

Protection Islanders were jolted by reality when a major windstorm in December of 2018 caused a seven day BC Hydro power outage. Having been reminded of our vulnerability to this and other potential major catastrophic events such as uncontrolled wild fires, earthquakes and related tsunami threats, a PI Emergency Preparedness Committee (PIEPC) worked to identify how we might prepare for such events as individuals, and as home and property owners.

Recognizing the need to be self sufficient for the first 72 hours of a major event, PIEPC co-ordinated:

- The distribution of emergency preparedness workbooks to the majority of PI residents. Additional copies are still available – request by email to: piepc@googlegroups.com
- The participation of a number of PI residents with special emergency skills to step forward in the event of an Emergency.
- The training of five resident Islanders as Provincial Emergency Support Services (ESS) team members.

In addition, other emergency resources have been initiated:

- The PI Lion's Club generously made Beacon House available as a 'warming and emergency centre' complete with a backup electrical generator.
- The City of Nanaimo has identified Evacuation Routes on PI in the event of the need for Island wide evacuation, along with assembly points in Nanaimo. Please see attached City of Nanaimo's "In the Event of an EVACUATION" guide and related maps of PI Muster Stations and Visiting Vessel Pier location in Nanaimo for a self evacuation assembly point.
- PIEPC is building a localized 'telephone tree' to enable neighbours to check on neighbours in an emergency as a backup to the Province wide Voyent Alert emergency call out system. (see PINA website tab: Nanaimo Emergency call alert)
- A separate and highly skilled FireSmart PI team initiated a program of mitigating fire risk in all PI Parks by removing forest fuel loads and low hanging branches, while encouraging property owners to do the same. (see PINA website tab: FireSmart PI)

Don't delay, act today!

Make emergency plans using the resources freely available.

Have you fire proofed you home and property?

Could you cope in the first 72 hours of a major emergency?

Do you have a backup supply of basic essentials of food, water, medications, heating, sanitation, lighting and radio and smart phone communication?

What if you and your family are not together when an emergency occurs?