



**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS**

We usually think about emergency preparedness after a disaster in some far off place or a tsunami warning here on the West Coast. After a few days or weeks the item is forgotten and the daily routine takes over.

It helps, to have time on your side. Therefore, you may want to sign up to receive a text message if an earthquake should occur in Canada. The service is free, you do not have to sign up for Twitter and it may give you additional time, before you find out the information by chance through the general media. The link for the service is below.

In our harbours we have Emergency Manuals and our spill kits are hopefully well stocked. We are prepared for small oil spills and heaven forbid a fire on board. How we are prepared for the real devastating disasters, like the big earthquake which could happen on the West Coast any day or the tsunami which may follow? As we do not have any way to forecast those events, we also do not have any way to avoid them if they should happen. The best thing we can do, with the right planning is to mitigate the effects of such events. Below are a few websites which have information for preparedness. We need to adopt some special measures to keep our clients safe. In addition we need to ensure that important data is still available after any catastrophic event.

First, do we have a plan to notify persons in the harbour to vacate the harbour, if we have a tsunami warning? Is a hand held siren or a horn sufficient to alert all? Do we need to check each boat? Do we have time for such a task? Good signage for emergency communication is important. Harbour users should be informed that four sharp blasts from a hand held air horn means get out or what ever you decide is the alarm for evacuation. They should know where there is a rescue station. What is the best way out? Now is the time to plan and inform all stakeholders.

Second, our office information, invoices, payroll, accounts payable and so and are nowadays all held on a few harddrives. Are those drives backed up at a location other than the harbour? Offsite data storage is now relatively economical and a must for businesses. Even your best accountant can not

ZONE MEETING SCHEDULE

All dates are subject to change, up to date info will be available on the HAABC website calendar. Notices will be sent via email one week prior to the meeting.

North Island Zone  
Alert Bay HA  
May 20

Mid-Island Zone  
Campbell River HA  
May 22

Lower Mainland Zone  
Squamish HA  
May 27

South Island Zone  
Tsehum HA  
May 29

North Coast Zone  
Prince Rupert  
June 17

FISHSAFE BC SPRING COURSE SCHEDULE

Marine Basic First Aid  
April 2-3, 2014  
Richmond FishSafe Office

Restricted Operators  
Marine (ROCM)  
April 14, 2014  
Richmond FishSafe Office

Safe On the Wheel (SVOP)  
Richmond FishSafe Office  
April 22-25, 2014

recall all the data you need to access after an event.  
It is also a worthwhile exercise to review your insurance policy. The larger harbours which have accumulated more and more equipment, automobiles, boats and other assets must make sure that these are covered for a catastrophic event. Insurance policies are notoriously hard to read; it is important to ask the right questions from your insurance agent. This should be done by the HA board and the CEO. Warm and fuzzy answers won't help when you later have a substantial claim.

These are just a few thoughts on Emergency Preparation. It should not become overwhelming, but requires the preparation of a few items and some communication to make users aware that is an ongoing task. These things will pay a major dividend if you have to deal with a major disaster.

General info:

[Natural Resources Canada Website—Preparing for Earthquakes](#)

for text messages:

[Twitter Earthquake Warning Sign-in Page](#)

Submitted by  
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Fishsafe Stability Course  
April 22-25, 2014  
Steveston BC (TBA)

Safest Catch (MED A3)  
1 Day Workshop  
Scheduled upon request.

To register:

Drop by: 100-12051  
Horseshoe Way,  
Richmond BC

By Phone: (604) 261-9700

By Email:  
[fishsafe@fishsafebc.com](mailto:fishsafe@fishsafebc.com)

Register and pay online:  
[Fish Safe BC](#)

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Harbour Authority Association of BC

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