



FAQ: Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report

August 27, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) - SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report

Please note: *this document will continue to evolve, as additional questions and information come to light; if you have a question that is not addressed in this document, please contact the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District.*

What is the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report?

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) is located in a geologically dynamic environment; mountainous, volcanic, and with many rivers and steep creeks. The objective of this report is to characterize and prioritize flood, steep creek (debris and non-debris flow) and non-eruptive volcanic geohazards in the SLRD that might impact developed properties. This provides a comprehensive overview of the geohazard risks in the region that may impact people, property and critical infrastructure.

How much did this report cost and who paid for it?

The cost of the report was \$550,000, which was funded through a grant from the National Disaster Mitigation Program.

Who conducted the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report?

BGC Engineering Inc. was commissioned to undertake this work.

Why was the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report created?

The mountainous and volcanic terrain of the SLRD creates a number of geohazards and some of these are increasing with the changing climate. While there have been several hazard reports completed in relation to single geohazard locations, there has never been one consolidated report completed for the entire geographical area of the SLRD.

What geohazards does the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report consider?

The report considers the following geohazards:

- flood,
- steep creek (debris flood and debris flow), and
- non-eruptive volcanic geohazards (lahars)

What information does the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report provide?

In total, BGC identified and prioritized 2058 geohazard areas encompassing over 1615 km² (10%) of the SLRD, including 1,845 clear-water floods, 201 steep creeks, and 12 volcanic geohazards. The report focused on areas where people will be impacted by geohazards either through where they live or impacts on critical infrastructure such as utilities, road and

rail corridors. As large areas of the SLRD are uninhabited, the 10% of the SLRD studied represents the area of assessed impact on people and built infrastructure. The report's recommendations are comprehensive and aim to address data gaps, further geohazard assessments, long-term geohazard risk management, geohazard monitoring, policy integration, information management and training and stakeholder communication.

How likely is a geohazard event to occur in the SLRD?

Geohazard events occur frequently in uninhabited areas, have occurred in and near populated areas, and will occur in the future. Likelihood of an event occurring at any specific location depends of the characteristics of the specific geohazard at that location. A number of studies are available on the SLRD website of geohazards at specific locations including landslide and flood risk hazards.

Based on the findings, what does the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report recommend?

The report's recommendations are comprehensive and aim to address data gaps, further geohazard assessments, long-term geohazard risk management, geohazard monitoring, policy integration, information management and training and stakeholder communication. The full list of recommendations is included in the report.

Will climate change have an impact on geohazards?

Yes, climate change is expected to increase the risk of geohazard events occurring. Increasing temperatures, longer dry periods, more precipitation falling as rain rather than snow, and increased numbers of torrential rain events will all contribute to an increased risk of damaging geohazard events.

What should property owners do?

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility between local governments and residents. All property owners and residents should:

- Review the information provided by their local government.
- Become familiar with measures to make homes more disaster resilient: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-your-hazards>
- Have an emergency plan https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/preparedbc-guides/preparedbc_household_emergency_plan_2018.pdf
- Contact their local authority for building permit advice specific to their situation if planning to build or renovate property.
- Contact their local authority emergency program staff with any additional questions regarding this report.
- Sign up for the SLRD emergency alert systems to be notified directly of emergencies or advisories. www.slrd.bc.ca/SLRDAAlert
- Sign up for the emergency alert system in your community.
- Follow the SLRD (@TheSLRD) and your community on social media.

I live in a municipality within the SRLD, not an electoral area; do the findings in the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report have any bearing on my community?

Yes. This report covers all areas within the geographical boundaries of the SLRD, including the four member municipalities (District of Lillooet, Village of Pemberton, Resort Municipality of Whistler and District of Squamish) and First Nations.

What is the SLRD doing with the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report?

The SLRD will be considering how the report may be integrated with planning and policy,

including official community plans, regional growth strategies and disaster risk reduction measures.

Where can I find more information about the SLRD Geohazard Risk Prioritization Report?

The full report is available on the SLRD website: www.slrd.bc.ca/geohazard_risk

SLRD residents with additional questions that have not been addressed in this FAQ document can contact:

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

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