



## A Behind-the-Scenes Look: Multi-Agency Earthquake Response Exercise

Date: Thursday, November 15, 2018

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — The media is invited to a behind-the-scenes look at a multi-agency exercise that will see Emergency Management Victoria's volunteer teams partnering with Greater Victoria organizations to practise their emergency response to a damaging earthquake. The joint exercise will take place on Sunday, November 18 from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at two locations.

Participating in the exercise will be the City's volunteer Victoria Red Cross ESS Team, Auxiliary Communications Team, Cyclist Response Team, Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Support Team, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) pilots, with the assistance of the Vancouver Island Search and Disaster Dogs Association of Canada K9 Team, and the South Island Pets Team.

### **LOCATION 1: Victoria Fire Hall #1, 1234 Yates Street, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

(Media is asked to check in at the Fire Hall Dispatch office in the front bay area.)

#### **Cyclist Response**

Emergency Management Victoria's volunteer Cyclist Response Team will conduct rapid damage assessments in local neighbourhoods using an app that will populate a map in the EOC. Team members will also deliver food and supplies by bike to the Reception Centre located at the James Bay Community School Centre, while communicating through the use of emergency radios.

#### **K9 Team**

The Vancouver Island Search and Disaster Dogs Association Canada K9 Team will look for lost or trapped people in the administrative offices of Victoria Fire Hall #1, reporting in by radio to the City's EOC Support Team.

#### **EOC and Radio Rooms**

The City's EOC will be open to media, but will not be fully activated for the purpose of this exercise. The Auxiliary Communications Team will make communication possible during the joint exercise by way of amateur radios, the City's emergency radios, and a satellite phone.

### **LOCATION 2: James Bay Community School Centre, 140 Oswego Street, 2 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

(Media is asked to check in at the Victoria Ready tent located in front of the facility.)

#### **UAV Damage Assessment**

The City's trained UAV pilots will conduct aerial damage assessments of the James Bay Community School Centre and test the streaming of video to the EOC. The UAV pilots will communicate with the EOC via radio for directions on where drone footage is required.

## **Reception Centre**

The City's Victoria Red Cross ESS volunteer team will activate a Reception Centre at the school with assistance from the South Island Pets Team. A Reception Centre provides short-term services such as meals, clothing and toiletries, temporary lodging, pet care, assistance in reuniting loved ones, and serves as a gathering place for information updates.

Call for Volunteers: The public and their pets are invited to drop by and participate in the Reception Centre exercise from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. at James Bay Community School Centre to portray “Earthquake Evacuees” who have been displaced and are in need of assistance. (Dogs should be on leash and cats in carrying cases.) Volunteers will have an opportunity to win a Grab and Go Kit, and complimentary refreshments will be served.

The joint exercise is a rare opportunity for media to go inside a Reception Centre and an EOC, as media will not be permitted in these areas in the event of a real emergency.

Emergency Management Victoria is the City of Victoria's resource for helping the community prepare for an emergency. For more information, visit: [www.VictoriaReady.ca](http://www.VictoriaReady.ca).

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