

# Community Emergency Plan

## Ponderosa



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## Key definitions

Emergency	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.
Hazard	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.
Resilience	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.
Risk	The combination of the likelihood and the consequence of a specified hazard event happening.
Vulnerability	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

## Ponderosa

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

Ponderosa is a 26-lot subdivision of recreational property owners on the west side of Anderson Lake, with the chair of the strata community in full time residence. Anderson Lake is located 45 kilometres north of Pemberton, drained by the Seton River which feeds Seton Lake. It is fed by the Gates, McGillivray and Lost Valley Creeks, which drain from the Pemberton Pass divide with the Birkenhead River Valley towards Pemberton-Mount Currie. Access to the Ponderosa Community is via the Highline Road, which runs between D'Arcy to the south and Seton Portage to the north. 'The Highline' as it is known, is a 4WD vehicle access only road, which becomes largely inaccessible in the winter months due to snow and ice and hazardous in the spring due to rock falls and muddy conditions during the snowmelt period.

The area is beautiful but easily isolated, with no cell phone reception in the community, plus landline phone and power lines are exposed to outages at several points. Power supply is entirely 'off-grid' with electricity supplied by a combination of micro-hydro, solar panels, and generators.

## Demographics

Two full time residents, the rest of the community are recreational residents during the summer months.

## Land Use

Single family homes and a large common land area (~350 acres).

## Critical Infrastructure

Drinking Water	Surface water, user boiled. Three independent water systems, spring fed.
Sanitary/Waste Water Treatment	Properties have independent septic field or tank
Electrical Power Systems	Solar and diesel generator, micro-hydro
Gas Heating Systems	None
Communications	No cellphone reception. Microwave radio telephone, microwave internet access, VHF, UHF, & HF radio for access to the BC public service network. Full time resident Mike Morley is advanced user. Marine and forestry channels are monitored. Frequencies direct to Lillooet and Kamloops

## Response Capabilities

Structural fire	No structural fire service.
Wildland interface fire	<p>Crews dispatched from Lillooet or Kamloops. Opportunity for more local training.</p> <p>Equipment in community: 4 x pumps (3 med, 1 large, 2,000ft 1.5" hose, many properties have own fire hose +totes +personal safety equipment. Access cuts have been made through the forested areas for faster access. In fire season 300 gallon tanks are filled and distributed through the area for a fast initial attack, trailer + ATV or truck or carrying additional water and equipment to spot fires.</p>
Medical	<p>Nearest BCAS base is in Pemberton.</p> <p>Community has oxygen, defibrillators and other equipment. Two nurses in the summer resident community plus one advanced first aid person.</p>
Police	Nearest RCMP detachment in Pemberton
Evacuation	Evacuation plan to be developed
Communication	No cellphone reception. Microwave radio telephone, microwave internet access, VHF, UHF, & HF radio for access to the BC public service network. Full time resident Mike Morley is advanced user. Marine and forestry channels are monitored. Frequencies direct to Lillooet and Kamloops

# Hazard, Risk and Evacuation

## PONDEROSA HAZARD PROFILE

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

### 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 route will be the Highline Road toward D'Arcy or Seton Portage 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.

**Community Muster Point:** at the junction of the highline road and Ponderosa Road, approx. 6.5km north of D'Arcy.

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

## Evacuation Routes

The Highline Road south toward D'Arcy and Pemberton or north towards Seton Portage and Lillooet at the direction of first responders and dependent on impacts and location of threat. No vehicular alternatives.

There is potential for water-assisted evacuation to Pemberton via D'Arcy but with no first responder agency boats operating in this area, both time and the marshaling of community resources (privately owned boats) would be factors.

## 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.

## Interface Fire

Ponderosa is located in a wildfire environment. Wildfires will happen – exclusion is not a choice. The variables in a wildfire scenario are:

- when the fire occurs, and
- where the fire occurs
- weather conditions (weather station at Ponderosa)
- resources at the property (for response)

Historically, a number of spot fires have occurred in the area and wildfires of note have occurred in the vicinity, including the 2009 fires near Seton Portage.

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, or ignition relating to a vehicle accident or sparking.

The consequences of an Interface Fire event have the potential to be severe/catastrophic for the community.

### **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, with the exception of the Fire Warden (in the employ of the forest service) unless directed by the fire service. 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 full time residents 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, create washouts or avulsions along the Highline Road and potentially knock out phone access. Extended phone outages and isolation present health and safety risks including no 9-1-1 service. Blocked roads compromise community access to emergency health services and supply lines.

### **EVACUATION PROTOCOL:**

Shelter in place (if relevant) 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.

## Hazardous Materials

Ponderosa is located near the CN Rail corridor. A variety of hazardous materials are transported through this rail corridor, and fuel spills are also possible, with the consequential risk of fire. Depending on the substance released and its location, sheltering in place may be the only viable option.

The consequences of a Hazardous Materials spill are likely to be highly variable, depending on the substance, proximity, volume, time of day and speed of notification to residents.

### **EVACUATION PROTOCOL:**

At the direction of the Interior Health Authority, Ministry of Environment officials or first responders, residents will Shelter in Place or Evacuate depending on the hazardous substance involved. In the event of evacuation, Emergency Support Services (ESS) will be provided to full time residents evacuated, including emergency accommodation if required.

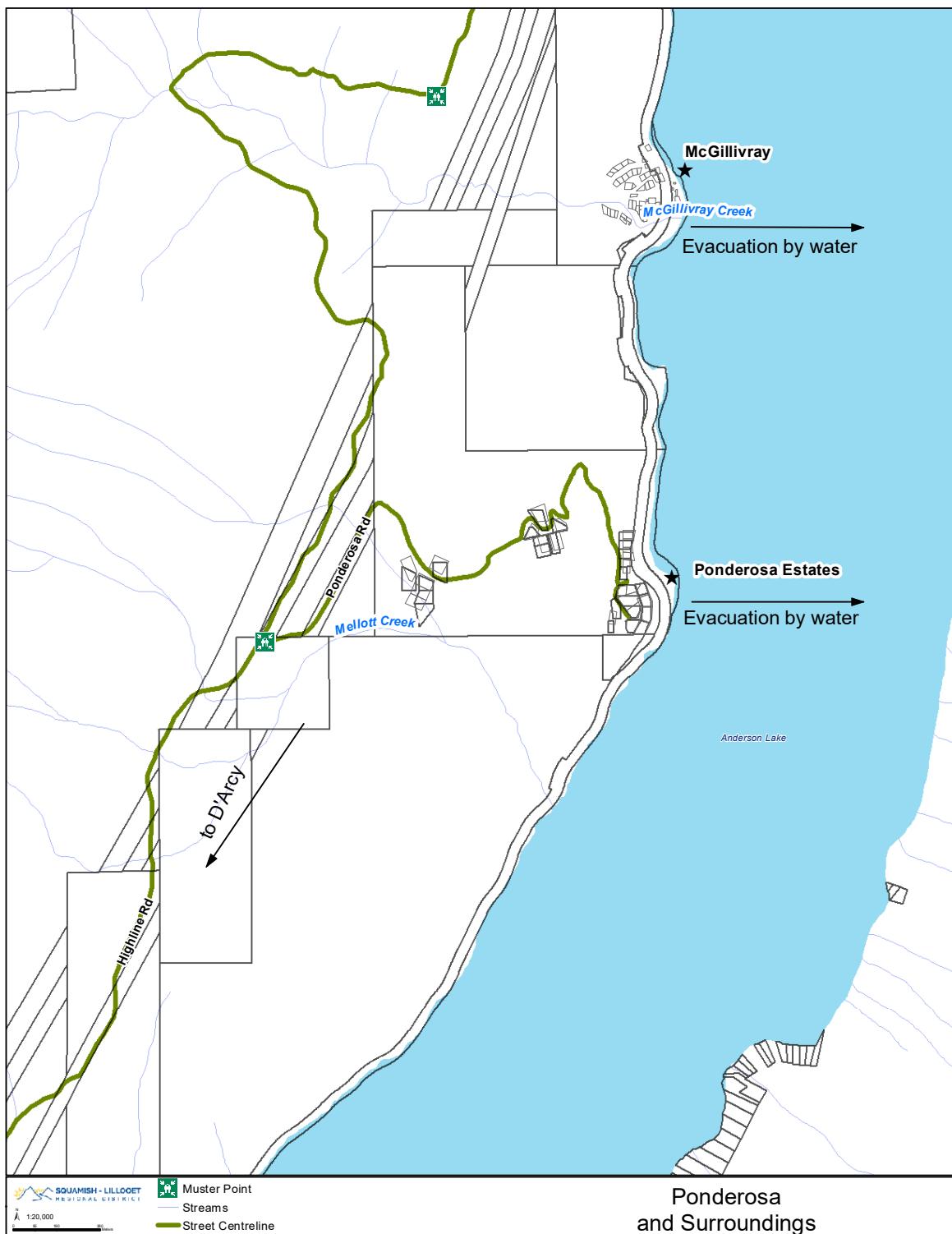
**SLRD ALERT.**  
**Be in the know, not in the dark.**

Free emergency notification service  
direct from the SLRD to you.  
Text, voice message and email options

**Sign up: <http://www.slrdbc.ca/SLRDArt>**

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## Community Map – Ponderosa



## 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

- Three independent domestic water supplies and independent waste treatment systems per household.
- Initial discussions between strata management and SLRD regarding evacuation planning.
- Ponderosa has a sophisticated and well-established model FireSmart program including prescribed burning.
- Community members trained to S100 Wildfire.

### Current and Future Potential Actions by the Community

- Establish a **Neighbourhood Emergency Team (NET)** and consider partnering with McGillivray. Team members to complete 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

- Continue FireSmart activities and apply for official FireSmart Community status
- Work with the SLRD to develop a basic Disaster Recovery Plan
- 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.
- The SLRD recommends the community purchase of a satellite phone, to be held by the strata manager and available to the community at all times.

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

**SLRD** [www.slrdbc.ca/services/emergency-management](http://www.slrdbc.ca/services/emergency-management)

**GENERAL** <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>

**ANIMALS** <http://www.cgart.org/beprepared.htm>

**FIRE SMART** [www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)