



# FOOTHILLS COUNTY

## Flood Action Plan



# Flood Action Plan Summary

Foothills County Flood Action Plan has been developed and is based on the County's Emergency Management Agency, Public Works Department, and regional Emergency Services providing an effective response for flooding.

This plan is based on the three levels of flood emergencies as identified by Alberta Environment.

1. High Stream Advisory
2. Flood Watch
3. Flood Warning

The plan identifies key elements during a flood emergency in Foothills County that require resources to be prepared for response based on the severity level of the event. Specific tasks for each department involved are identified for each level of flood preparedness.

The key elements are:

- Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)
- Public Works Emergency Resource Center (PWERC)
- Emergency Reception Centres (ERC)
- The Director of Emergency Management (DEM) will be the Emergency Coordination Center Director
- The Public Works Deputy Director of Operations will be the Road Group Supervisor
- River Monitoring
- Emergency Alert systems
- Flood resources

Maps of the County's waterways are included that graphically show the location of areas of concern in a flood event. Specific key locations for monitoring these waterways have been identified. The plan will be exercised annually prior to the potential flood season in May – June.

## Key Elements

All departments and agencies have a role to play in these key elements.

Foothills County Flood Action Plan has been developed and is based on an effective response to a high water event. The first time frame occurs between the previous flood season to May. The other stages happen during flood season and are based on the emergency levels identified by Alberta Environment.

## Flood Planning and Preparation

- This occurs outside of flood season. This time is used by all departments of the Emergency Management Agency to ensure all planning, equipment, and materials has been arranged. Flood plans have been reviewed, staff is trained, and maps printed with the latest information.

## Stage 1 Flood Alert **HIGH STREAM ADVISORY**

- **This level is an information alert stage only. There is a potential for low areas and waterways to have increased levels of water.** Localized flooding may occur but shouldn't affect people or property. ECC staff will be notified of advisory. All departments need to focus on ensuring they are prepared for a potential flood event. At this level, provisions are made by departments for necessary equipment, materials (sand & sandbags) and manpower to be available should there be a need. Monitoring of waterway levels and weather projections will be conducted by staff. An information alert will be sent to residents and staff. The Information Officer will monitor media outlets, social media and information inquiries.

## Stage 2 Flood Alert **FLOOD WATCH**

- **At this level, flooding of low areas around waterways is likely.** Resources are assembled and deployed as deemed necessary. ECC staff will initialize a PWERC and the ECC. River monitoring will increase and an emergency alerts will be sent to residents and staff to take measures to protect lives and property. All early warning measures will be implemented as necessary. The Information Officer will continue to monitor media, social media and information enquiries.

## Stage 3 Flood Alert **FLOOD WARNING**

- **A Flood warning means that rising water levels will result in flooding of areas adjacent to waterways.** Anyone situated close to waterways should take appropriate measures to avoid flood damage. An emergency alert will be sent to residents/staff to take necessary precautions to protect people and property. ECC staff will run operations in the ECC. All appropriate warning systems will be implemented. The Information Officer will conduct emergency communications through the alert systems available, monitor social media and handle all information enquires.

# **Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)**

The ECC will be located at the Heritage Point Fire Station for flood events. At a stage 1 “High Stream Advisory”, a review of a possible high water event will be conducted by emergency management staff. County staff will be advised to initialize the flood plan. At stage 2 “Flood Watch”, the ECC will be in a ready mode. The Director of Emergency Management (DEM) or designate will activate the ECC to the level determined to be appropriate as the emergency dictates. Once an ECC is activated, the DEM will act as the ECC Director. A declaration of a local state of emergency will automatically activate the ECC and the DEM will staff the centre as appropriate for the event.

# **Public Works Emergency Resource Center (PWERC)**

The PWERC will be located at the public works shop at Aldersyde with extra supplies located at the public works shop near Millarville (West Shop). Coordination of both will be through the Road Group Supervisor at Aldersyde. At a stage 1 High Stream Advisory, a review of readiness of resources is conducted by the Road Group Supervisor. At stage 2 Flood Watch, staff may be placed in the PWERC on a 24 hr schedule. This will be determined by the Road Group Supervisor, Infrastructure Branch Director and the ECC Director. At a stage 3 Flood Warning all operations and staffing issues will be conducted by the ECC with support from the Road Group Supervisor at the PWERC.

# **Emergency Reception Centre (ERC)**

Reception Centres are identified in the Regional Reception Center Operational Guidelines. On a stage 1 or 2 alert, the Emergency Social Services Branch Director will be advised on the severity of the event. Only after a stage 3 Flood Warning and a local state of emergency are issued, will reception centres be activated. Activation will be conducted through the ECC and ESS Brach Director.

# **River Monitoring**

River flow markers will be monitored by public works staff. Markers have been placed in areas prone to flooding. The markers have been placed in areas that have been prone to flooding. These levels will be recorded through all levels of water alerts. River monitoring will be shared with all other municipalities that are also conducting monitoring. This information will be managed by the ECC.

# Public Warning Systems

Alberta Emergency Alert / Safe Communities Alert Network (SCAN) will be used in conjunction to inform the public on emergency information. This information will be distributed through the Public Information Officer. This will include updating the County website, County Facebook and County Twitter.

Message sign boards may be used to provide information to the travelling public. It may also provide information for certain areas or for road closures. The Road Group Supervisor will organize the use of the sign boards.

A siren system may be used in conjunction with emergency first responders to aid in an evacuation situation. Vehicles equipped with sirens may be utilized under the direction of emergency first responders.

## Flood Resources

The Road Group Supervisor, as part of this plan, will ensure that adequate resources will be available to staff and public at the PWERC and the West Shop. The flood resources may include heavy equipment, pumps, barriers, sand, sand bags and sign message boards. The supervisor or his designate will manage the distribution of municipal resources in conjunction with the Infrastructure Branch Director on a as need basis.

## Maps Available

- Map of waterways
- Map of flood prone areas
- Map of river monitoring stations
- Detail maps of residents in flood prone areas

# ECC Organization Chart (Floods)

