

Regional Connections Newsletter

News and information from the Regional District

March 2025



Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA)

The Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) is partnering with six municipalities, four local syilx Similkameen/Okanagan communities, and all Electoral Areas to complete a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) for each community.

Emergency response and social service organizations, local knowledge experts, industry and business professionals, and residents will be invited to provide input through sub-regional committees. The project will be guided by an Advisory Committee made up of representatives from community partners.

HRVA is a process to identify hazards that may cause an emergency and the potential consequences. The results of the analysis will be compiled in a report for each community and will include specific recommendations on how to improve resilience and mitigate hazards.

The HRVAs will inform local and regional emergency response plans, land-use policies, and climate adaptation initiatives across the RDOS. The project is grant-funded through the Province of B.C. and will take place over two years, from January 2025 to December 2026.

For further information, please visit the [HRVA project page](#) on the [RDOS Regional Connections](#) interactive website or contact RDOS Communications.

Chain Lake Dam Upgrade

An audit of the Chain Lake Dam in 2018 highlighted the low-level outlet (LLO) had exceeded its life expectancy and the cold joints in the spillway were deteriorating. To address the concerns of the audit, the RDOS commissioned an inspection of the dam in May 2021.

The findings of this inspection indicated it would be prudent to upgrade the existing dam by replacing the concrete spillway and the 550 mm diameter corrugated steel pipe (CSP) low-level outlet. These findings have prompted the request for dam upgrade engineering services for the site.

To learn more, please visit the Chain Lake Dam Upgrade project page on the RDOS Regional Connections interactive website.

rdosregionalconnections.ca



2023 rockslide west of Keremeos in Electoral Area "G"



RDOS Online

rdos.bc.ca

EOC: emergency.rdos.bc.ca
FireSmart: firesmart.rdos.bc.ca
Projects: rdosregionalconnections.ca
Recreation: rec.rdos.bc.ca

Events and Initiatives

- RDOS Spring Recreation Guide: rec.rdos.bc.ca
- Okanagan Falls Incorporation Referendum: general voting March 22
- Vintage Views Wastewater & Lakeshore Waterworks: assent voting April 2, April 12
- Large item pick-up: week of April 7
- Keremeos Fire Hall relocation: Community Discussion April 9
- RDOS Easter closures: Friday, April 18 and Monday, April 21
- SILGA Conference: April 29 to May 2
Southern Interior Local Government Association



Scan the QR code to view the RDOS event calendar
rdos.bc.ca

RDOS Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure project



The Regional District is installing electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. Charging stations are available for public and RDOS fleet vehicles. This move underscores the Regional District's commitment to sustainability and aligns with the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth.



Curbside Collection

The RDOS provides curbside collection for properties in Electoral Areas "A", "B", "C", "D", "E", "F", "G", and "I" and the Village of Keremeos. All participating properties will receive new carts for garbage, recycling, and yard waste beginning in June 2025. Three (3) carts will be supplied to all homes receiving curbside collection service. RDOS carts will match similar programs in the City of Penticton, District of Summerland, and Town of Oliver.

Additional unlimited yard waste collections will be scheduled for fall 2025 and spring 2026. Food scraps will not initially be collected as the RDOS develops plans for a regional compost facility. To change out the sizes of carts that will be delivered to you, please contact the Solid Waste Hotline: 250-490-4129.

Solid Waste Hotline
250-490-4129



solidwaste@rdos.bc.ca



<https://rdosregionalconnections.ca/curbside-collection>

Whether you are doing regular yard maintenance or making large-scale changes during renovations or landscaping, you can make choices that will help protect your home from wildfire.

Visit firesmart.rdos.bc.ca to download the [FireSmart Homeowner's Manual](#).

Emergency Wildfire Preparedness Checklist



Evacuation Tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local officials. If ordered to evacuate, do so IMMEDIATELY.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your home emergency plan with the people you live with. Visit PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyReady for helpful tips and a fill-in-the-blank template.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Have your grab-and-go bag ready and stocked with food, water, battery-powered/hand-crank radio and flashlight, power bank, first aid kit and prescriptions, cash in small bills, toiletries, change of clothes and an emergency blanket. Also include a copy of your emergency plan and copies of important documents, such as insurance and emergency contact information. Don't forget a bag for your pets! Visit PreparedBC.ca/EmergencyKit for more information and a complete list of supplies.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a profile for Emergency Support Services. Connect with friends and family who may be able to provide a place to stay if an evacuation order is issued. This will help ensure local accommodation is available for those who have no other option. Visit ESS.gov.bc.ca for more information.

Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around the home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Mow grass within 10 metres of the house to 10 centimetres in length, or less.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 metres of your home. Maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around your home and deck.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Move combustible items that are within 10 metres of your home such as propane tanks, doormats, toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants. This includes items on or under decks. Move all combustible items into your home or garage.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a large stationary propane tank located on your property, remove all combustible material surrounding it.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secure gate in an open position. • Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.

Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering the home.

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure all vents on the home are in good condition (i.e., are operating correctly, not damaged or poorly attached). Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, or non-combustible tape. Be sure to remove tape when you return home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Before evacuating: Turn off air conditioning. Close all doors, garage doors, windows, and skylights. Do not turn off gas unless directed to do so, or if you suspect a gas leak.



Visit firesmartbc.ca and preparedbc.ca for additional resources and information.



Information and resource links: firesmart.rdos.bc.ca

Electoral Area Directors

Electoral Area "A" - Rural Osoyoos
Director Mark Pendergraft, RDOS chair
250-485-2289

Electoral Area "B" - Cawston
Director George Bush
250-499-0376

Electoral Area "C" - Rural Oliver
Director Irwin Chahal
250-460-1319

Electoral Area "D" - Okanagan Falls
Director Matt Taylor
250-460-0980

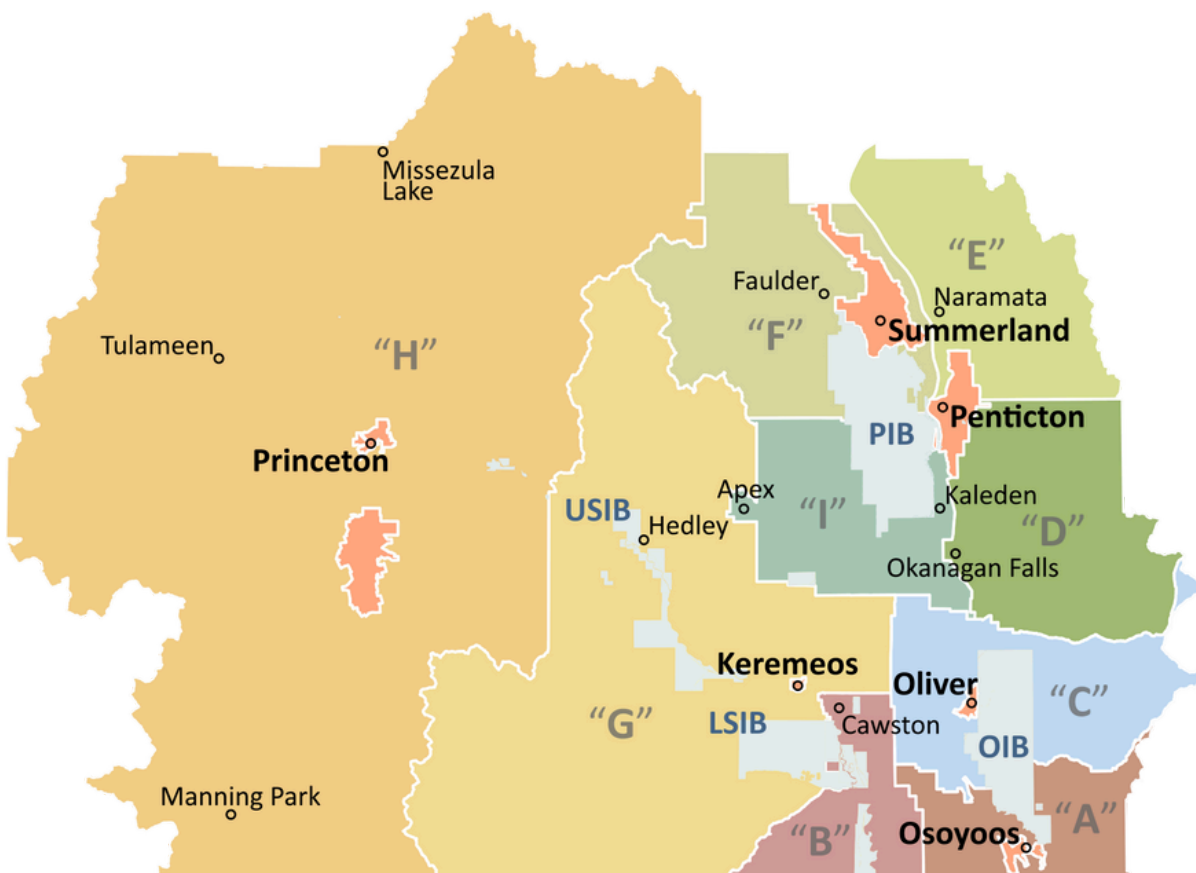
Electoral Area "E" - Naramata
Director Adrienne Fedrigo
250-460-0282

**Electoral Area "F" - Greater West Bench,
Rural Summerland, Okanagan Lake West**
Director Riley Gettens
250-488-0246

Electoral Area "G" - Rural Keremeos, Hedley
Director Tim Roberts, OSRHD vice-chair
250-499-0900

Electoral Area "H" - Rural Princeton
Director Bob Coyne
250-582-9090

**Electoral Area "I" (Skaha
West/Kaleden/Twin Lakes/Apex)**
Director Subrina Monteith
250-460-0723



You can find the latest updates and resource links
on the [Electoral Area News](https://rdos.bc.ca/news) page at rdos.bc.ca.



Receive notifications from the RDOS via email, text, or phone

The RDOS has partnered with Voyent Alert! to provide routine and emergency notifications. Receive garbage and recycling alerts, water and sewer notices, public engagement opportunities, and emergency notifications such as wildfires and floods.

- Once registered, you'll receive all routine and emergency notifications
- Update your profile with your preferred notification settings
- Include your correct address to receive notifications that are relevant to you
- Emergency notifications are automatically included

For further information, please visit Voyent Alert! Community Support:

<https://voyent-alert.com/community/>

Scan the QR code
to learn more:



Register or log in: register.voyent-alert.com



Notifications can be sent to telephone landlines.

Call RDOS Communications if you need assistance setting up your account.

250-490-4148

Why didn't I know about this? Let's work together to fix that.

Sign up

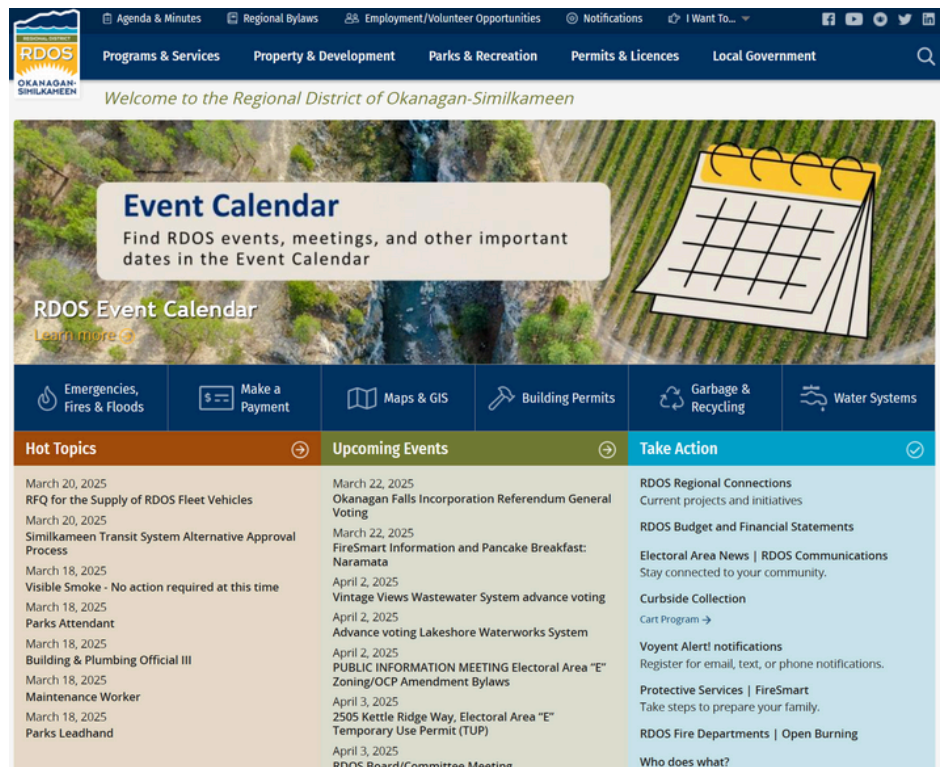
If you haven't already, sign up for [Voyent Alert!](#) If you're already registered, please review your account settings. You can also sign up to receive project updates via RDOS Regional Connections: <https://rdosregionalconnections.ca>. Follow the RDOS on social media: [Facebook](#), [X](#), [Instagram](#), [Threads](#), [LinkedIn](#), and [YouTube](#).

Hot Topics

Information and key dates are posted on Hot Topics and the event calendar.

Posters & Signs

Whenever possible, information is posted on community notice boards. Sandwich board signs are used for water advisories and events.



Be a Community Champion

Residents are encouraged to share information from the RDOS on neighbourhood notice boards, Facebook groups, and discussion forums. If you would like to become part of the Community Champions program, please contact RDOS Communications.

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact RDOS Communications.