

## **PART 4.4 QUATSINO**

### **4.4.1 Overview**

Quatsino is located on Quatsino Sound which has access to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Population is approximately 80 persons, plus six summer fishing/guest lodges.

#### **Emergency Services:**

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Port Alice Detachment 9-1-1
- British Columbia Ambulance Service – Port Hardy 9-1-1
- Quatsino Volunteer Fire Brigade Local Contact Numbers  
Fire Chief – Syd DePass 949-6951 and Ernie Stewart 949-8584
- No medical services “on-site” in this community.
- Registered Nurse in the community.
- First Aid qualified community members.
- Nearest Hospital – Port Hardy – 949-6161

#### **Access:**

- There is no road access to this community. Access by boat (water taxi) or by air service only. Water access is usually from Coal Harbour.
- No land based airstrips. Helicopter or float equipped aircraft only. No Transport Canada approved/licensed landing sites within the community.

#### **Communications:**

- Quatsino has regular telephone and cellular telephone service.
- Internet service by dial-up access only, but the school has high speed satellite access.
- No known licensed Amateur radio sites.
- Quatsino is included in the Regional District 9-1-1 service area

## **Schools:**

- There is one school. Current population (2005) is 6.

### **4.4.2 Contacts**

1. Quatsino Residents Organization  
General Delivery,  
Quatsino BC V0N 2V0

President: Dave Mullett 949-8171  
Secretary: Gwen Hansen 949-7960

2. Regional District of Mount Waddington  
PO Box 729  
Port McNeill BC, V0N 2R0  
Phone: 250-956-3301

Director representing Quatsino: Rod Sherrell, Area "C"

### **4.4.3 Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis**

A Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis have been completed for the entire Regional District of Mount Waddington, which will include Quatsino. The purpose of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis is to help a community make risk based choices to address vulnerabilities, mitigate hazards and prepare for response to and recovery from hazard events.

The objective of a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis is to anticipate problems and possible solutions to:

- Save lives
- Reduce damage
- Speed community recovery

Hazards which Quatsino may be subject to are:

- Critical Facility Failure
- Earthquake
- Fire – Interface – Wildfire
- Flood
- Landslide
- Storm Surges
- Transportation Accident –Air, Land, Marine
- Dangerous Goods Spill
- Epidemic – Human – Flu
- Fire – Urban
- Infrastructure Failure
- Severe Weather
- Major Criminal Event
- Tsunami

Hazard Response Plans have been developed for these types of emergencies and are included as part of the North Island Regional Emergency Plan.

#### **4.4.4 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team**

Dave Mullett	949-8171	
Lynda Mullett	949-8171	Incident Commander
Nancy Burroughs	949-6637	
Gwen Hansen	949-7960	
Syd Depass	949-6951	Incident Commander

#### **4.4.5 Quatsino Community Evacuation Rally Site**

The community evacuation rally site will be the Quatsino School.

#### **4.4.6 Quatsino Evacuation Plan**

[UNDER DEVELOPMENT]

#### **4.4.7 Quatsino Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Plan**

- 4.4.7.1 The community warning signals will be activated.
- 4.4.7.2 Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. It is important to remember that tsunami's are rare events, and that not all earthquakes generate a tsunami.
- 4.4.7.3 Quatsino is exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island, and may be affected by tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes.
- 4.4.7.4 On the advice of the Provincial Emergency Program and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the "safe zone" for the west coast of Vancouver Island (including Quatsino) is land situated at least 20 meters above sea level.
- 4.4.7.5 A tsunami hazard map has been prepared showing the threatened and safe zones for this community. This map is appended to this plan and this plan should be used only as a basic planning tool.
- 4.4.7.6 Tsunami Warnings and Watches are provided by the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (ATWC) who in turn notifies the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) in Victoria.

- 4.4.7.7 For Quatsino residents, tsunami warnings may come from the following sources:
- Canadian Coast Guard radio – Channel 16 and Weather (WX)
  - Royal Canadian Mounted Police
  - Regional Emergency Coordinator
  - Commercial media broadcasts
- 4.4.7.8 If there is sufficient time to react, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Regional District of Mount Waddington may declare a State of Local Emergency, and issue an Order to evacuate those properties lying below 20 meters above sea level. If a declaration is issued, it will be published and broadcast to local media outlets as well as the Emergency Coordination Centre for transmission to the affected community.
- 4.4.7.9 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Policing jurisdiction for Quatsino is held by the RCMP in Port Alice, as there are no full time police officers posted to Quatsino.
- 4.4.7.10 In the event of a short notice evacuation, there is some likelihood that a police officer from Port Alice may not be available to direct and manage a full or partial evacuation of this community. In this case, Incident Command will devolve to the Chief of the Quatsino Fire Brigade. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port Alice RCMP and the Quatsino Fire Brigade will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 4.4.7.11 Quatsino residents have developed a local warning system with a community telephone fan out, supported by an “air horn” protocol in the event of telephone failure.
- 4.4.7.12 In the event of a STRONG earthquake – one that lasts several minutes, and makes it hard to stand:
1. Protect yourself by ducking beneath sturdy furniture, beside a solid inside wall or inside inner hallway and avoid windows, woodstoves, cupboards or any furniture that could tip over. If outside, get away from power lines and outbuildings.
  2. All residents living below 20 meters above sea level should prepare to evacuate your home immediately after the shaking has stopped. Be prepared for aftershocks. Depending on the epicenter of the earthquake, the first wave could hit in 15 minutes (or over 15 hours). An evacuation order phone call **may not** be issued so **do not wait!**
  3. With your Evacuation Supplies Kit go immediately to one of the two High Ground evacuation sites: either up the Garbage Dump Road ( if you are west of Eagle Manor), or up Power Line Road ( if you are east of Eagle Manor). If the roads are blocked along the way by trees or downed power lines (beware of live power lines), park well off to the side and continue on foot taking your Evacuation Kits with you.

4. Once at the evacuation site, monitor your radio or Marine VHF Channel 16 for information and updates.
5. Tsunami Warning Broadcast: - A Tsunami Warning – a tsunami is confirmed, residents should evacuate. A Tsunami Watch – a tsunami MAY have been generated but there is not sufficient evidence to confirm if there is one or not. Tsunami All Clear – it is now safe to return to your homes.
6. Have a plan of action if your family is separated when an earthquake occurs (children at school, spouse in town etc), or if you need assistance to evacuate (no vehicle). Lodges will be responsible for the safety of their guests. Pre-arrange and out of area telephone contact person for family members to check in and keep in touch.
7. Depending on the extent of damage caused by an earthquake or tsunami, we should plan to be on our own for a minimum of four days, but logistically we should each carry enough supplies for one week or more.
8. When the Tsunami “ALL CLEAR” is announced we will return to our homes, or if necessary, prepare for full evacuation to Port Hardy or Port Alice.

You can obtain a copy of the Evacuation Supplies Kit brochure from members of the Quatsino Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team.