News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Emergency Management Cowichan launches new website for enhanced service to residents

DUNCAN, BC. The Cowichan Valley Regional District (CVRD) is pleased to announce with Emergency Management Cowichan (EMC) and partners that the <u>emcowichan.ca</u> website is ready to provide the Cowichan region with the information and tools to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from, a range of hazards and emergencies.

EMC is a shared emergency management service that works together with the Municipality of North Cowichan, Town of Lake Cowichan, Town of Ladysmith, City of Duncan, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District. The new comprehensive and user-friendly website comes at pivotal time when communities in the region are seeking efficient and reliable information, resources and solutions to mitigate and prepare for incidents of climate influenced crises such as flooding, extreme weather, wildfire, and drought.

"With the EMCowichan.ca website, residents, businesses and organizations will be able to know if an active emergency is happening, what the scale and response is to the event, and find relevant information on what to do," said Ryan Wainwright, Sr. Manager of Emergency Management Cowichan. "This service and its website will empower individuals, families and communities to take proactive steps for emergency preparedness and gives the community and responders the ability to react confidently during an emergency and be more resilient in the aftermath."

This innovative platform is the result of collaboration between emergency response experts, community safety advocates and EMC's partners who include the First Nations of the Cowichan area, on whose traditional territory EMC is grateful to do its work, and first responders: fire departments, the RCMP, BC Ambulance, ground and marine search and rescue groups and community service organizations. EMC's mandate is to grow and strengthen existing partnerships, and to create new ones over time.

Emergency Management Cowichan is guided by provincial legislation and by the principles of the <u>United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction</u>. For more EMC programs and resources visit: <u>emcowichan.ca</u>. Follow EMC on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u> for updates and tips on emergency preparedness. Sign up for alerts on <u>CowichanAlert</u>.

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For more information, please contact:

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