

# Community Emergency Plan

## D'Arcy Area



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## Key definitions

<b>Emergency</b>	An event that requires prompt coordination of actions to protect the health, safety or welfare of people, or to limit damage to property or the environment.
<b>Hazard</b>	A potentially damaging physical event, phenomenon or human activity that may cause the loss of life or injury, property damage, social and economic disruption or environmental degradation.
<b>Resilience</b>	Resilience is the capacity to adapt; by persevering, recuperating or changing to reach and maintain an acceptable level of functioning. Disaster resilience is built through empowering organizations, communities and society to share responsibility for keeping hazards from becoming disasters.
<b>Risk</b>	The combination of the likelihood and the consequence of a specified hazard event happening.
<b>Vulnerability</b>	Physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, that increase the susceptibility of a community to negative impacts from hazards. It is also a measure of how well prepared and equipped a community is to minimize impacts and cope with hazards.

# Community Emergency Plan

## D'Arcy Area

2017

### Introduction

The SLRD Emergency Management Program provides emergency management services to the ~5,000 SLRD residents in the four Electoral Areas and partners closely with member municipalities. In addition to the Emergency Management Program, the SLRD funds and/or operates select Emergency Services in the region including:

- 9-1-1 Services
- Diking and drainage in Electoral Area D
- Fire and Rescue Services
- Wildfire Fuel Management Program.

Major emergencies and disasters are on the increase in Canada and worldwide. Disaster effects may be direct (e.g. damage to house, loss of income) or indirect (e.g. increased insurance premiums, reduced air quality due to smoke from wildfires elsewhere).

A number of communities in the SLRD are geographically isolated from traditional first responder organizations such as fire, police and emergency medical services. Communications and other infrastructure may be limited or prone to outages. The effect of this geographical separation is that communities will likely lead their own response, making community knowledge, preparation and skill building a vital aspect of emergency preparedness and increasing the resilience of these communities to adverse events.

The purpose of a Community Risk Assessment (CRA) is to guide practical steps in preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation that reduce both the likelihood of emergencies and the consequences when disaster cannot be avoided. Risk information also informs community residents, business owners, and institution managers of the hazards to expect and how best to prepare for them. Further, A CRA provides a platform from which to advance community-level emergency management and evacuation policy and planning.

A Community Action Plan (CAP) provides a blueprint for communities to increase their resilience through increasing skills, knowledge and connectedness – benefiting the community before a major emergency, during response and through the recovery process.

## Community Overview

The D'arcy area includes the communities of D'Arcy and Devine, located between Pemberton and Anderson Lake, along the Mt Currie – D'Arcy Corridor. Communities are a mix of small, historic properties and more recently, large lot subdivisions. Protecting the rural character of the area is a priority for residents of the Mount Currie – D'Arcy Corridor.

The community is exposed to a range of hazards, most notably flood and landslide events, but also interface fire from surrounding woodlands and hazardous material accidents from transport through the road and rail corridor. The area has no reliable cellphone reception and landline service may be vulnerable to storm damage, leaving the community with no 9-1-1 service. Severe storms may also result in extended utility outages and blocked roads, leaving the community isolated.

## Demographics

A mix of fulltime residents and seasonal occupants, particularly boat access properties on Anderson Lake.

## Land Use

Generally single family homes and recreational property, with some agricultural use.

## Critical infrastructure

Drinking Water	Water system maintained by the SLRD, plus some Independent supply – well, tank or stream filtration.
Sanitary/Waste Water Treatment	Waste Water system maintained by the SLRD, plus some properties on septic field or tank
Electrical Power Systems	BC Hydro supply available to most residences
Gas Heating Systems	No (apart from tank supply)
Communications	Landline, internet access. Unreliable cellphone reception

## Response Capabilities

Structural fire	No
Wildland interface fire	Crews dispatched from Pemberton. Opportunity for local training
Medical	Nearest BCAS base is in Pemberton
Police	Nearest RCMP detachment in Pemberton
Evacuation	Community Evacuation training may be facilitated by the SLRD Emergency Program on request
Communication	Landline and internet access available, subject to any infrastructure impacts.

## Hazard, Risk and Evacuation

### BIRKEN HAZARD PROFILE

Flood	Debris Flow/ Landslide	Interface Fire	Severe Storm/ Utility failure	Earthquake	Hazardous Material

**KEY:\***

HIGH RISK
MODERATE RISK
LOW RISK
UNLIKELY

\*Note that risk does not equal impact. A low risk event may still occur with high impact.

### Evacuation Routes

South on Pemberton Portage Road, dependent on impacts and location of threat. The Highline Road offers an alternative route north, but only for 4WD capable vehicles, drivers experienced with these road conditions and when the road is open. Water assisted evacuation is possible from the D'Arcy Community Dock.

**Evacuation route one:** South on Pemberton Portage Road towards Pemberton at the direction of First Responders, and the recommended evacuation route will also be printed on the official evacuation notice delivered by First Responders and/or published on the SLRD website.

**Evacuation route two:** If evacuation south towards Pemberton is not possible due to road conditions or fire cutting off access, then evacuation would be north via the Highline Road or water assisted evacuation. Depending on the nature and location of the threat, this route would require additional arrangements for evacuation due to the route terminating at Anderson Lake for those without boat access, or terminating at the Highline Road for those without 4WD access. Those with 4WD would be able to travel the Highline Road towards Seton Portage and ultimately Lillooet.

**Community Muster Points :** The Muster Points will be used if evacuation is by bus or RCMP escort due to road conditions, or to receive additional information or supplies (e.g. bottled water) before evacuating.

**Muster Point One:** Blackwater Elementary School entrance

**Muster Point Two:** D'Arcy Community Dock

## Types of Evacuation

### Evacuation Alert

This is the time to get ready to leave, putting together 'grab and go' bags with essential supplies, papers and prescriptions, and making any other arrangements to leave the property with all household members and pets. Residents may self-evacuate (voluntary) during this time, particularly if they have mobility issues or health conditions that may make it difficult to evacuate quickly. This is also the time to move livestock to safer areas.

### Evacuation Order

Mandatory evacuation occurs when a population is ordered to leave a defined area according to a formal written document that outlines the impact area and why an evacuation is necessary.

### Shelter-in- -Place

Essentially, an instruction to the public to stay inside for safety reasons. It may also mean "seal the room", i.e. take steps to stop outside smoke or other contaminants from entering the room.

### Evacuation Rescind

Formal notification that it is safe to return to the evacuated area. The affected area may still be under an Evacuation Alert under further notice, if the hazard still presents a threat.



## Flood

The flood risk for the D'Arcy area is concentrated in the lower lying areas, with potential flood waters originating from Anderson Lake and steep streams above the surrounding area. In terms of stream flow, the flood risk comes from both bank overtopping and an outburst flood scenario, where a collection of woody debris and rocks become lodged in one area by high stream flows, forming a barrier. The water pooling behind the barrier can rapidly cause flooding of properties nearby, but the greater hazard is from the volume of water and debris released suddenly when the temporary dam gives way.

### **EVACUATION PROTOCOL:**

Evacuate if directed by first responders (imminent threat, tactical evacuation), and/or if an evacuation order is issued by the SLRD due to conditions being assessed as dangerous enough to warrant an evacuation of identified properties. First responders and the SLRD will take a conservative approach in assessing flood risk evacuation trigger points, to ensure resident safety.

#### **Evacuation Alert** Trigger Points

An evacuation alert would be triggered by Environment Canada, the River Forecast Centre forecasting conditions that trigger a flood watch, and/or onsite observation of those conditions.

#### **Evacuation Order** Trigger Points

Evacuate if heavy/torrential rainfall is occurring, and ANY of the following are observed:

- Sudden lack of flow in creeks during wet weather
- Landslides occurring in the general area, or sounds of landslides occurring
- Forecast rainfall is occurring, and stream full conditions are occurring or close to occurring.

## Interface Fire

The D'Arcy Area is located in a semi-wooded environment with a mix of deciduous and evergreen trees near development. Drier summers are resulting in conditions that increase the interface fire risk. Potential ignition of an interface fire includes a lightning or human caused forest fire, a structural fire in the community that spreads to the wildland area, and ignition relating to a vehicle collision or sparking that spreads.

The consequences of an Interface Fire event have the potential to be severe depending on ignition point, dryness and wind conditions.

## **EVACUATION PROTOCOL:**

At the **Evacuation Alert** stage:

- Residents with mobility or chronic health issues may choose to voluntarily evacuate to ensure their safety and continuity of care. If they choose to stay at this time, they should contact the SLRD Emergency Program staff to discuss their situation and/or make arrangements with a neighbor if they do not have a vehicle, and their primary healthcare provider if evacuation is medically complicated (e.g. dialysis, oxygen tanks).
- All other residents should make preparations to leave, ensuring that they have a plan for the safe evacuation of all people and pets, gather essential documents, medicines and necessities of food, clothing and other items.

At the **Evacuation Order or Tactical Evacuation** stage:

- At the direction of BC Wildfire Service, RCMP or other authorized first responders, residents will evacuate according to the evacuation route directions given.
- All residents must leave, ensuring that all people and pets in their household safely evacuate, and taking the previously gathered essential documents, medicines, necessities of food, clothing and other items. If these items have not been gathered in advance, there may be no time to take anything at the time of evacuation.
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

## **Severe Storm (All Seasons)**

The community may become temporarily isolated by a severe winter snow storm or summer storm with high winds that down trees and potentially knock out power lines nearby. Winter heating is a concern, especially for vulnerable residents. Extended power outages presents health and safety risks including food spoilage, shortage and inability to store medications requiring refrigeration (e.g. insulin). Downed landlines would leave some in the community without 9-1-1 service. Blocked access of Pemberton Portage Road may compromise community access to emergency health services.

## **EVACUATION PROTOCOL:**

Shelter in place until downed power lines are confirmed by BC Hydro as no longer hazardous. If emergency assistance is required, call 9-1-1 (if able). If a storm related evacuation is required, follow the instructions of first responders and official information from the SLRD. In the event of evacuation, Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to those evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

Residents who are vulnerable due to health conditions should discuss a plan in advance with

their primary healthcare provider. This may include voluntary self-evacuation when a severe storm event is forecast, access to a back up power supply, and additional supplies of medication or an emergency prescription.

**SLRD ALERT.**

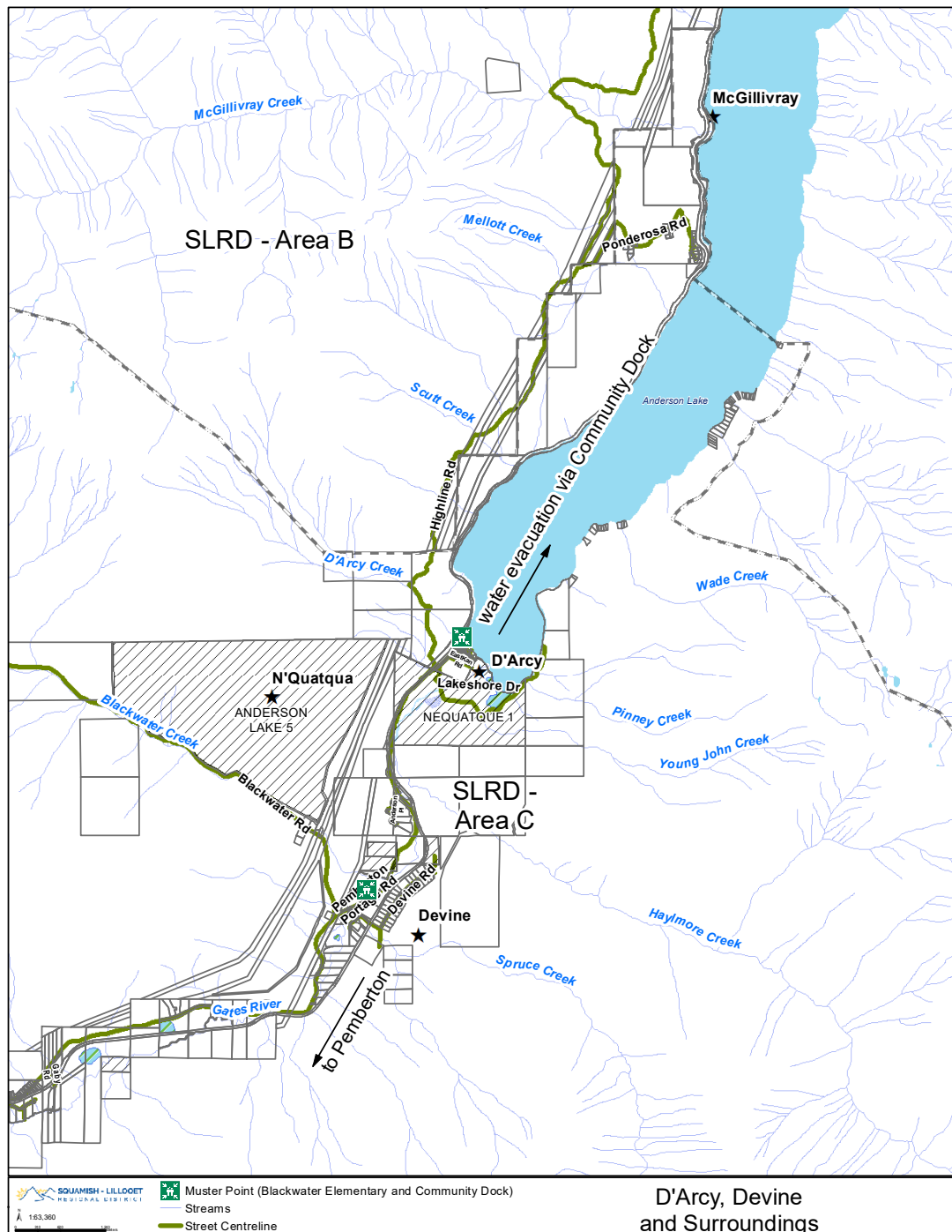
**Be in the know, not in the dark.**

Free emergency notification service  
direct from the SLRD to you.

Text, voice message and email options

**Sign up: <http://www.slrd.bc.ca/SLRDAlert>**

## Community Map – D’Arcy, Devine and Area



## Community Action Plan

The SLRD will work with community representatives every three (3) years to review, assess and update the Community Action Plan.

### Historical Actions

- Community input required for this section

### Current and Future Potential Actions by the Community

- Establish a **Neighbourhood Emergency Team (NET)** with members who have completed a criminal record check (free for volunteers and required in order to be placed in many volunteer roles during response). The SLRD can support the NET through training in basic emergency preparedness, evacuation notification, recovery considerations and other relevant topics that facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange of local government emergency processes and community capacity building. The SLRD can also connect communities to funding when it is available (e.g. FireSmart) and may sponsor a training session by an external provider for multiple communities if budget is available and there is sufficient demand. NET team members would be utilised in a disaster response as qualified volunteers under the direction of the relevant agency. The size of the NET, its organization and the level of training is at the discretion of the community and is independent of the SLRD.

NET team members may be progressively trained in:

- First Aid and simple triage
- Evacuation Processes
- Radio Communication
- Locating victims and resources
- BC Wildfire S-100 Basic Fire Suppression and Safety
- Work with the SLRD to develop a basic Disaster Recovery Plan
- Fund a generator for emergency power
- Identify vulnerable residents and develop a plan with them for their continued safety in the event of a major emergency (EMBC resources available to assist planning)
- Identify and document skilled individuals in the community (e.g. doctors, nurses, electricians, engineers).
- Practice evacuation notification with the delivery of emergency preparedness public information resources to each house (these resources available through the SLRD)
- Campaign to get all residents signed up to the SLRD Alert emergency mass notification system for direct communication by email, text and landline from SLRD to residents and their nominated emergency contacts.

## Looking for more information to make your community Disaster Resilient?

<b>SLRD</b>	<a href="http://www.slrd.bc.ca/services/emergency-management">www.slrd.bc.ca/services/emergency-management</a>
<b>GENERAL</b>	<a href="http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery">http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery</a>
<b>ANIMALS</b>	<a href="http://www.cdart.org/beprepared.htm">http://www.cdart.org/beprepared.htm</a>
<b>COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK</b>	<a href="https://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/reports/commercial-livestock-relocation-guide">https://www.slrd.bc.ca/inside-slrd/reports/commercial-livestock-relocation-guide</a>
<b>FIRE SMART</b>	<a href="http://www.firesmartcanada.ca">www.firesmartcanada.ca</a>