:**

As the meeting was going over time, there was insufficient time to complete the hall report and provide opportunity for Q&A. The board subsequently scheduled an open house for SLCA members on April 27<sup>th</sup>, 1pm-3pm, to allow more opportunity for members to hear from the board, ask questions, and raise any concerns.



# ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT

## Sproat Lake Community Association AGM What is FireSmart?

Presented by Randy Thoen – FireSmart Coordinator



“We don’t get fires like that here”







# What is FireSmart

The FireSmart BC Program is a provincial initiative aimed at reducing the risk of wildfire damage to homes, communities, and forests. Everyone's actions count. Whether you're a homeowner, renter, or community leader, following FireSmart principles helps build a wildfire-resilient British Columbia.





# What is FireSmart



## The seven disciplines

Education

Vegetation management

Emergency planning

Cross-training

Interagency cooperation

Development considerations

Legislation and planning

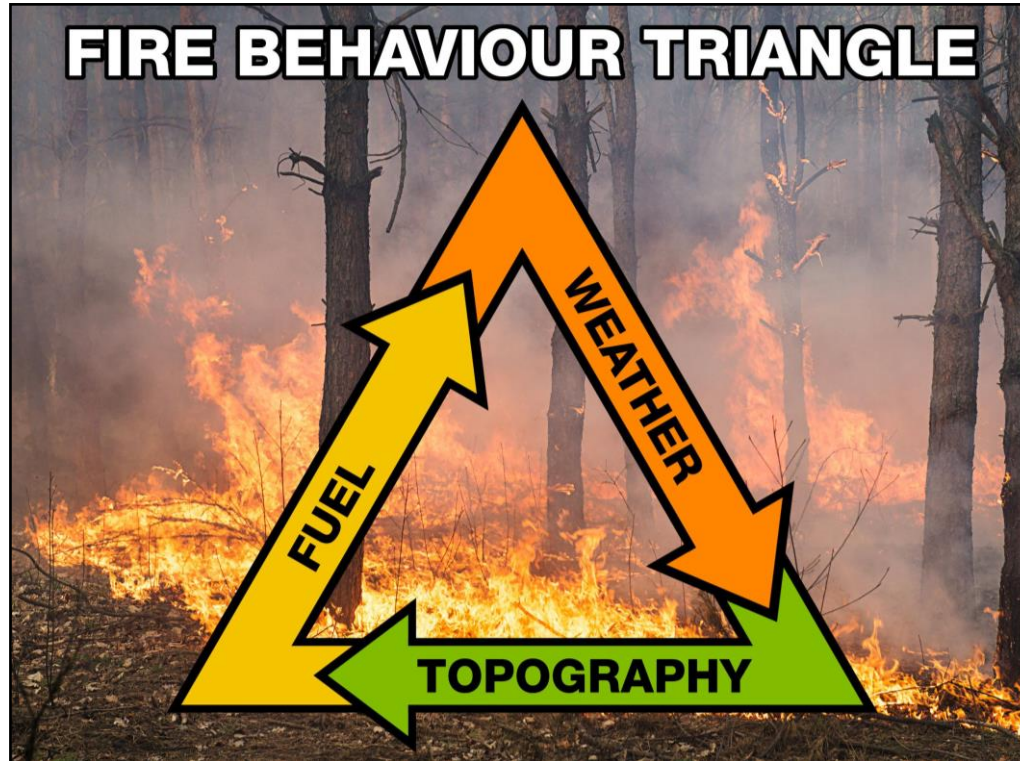




# Wildfire Environment

Wildfire is influenced by three main components:

Fuel –  
vegetation &  
structures



Weather -  
wind,  
temperature,  
relative  
humidity & air  
pressure

Topography - slope &  
aspect (*direction faced*)





# How do wildfires grow & spread?

## Embers & Sparks

Embers and sparks (firebrands) often blow up to two kilometres or more ahead of a wildland fire, igniting materials on or near your home. This can lead to property loss and increase the forward progress of a fire.



## Extreme Heat

Radiant heat from a wildland fire can melt vinyl siding, break windows, and ignite your home. Extreme heat can come from flames within 30 metres (100 ft) of your home.



## Direct Flame

As wildland fires spread toward homes, other flammable objects are ignited in their path. To stop a wildland fire from directly affecting your home, create breaks in this path both vertically and horizontally.

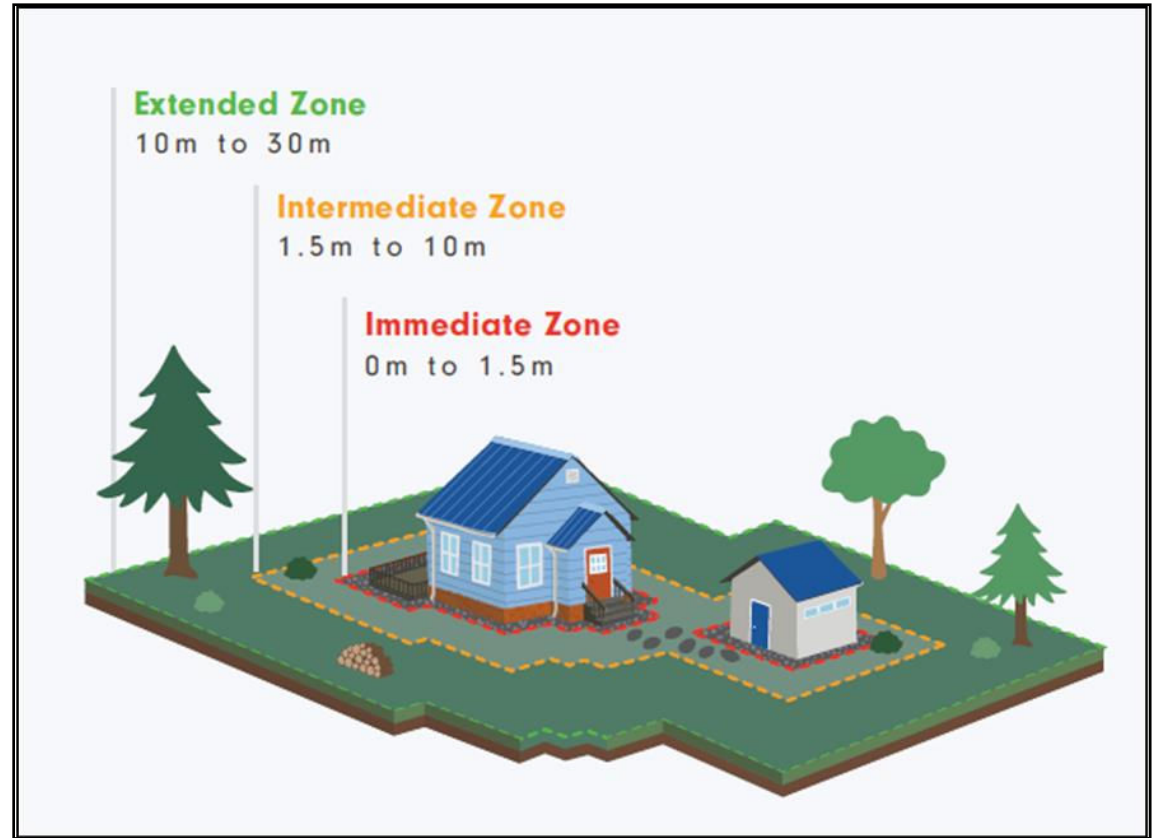




# How to create FireSmart property

There is a lot that you can do to your house and immediate surroundings; little things that reduce its ignition potential from a wildfire.

The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do. The actions recommended start from the home, and progress outward.



**Changes made to the area closest to your home, and your home itself, have the greatest potential to reduce the risk of wildfire damage.**





# FireSmart Home Ignition Zone Assessment

## IMMEDIATE ZONE

0 m to 1.5 m

The Immediate Zone should be a non-combustible area that starts at the house & extends to a 5 ft (1.5 m) perimeter around the home & any attachments. Treat outbuildings to the same standards as your home.

## INTERMEDIATE ZONE

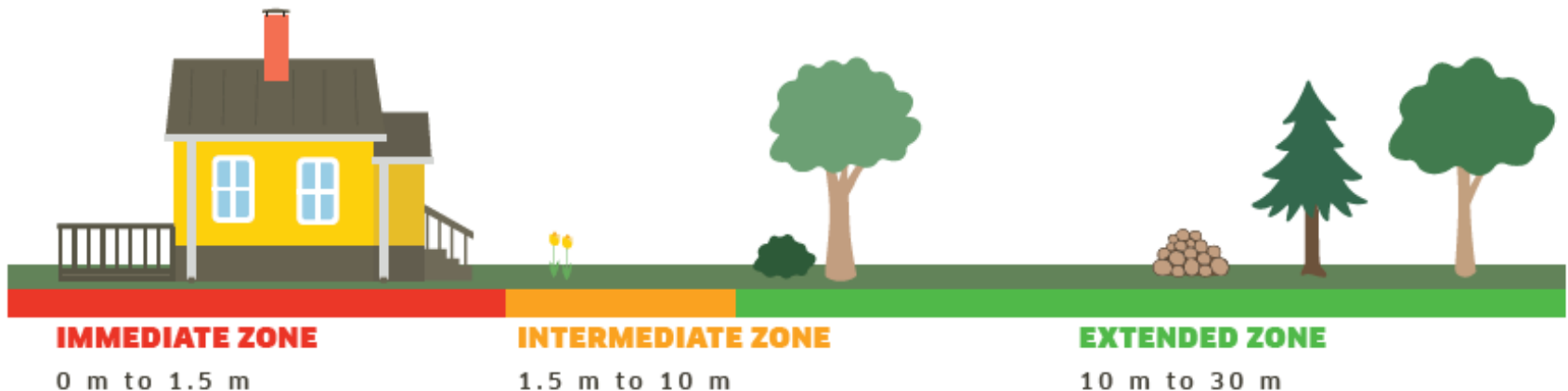
1.5 m to 10 m

Elements in the Intermediate Zone are managed so they don't transmit fire to your home.

## EXTENDED ZONE

10 m to 30 m


The focus in the Extended Zone is not to eliminate fire, but to reduce its intensity.





# FireSmart Residential Activities

The FireSmart Residential Program supports residents & property owners who undertake activities that demonstrate wildfire prevention principles & best practices.


[Home Tools](#)[For First Nations & Local Governments](#)[For Local FireSmart Representatives](#)[For Fire Departments](#)

Podcast Magazine Recognized Neighbourhoods Research Corner Wild


Q Ember's Den

## Home Tools


Your go-to resources to make your home and neighbourhood more wildfire resilient.




## Key Resources




FireSmart BC Begins At Home Guide




FireSmart BC Landscaping Hub




Emergency Wildfire Preparedness Checklist



Tips To FireSmart Your Home Infographic



FireSmart BC Magazine



HIZ Self Assessment

## Important Pages

- What is FireSmart?
- FireSmart 101 Course
- Find Your Local FireSmart Representatives
- Find Your Local FireSmart Coordinators
- The Get FireSmart Podcast
- Wildfire Mitigation Program
- Is Your Neighbourhood FireSmart?
- FireSmart Tips
- FireSmart Stories

Activities for residential areas must be located within the FireSmart Home Ignition Zone which includes the home and surrounding yard area.



# FireSmart Home Ignition Zone

## Overlapping Zones



### HOME IGNITION ZONE

#### OVERLAPPING ZONES

**EXTENDED ZONE**  
10 m to 30 m

**INTERMEDIATE ZONE**  
1.5 m to 10 m

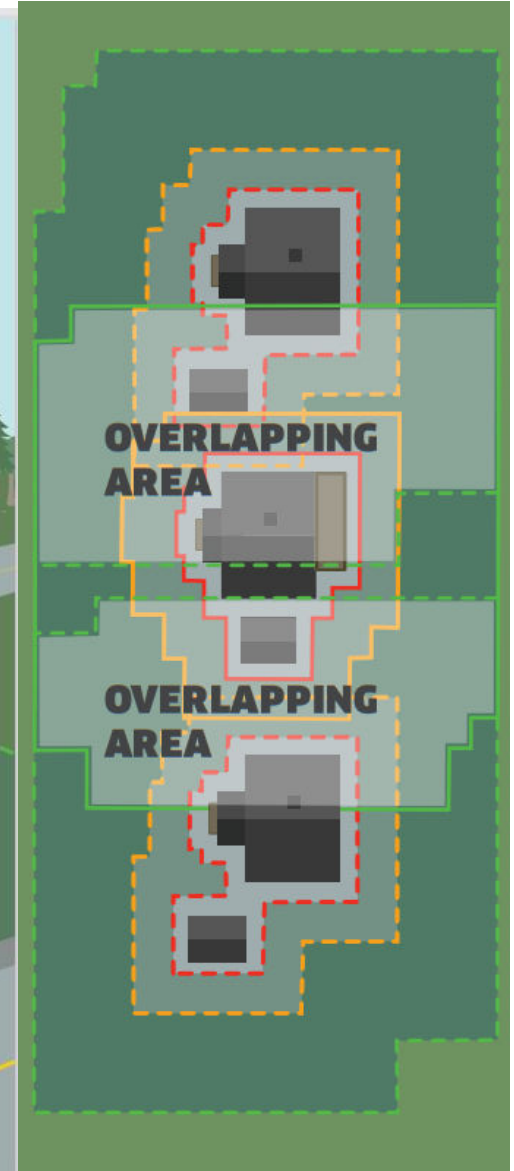
**IMMEDIATE ZONE**  
0 m to 1.5 m

**OVERLAPPING  
AREA**

**OVERLAPPING  
AREA**

**OVERLAPPING  
AREA**

**OVERLAPPING  
AREA**





# FireSmart Canada's 5-Step Neighbourhood Recognition Program

FireSmart Canada's Neighbourhood Recognition Program (NRP) is a national program developed to officially recognize neighbourhoods that have taken critical steps to reduce their vulnerability to wildland fire.

**1. Neighbourhood  
Contacts FireSmart  
Representative**



**2. Site Visit by  
Local FireSmart  
Representative**



**3. Neighbourhood Wildfire  
Hazard Assessment and  
FireSmart Plan completed**



**5. Apply for / Renew  
FireSmart Neighbourhood  
Recognition**



**4. FireSmart Neighbourhood  
Committee  
organizes FireSmart Events**





# FireSmart BC - Wildfire Mitigation Program



## Wildfire Mitigation Program Hub



The FireSmart BC Wildfire Mitigation Program (WMP) is designed to engage residents in voluntary wildfire mitigation activities by offering a professional home assessment with property-specific recommendations.

Earn a mitigation certificate that can be shared with participating insurance providers to showcase mitigation activities & may be eligible for insurance incentives and discounts.



# Understanding the 2023 Grouse Complex Wildfires



## Understanding the 2023 Grouse Complex Wildfires

Who should take action to build community wildfire resilience?



Residents, private industry and government are recommended to take active FireSmart steps to build more wildfire resilient communities.

To understand the impact of the **2023 Grouse Complex wildfires** in the Okanagan region, the BC FireSmart Committee and the Institute for Catastrophic Loss Reduction (ICLR) enlisted FPInnovations to study the wildfires, which included the McDougall Creek, Clarke Creek, and Walroy Lake wildfires.

The study looked at:



How the wildfires spread into communities and how they spread once they had entered the communities.



What factors caused damage to structures and what helped protect them.

Weather and Challenging Conditions Fueled the Grouse Complex Wildfires



Long-term **drought**, **high temperatures**, **low humidity**, and **minimal rainfall** contributed to the ignition of wildfires.



Strong **winds**, rugged **terrain**, and a stalled **cold front** fueled the McDougall Creek wildfire into a fast-spreading, high-intensity crown fire.



A dry, stalled **cold front** east of Kelowna created a towering convection column, causing short- and long-range fire spotting.



The fire spread through burning embers, rapidly turning into multiple simultaneous urban fires.

Embers traveled over **2.5 km** ahead of the main fire, crossing Okanagan Lake and igniting the Walroy Lake wildfire in Kelowna and the Clarke Creek wildfire in Lake Country.

Proximity of Flammable Materials and Terrain Key Factors in Structure Vulnerability

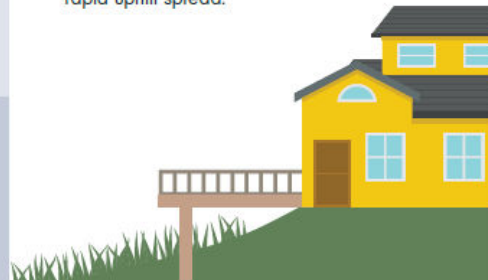
10m

The presence and management of combustible materials within 10 meters of structures was crucial to their survival or damage in the fire.

Homes on steep slopes, with overhanging decks above **flammable vegetation**, were especially vulnerable due to fire's rapid uphill spread.



Yards with cedars, junipers, coniferous trees, or abundant ignitable materials were especially problematic.





# Wildfire Evacuation Checklist

## Emergency Wildfire Preparedness Checklist



### ☒ Evacuation Tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local officials. If ordered to evacuate, do so IMMEDIATELY.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your home emergency plan with the people you live with.  Visit <a href="https://www.preparedbc.ca/EmergencyPlan">PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyPlan</a> for helpful tips and a fill-in-the-blank template.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your grab-and-go bag ready and stocked with food, water, battery-powered/hand-crank radio and flashlight, power bank, first aid kit and prescriptions, cash in small bills, toiletries, change of clothes and an emergency blanket. Also include a copy of your emergency plan and copies of important documents, such as insurance and emergency contact information. Don't forget a bag for your pets!  Visit <a href="https://www.preparedbc.ca/EmergencyKit">PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyKit</a> for more information and a complete list of supplies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre-register for Emergency Support Services through the BC Services Card app. Connect with friends and family who may be able to provide a place to stay if an evacuation order is issued. This will help ensure local accommodation is available for those who have no other option.  Visit <a href="https://www.ess.gov.bc.ca">ESS.gov.bc.ca</a> for more information.

### ☒ Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around the home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow grass within 10 metres of the house to 10 centimetres in length, or less.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 metres of your home. Maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around your home and deck.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Move combustible items that are within 10 metres of your home such as propane tanks, doormats, toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants. This includes items on or under decks. Move all combustible items into your home or garage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a large stationary propane tank located on your property, remove all combustible material surrounding it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Secure gate in an open position.</li><li>• Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.</li></ul>

### ☒ Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering the home.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all vents on the home are in good condition (i.e., are operating correctly, not damaged or poorly attached). Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, or non-combustible tape. <b>Be sure to remove tape when you return home.</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations.</li></ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Before evacuating: Turn off air conditioning, home water, electricity and gas. Close all doors, garage doors and windows and skylights.







# Voyent Alert – Alberni Valley Emergency Notification Service



## ALBERNI VALLEY EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

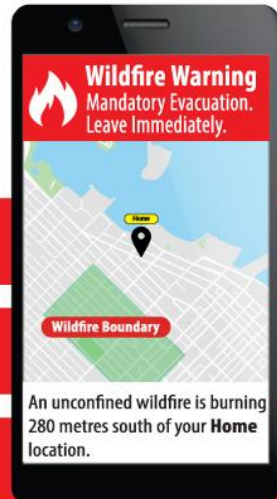
- ✓ It's simple, free & anonymous
- ✓ Get instructions on what to do during a disaster

- ✓ Receive emergency alerts
- ✓ Stay Informed! Stay Safe!

REGISTER **NOW!**



[acrd.bc.ca/emergency\\_alerts](http://acrd.bc.ca/emergency_alerts)



Questions?  
Call 250.720.2700

Tseshaht First Nation • Hupacasath First Nation  
City of Port Alberni • Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District





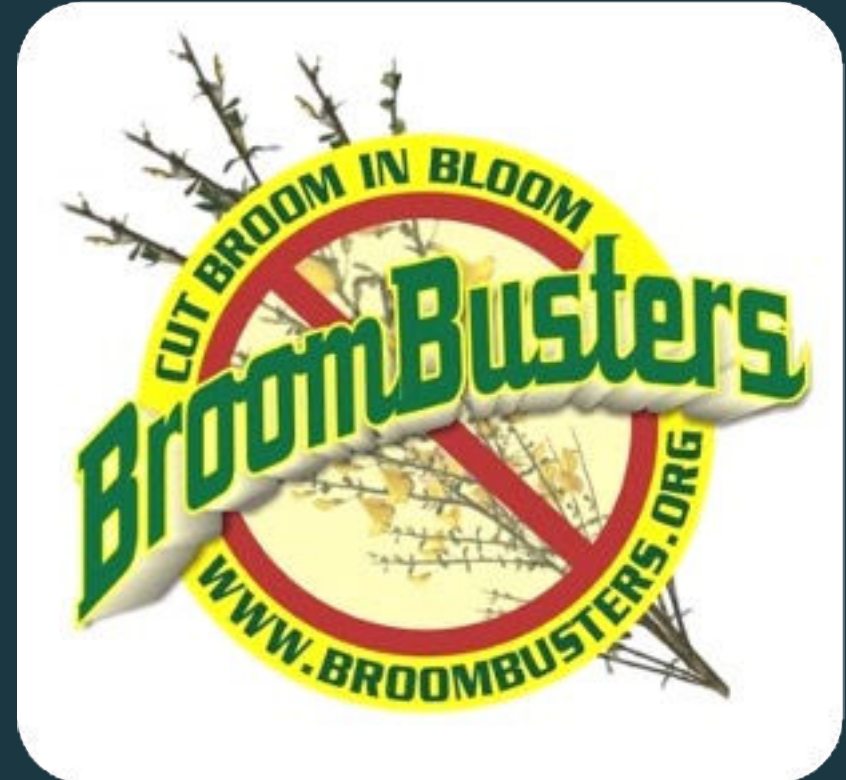


# ALBERNI-CLAYOQUOT REGIONAL DISTRICT



## Thank You

250.720.2700 or [firesmart@acrd.bc.ca](mailto:firesmart@acrd.bc.ca)



## **BROOMBUSTERS INVASIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

Contact: Joanne Sales, Executive Director. [info@broombusters.org](mailto:info@broombusters.org)



# Scotch Broom – an Alien Invasive Plant



Takes over anywhere in the sun. Leads to dramatic **loss of biodiversity**. **Toxic** to grazing animals. Prevents forest regrowth. Highly **Flammable**. Dominates and degrades farmland & parkland, etc. **THE BAD NEWS LIST CONTINUES...**





# People are concerned!

In 2024, 600 volunteers cut broom  
for over 6000 hours.

With the support of 17 Local governments.







110 new people volunteered in the first 5 weeks of the new year.

**WHY?... The LA Fires**



**Buffelgrass burning.**



**On Vancouver Island,  
the flammable invasive  
alien species is  
Scotch broom.**

There is an increase of wildfires globally.

The primary culprit is **CLIMATE CHANGE**.

But grasses, shrubs, and trees that humans have introduced to new ecosystems are increasing wildfire frequency and intensity.

- Hawaii. Fire in Lahaina, 2023. Killed 101 people.

Fire intensity and rapid spread is attributed to invasive Buffelgrass.

- Chile, Feb 2024. Killed 134 people. Fire attributed to non-native plantings.
- LA Fires. Wet winters (2023-4) spurred unusual growth of flammable shrubs & brush.

“Scotch Broom  
is a **volatile flash fuel..**

It will increase a wildfire's fuel load  
escalate the fire's intensity  
compromise fire situations  
make fires more difficult to fight.”

Let's look at why it's so dangerous  
using terminology of firefighters

- *Fuel Load*
- *Ladder Fuel*
- *Continuity*
- *Urban Interface Fires*
- *Ignition Sources*

Quote: Terry Peters, Retired Fire Chief Powell River



A Controlled Burn in Powell River

FireSmart lists Broom as one of 13 HIGHEST RISK flammable plants.

### Fire Hazard Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Risk Level	Leaf Type
Arborvitae (Cedar)	Thuja spp.	Highest Risk	C
Broom		Highest Risk	B
Cedrus	Cedar spp.	Highest Risk	C
Douglas Fir	Pseudotsuga menziesii	Highest Risk	C
Firs	Abies spp.	Highest Risk	C
Fountain Grass	Pennisetum spp.	Highest Risk	
Holly	Ilex spp.	Highest Risk	B
Juniper	Juniperus spp.	Highest Risk	C
Pampas Grass	Cortaderia selloana	Highest Risk	
Pine	Pinus spp.	Highest Risk	C
Ponderosa Pine	Pinus ponderosa	Higher Risk	C
Spruce	Picea spp.	Highest Risk	C
Larch	Larix spp.	High Risk	D
Yew	Taxus spp.	Highest Risk	C





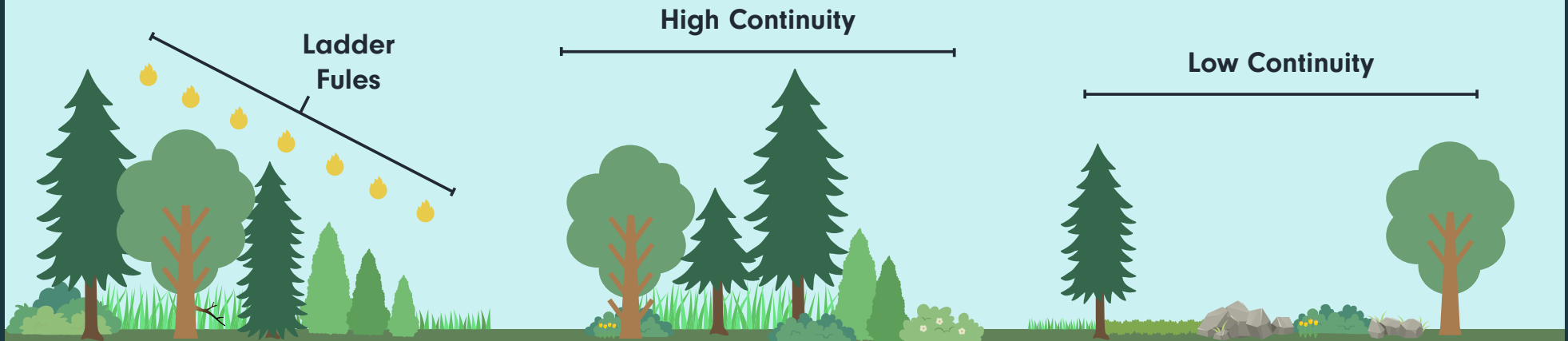
# FUEL LOAD

Broom's tall, impenetrable, dense thickets create massive fuel load - and increase fire intensity.





# Ladder Fuels and Continuity



Ladder fuels and high continuity of plants can increase fire risk.

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre.

Ladder fuels and high continuity of plants can increase fire risk.



# FUEL CONTINUITY

Broom's dense continuous thickets provide endless fuel for a fire to **continue** to spread

On roads, tracks, trails, powerlines, farms, parks, forest roads, beaches & native lands.





# Broom is a LADDER FUEL

Ladder fuels carry fire VERTICALLY from ground level into forest canopy, from lawns into houses. Broom can grow 9' tall.





“...BROOM is a significant threat as a fire hazard for  
**Danger of Urban Interface Fires** within our region.”

Broom grows where we live.





# Ignition Sources

Broom is called a

## **VOLATILE FLASH FUEL**

because it catches fire so easily.

But a fire will not start without an  
ignition source.



Eagle Creek Fire that burned 48,000 acres in the Columbia Gorge in Oregon in 2017, was started by a single **firecracker**.

Broom is so flammable because of high oil content and naturally occurring dry branches.

Campfires  
Burning of debris  
Malfunctioning machinery  
Cigarettes  
Fireworks  
Arson



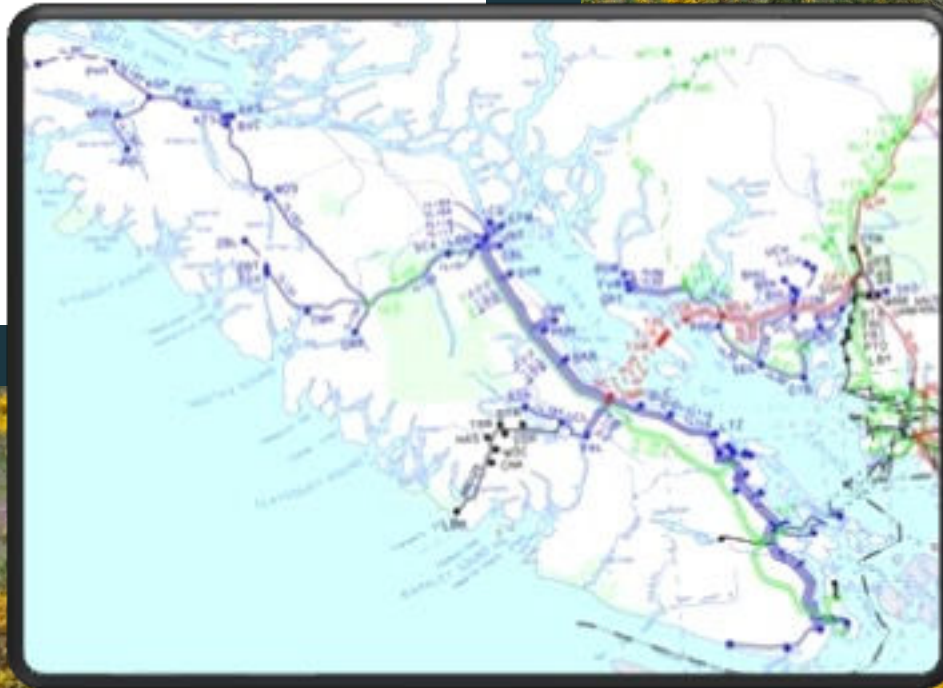
Lightning

Eagle Creek  
photo KATU

## BROOM ON POWERLINES

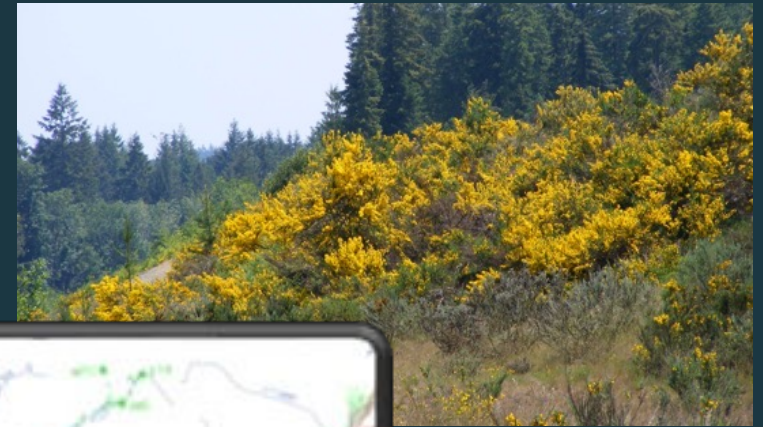
Greatly increases **DANGER**  
that **FIRE could spread** across the island.

Most of East Vancouver Island  
is connected by powerlines  
that are largely covered with  
flammable broom.



Broom on powerlines also

- Spreads seeds
- Blocks escape routes.
- Endangers power infrastructure.





In 2023, UBCM and AVICC (Union of BC Municipalities and Association of Vancouver Island Coastal Communities) passed the Resolution “Control of Scotch broom” recommending broom-free fire breaks along long stretches of broom.





# When Private Forests are “Cleared for Development”

Scotch broom can quickly take over.



Errington: Spring Hill Rd

How to prevent:

- Bylaws on municipal and regional levels
- Tree Protection bylaws
- Delay clearing permits until building permits are granted and construction ready to begin.

**BROOM FORESTS** are an ecological tragedy we could prevent.



# BROOM FORESTS

Between 2020-2024, 80 acres of forest were clearcut and broom took over. Fortunately, in 2025, new owners are clearing the broom. It can be done.



Between 2020 & 2024.  
The broom 5-6' tall in 4 years.



Errington – Alberni Hwy Hwy 19

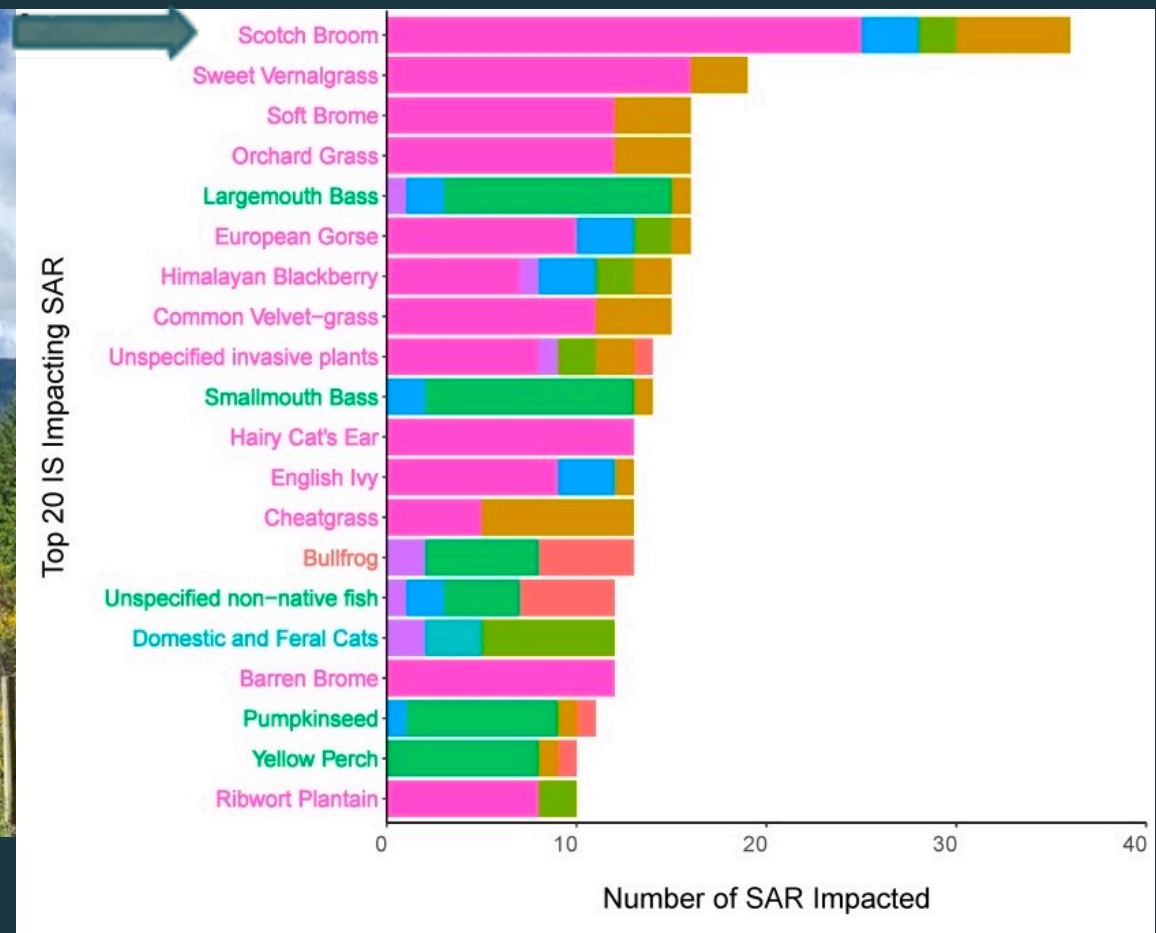


# Broom is the Worst Offender Of Biodiversity in BC

“Scotch Broom is the invasive species causing the greatest harm to Species at Risk in BC”



According to a new assessment report for Invasive Species Council of BC. 2021





# What do Broombusters do?

## Cut Broom in Bloom

April – End of May

Everyone is invited  
Community Cuts near You.

All tools provided.

Cut at ground level.

We stay in touch by email.





## Cut Broom in Bloom

*Our Technique*  
**Cut at ground level  
in bloom  
with loppers**

Find the single stalk – cut it!  
Leave no stem above ground.



What about giant broom? Difficult ones?  
Why not mow or pull? Check the website.

[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org)

If cut high, the plant comes back.





**Thank you  
Broombuster volunteers!**





## Why volunteer?

**You can help to Preserve the Beauty & Health of Your Community.**

It's good work.

Community Building. Meet new people.

We can make a real difference.

Broombusting is FUN!

**THINK GLOBALLY. ACT LOCALLY.**





## How to volunteer:

Contact Broombusters  
[www.broombusters.org](http://www.broombusters.org)

### Active Groups

Parksville/Qualicum area  
Nanaimo/Lantzville  
Comox Valley  
Ladysmith / Sooke  
Powell River / Coquitlam  
Alberni Valley/ CVRD  
and many more  
communities & islands.  
Thinking of a new location?

[info@broombusters.org](mailto:info@broombusters.org)







A Wholehearted THANK YOU to all our supporters





**We face an impossible task...  
BUT WE CAN DO IT!**



Farms



Powerlines



Highways



Trails





We can't leave this problem to future generations.

*Now is the time to*  
**Stop the Spread of Broom**

## DRAGON BOATING AT SPROAT LAKE

I've been asked to provide a short presentation regarding organized Paddling on Sproat Lake. I'll start with a brief presentation on Dragon Boating activities, Angela DeBruijn will discuss the activities of the Canoe Club and their Outrigger Canoes, Then Lindy James will describe his involvement in organizing the Victoria Youth Change Race taking place this August.

For a brief bit of history, Dragon Boating originated in southern China some 2000 years ago. The sport was initially brought to the Lower Mainland about the time of Expo 86. A group of local enthusiasts started to organize a team in Port Alberni in about 2001. They contributed their own funds did fund raising within the Community to purchase the 1<sup>st</sup> Dragon Boat in about 2002. Our current fleet consists of 3 Dragon Boats along with a custom built towing trailer. These boats are approximately 48 ft long, with a beam width of about 4 ft and weigh about 1100 pounds. A fully crewed boat would consist of 20 paddlers seated side by side, along with a steers person in the rear. Our membership grew over the years and at the peak consisted of over 110 members and 4 teams. Membership has since dropped primarily with COVID and we're currently at about 50 members and 2 teams.

Our season starts in early April and carries through to the end of September. This year the scheduled boat launch is for April 6<sup>th</sup>. We plan on hosting an Open House possibly in May. One of our current teams is considered as Recreational with practises scheduled Monday evenings and Wednesday mornings,

The other team is more competitive and their practises are Monday evenings and Thursday evenings. Our competitive teams travel to compete at other Regattas in the area.

The demarcation between the two teams is flexible and paddlers seamlessly move between the boats. During the regular paddling season, we have 2 boats moored at Sproat Lake dock facility. During our annual Regattas, we launch a 3<sup>rd</sup> Boat and the Regatta is held at the Sproat Lake Provincial Park. This year our local Regatta is scheduled for Sunday June 8<sup>th</sup> and typically runs from 9 AM to 3 PM. We host 15 – 18 teams attended by teams traveling from Victoria, Cowichan Valley, Ladysmith, Nanaimo, Qualicum Beach, Campbell River, Port Hardy, and Powell River.

Over the years, our own competitive teams have participated in Regattas ranging from Campbell River, Comox, Nanaimo, Victoria, Kelowna, and Penticton.

We are most blessed to have this jewel of a pristine Lake on which to practise and recreate. Out of town Teams that return year after year to our Regattas are all suitably impressed with what we offer. We are most grateful to the Sproat Lake Community Association to provide access in the Hall basement for storage of our boats, life jackets, and various paraphernalia. And we further note that John Thorpe and his team have been providing further improvements. Thank you.

While we are most grateful to the management at Sproat Landing for allowing moorage on their docks during the paddling season, we fully realize that we enjoy these facilities entirely at their pleasure, this situation can change with little notice.

My dream continues to be that we can come up with a longer term or permanent solution for paddle boating on Sproat Lake, particularly in view of possible upcoming changes to the Coulson Bomber Base.

Thank you for your attention.

Note; We are always welcoming new paddlers so if you are interested, please come and try us out. We offer great exercise, great scenery, great comradery, and a very reasonable fee structure.

See out Brochures...



# Emergency Support Services (ESS)



## EMERGENCY & DISASTER MANAGEMENT



# ACRD Emergency Management



The ACRD Emergency Management Department is a shared service between the City of Port Alberni and Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District.





# What is ESS?



*A provincially funded, community-led, volunteer-based emergency program that provides short-term, basic support to people who have been evacuated from their home due to an emergency hazard such as a fire, flood, tsunami, wildfire, or earthquake.*



# Emergency Management

4 pillars of emergency management:

- Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery





# Primary Services

Food

Shelter

Clothing

Incidentals



# Services



- All activations must be approved by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) before the team can deploy.
- ESS provides *temporary services* to meet their *basic needs*.
- 72 hours.
- Services are provided based on a needs assessment based on provincially set rates
- Services are provided for those without home or renters insurance.





# Secondary Services

- Pet Services
- Updates & Information
- Transportation
- Emotional Support
- Multicultural Services
- Family Reunification





# Alberni Valley ESS Team

- 35 team members of community volunteers
- Monthly training meeting
- Supports residents in the City of Port Alberni, ACRD electoral areas (Beaver Creek, Beaufort, Cherry Creek, Sproat Lake) and Hupacasath First Nation





# ESS Response Activation Levels

Emergencies have varying degrees of scope, impact and complexity. The severity of an emergency will initiate the appropriate activation response. There are 3 activation levels:

Level 1 (small event)	Level 2 (moderate event)	Level 3 (large or complex event)
<p>A localized event, small in scope.</p> <p>An incident involving 1 or 2 families and affects less than 12 people.</p> <p>Services are provided at the incident site.</p> <p>ie. House fire, flooding</p>	<p>A significant emergency, larger in scope.</p> <p>An incident involving multiple families or neighbourhood and affects more than 12 people.</p> <p>Services are delivered either on site or in a Reception Centre.</p> <p>ie. Apartment fire, power outage</p>	<p>A major, complex disaster that has a significant impact on the majority of the community and a large-scale evacuation is required.</p> <p>Involves a large number of evacuees and generally impacts multiple neighbourhoods and jurisdictions.</p> <p>Multiple reception centres and/or group lodging facilities will likely be required.</p> <p>ie. earthquake, tsunami, interface fire</p>



# Reception Centres & Group Lodging



- Registration
  - Referrals for services
  - Information
  - Emotional Support
  - Pet Services
- 
- 7 identified RC/GL – Echo, Alberni Athletic Hall, Beaver Creek Community Hall, Cherry Creek Community Hall, McLean's Mill, Sproat Lake Community Hall, Trinity Church (each with a RC Kit)





# Evacuee Registration and Assistance Portal (ERA)



## Be Evacuation Prepared!

**Pre-register before you are evacuated  
to help you access ESS supports**



**Step 1: Set-up your BC Services Card account with the BC Services Card app**



**Step 2: Create your ESS profile on the ERA website**



# Alberni Valley ESS Supplies & Equipment

- Cots and bedding
- Food
- Water
- Pet supplies
- RC Kits
- GL Kits
- Recreation Kits
- Generators
- Hygiene kits etc.





# Emergency Support Services: *Stronger Together*

*The effectiveness of ESS in supporting people in their time of need is dependent on inter-agency collaboration and our community network.*



# Challenges & Opportunities

- 72 hours – ongoing support and transition to sustainable recovery
- Psychosocial support needs
- Understanding and navigating available community resources
- Provincial rates and restrictions
- Service delivery methodology
- Volunteer-based program
- 24/7 activations
- Pets
- Available short-term and long-term accommodations





# COMMUNICATION: Trusted Sources



## Emergency Notification System:



- ✓ Receive emergency alerts
- ✓ Get instructions on what to do during a disaster
- ✓ It's simple, free and anonymous
- ✓ Stay informed and stay connected
- ✓ Download the app or visit:  
[www.acrd.bc.ca/voyentalert](http://www.acrd.bc.ca/voyentalert)

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## Social Media:

ACRD Emergency Program

ACRD

City of Port Alberni

Bamfield Community Emergency Program



# Thank you







# Discussion

