



## *National Emergency Preparedness Week Kicks off Sunday -- What's Planned and What You Can Do*

Date: Friday, May 3, 2019

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC — *National Emergency Preparedness Week* (May 5 – 11, 2019) kicks off on Sunday. The annual event is an opportunity to get you and your family better prepared for emergencies, such as knowing about hazards that can impact Victoria, putting emergency kits together, creating a family reunification plan, and connecting with neighbours. Here's what's planned and what you can do to be prepared for an emergency:

### **FREE Emergency Preparedness Workshop**

On Tuesday, May 7, attend a FREE workshop to learn about hazards that can affect Victoria, what to include in emergency kits, what you can do to protect yourself and your home from hazards such as earthquakes, and how to reunite with your loved ones after a disaster. The workshop takes place from 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. at the Cook Street Village Activity Centre, 380 Cook Street. View the full 2019 Victoria Emergency Preparedness Workshop schedule at [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

### **Victoria Ready at Central Library**

On Wednesday, May 8, drop by the Victoria Ready outreach table from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. at the Greater Victoria Public Library's Central Branch to learn more and ask questions about what you and your family can do to prepare for an emergency.

### **FREE Disaster Movie Screening: San Andreas**

Enjoy a FREE screening of the Hollywood blockbuster movie *San Andreas*, complete with live, scientific commentary from Alison Bird, a Natural Resources Canada earthquake seismologist, about what we can actually expect from an earthquake in Victoria. Join us for this PG-rated film on Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. at The Vic Theatre, 808 Douglas Street. Register for free tickets online at [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

### **Testing of City of Victoria Website Emergency Notification System**

On Monday, May 6 from 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. we'll be testing our website emergency notification system. In the event of a major emergency, helpful information and updates will be posted on the City of Victoria home page, which will be accessible from any City web page. Visit [victoria.ca](http://victoria.ca) to check it out.

### **Sign up for Vic-Alert**

Sign up online for Vic-Alert, the City of Victoria's free emergency notification service. Vic-Alert sends you updates and helpful instructions by text, phone and email on major emergencies that may impact you. Sign up at [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

## Get Your Kit Together!

Is your family prepared for an emergency such as a power outage, winter storm, earthquake or tsunami? Your family needs to have enough food, water and supplies to cope **up to seven days without outside assistance**, depending on the emergency. Don't know what to include in your emergency kit? We've got you covered with helpful videos and kit lists for your home, vehicle, kids and pets at [VictoriaReady.ca](http://VictoriaReady.ca).

During Emergency Preparedness Week, some local retailers are participating in the provincial government's *Partners in Preparedness* retail and marketing program. Participating retailers will display *Good and Ready* signs online or in-store to let customers know what to buy for their emergency kits.

## Check if You're in the "Zone"

Although tsunamis are rare, it's important to know if you're located in Victoria's "tsunami hazard zone". You're safe from a tsunami if you are located four metres (13 feet) above sea level. View Victoria's Tsunami Hazard Map at: <http://tinyurl.com/tsunamihazardmap>.

## Sign up to ShakeOut

Victoria has a one-in-three probability of experiencing a damaging earthquake in the next 50 years. It's not a matter of IF, but WHEN. In the event of an earthquake, Drop, Cover and Hold On until the shaking stops. Sign up now to participate in the *2019 Great British Columbia ShakeOut* earthquake drill on Thursday, October 17 at 10:17 a.m. at [ShakeOutBC.ca](http://ShakeOutBC.ca).

## Connect with Us

In the event of a major emergency, local radio stations and the City's website and social media channels will be key ways to communicate and receive timely updates (e.g. safe places to go if you are unable to shelter in place or stay with family or friends). Connect with us at:

- Follow [@CityofVictoria](https://twitter.com/CityofVictoria) on Twitter
- Like the [City of Victoria – Local Government](https://www.facebook.com/CityofVictoria-Local-Government/) on Facebook
- Check the City's website at [victoria.ca](http://victoria.ca) for updates.

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## For More Information:

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