

## **12.4 MALCOLM ISLAND (SOINTULA AND MITCHELL BAY)**

Malcolm Island is located in Queen Charlotte Strait, approximately 5 kilometers offshore from Port McNeill. Population of the island is approximately 750 residents. This includes the settled area of Mitchell Bay located at the east end of Malcolm Island.

### **12.4.1 Emergency Services**

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Port McNeill Detachment 9-1-1
- British Columbia Ambulance Service – Sointula 9-1-1
- Sointula Volunteer Fire and Rescue – 9-1-1
- Sointula Volunteer Fire Department non-emergency – 250-973-6840
- Nearest Hospital – Port McNeill 250-956-4461

### **12.4.2 Access**

Malcolm Island does not have road access. Access is by ferry service or private charter vessels.

Air service is by float equipped aircraft only or helicopter. There is not a land based airstrip and not Transport Canada licensed/approved helicopter landing sites on the island.

### **12.4.3 Communications**

Malcolm Island has regular and cellular telephone service and is included in the Regional District 9-1-1 service area. Internet service is by dial-up and satellite service.

North Island Amateur Radio Society is represented by the Malcolm Island Ham Radio Club. For contacts, see Appendix 6.

### **12.4.4 Schools**

A.J. Elliot Elementary School                      250-973-6331

### **12.4.5 Contacts**

See Appendix 6

### **12.4.6 Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis**

A Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) has been completed for the entire Regional District of Mount Waddington, which includes Hyde Creek. The purpose of a HRVA 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 HRVA is to anticipate problems and possible solutions to:

- save lives;
- reduce damage; and
- speed community recovery.

Hazards which Malcolm Island may be subject to are:

- critical infrastructure failure
- earthquake
- fire – interface or wildfire
- landslide
- transportation accident – air, land, or marine
- dangerous goods spill
- epidemic – human flu
- fire – urban
- tsunami
- severe weather

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

### **12.4.7 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team**

See Appendix 6

### **12.4.8 Community Evacuation and Rally Sites**

Sointula: AJ Elliot Elementary School

Mitchell Bay: Turner Residence, Mitchell Bay Road

### **12.4.9 Malcolm Island Evacuation Plan**

A detailed Malcolm Island Evacuation Plan has been prepared as a separate document under the North Island Regional Emergency Plan.

### **12.4.10 Malcolm Island Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Plan**

12.4.10.1 Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. It is important to remember that tsunamis are rare events and that not all earthquakes generate a tsunami.

12.4.10.2 Malcolm Island, although not exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island, may still be affected by tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes with waves entering Queen Charlotte Strait and mainland inlets.

12.4.10.3 On the advice of Emergency Management British Columbia and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the “safe zone” for the Queen Charlotte Strait and mainland inlets (including Malcolm Island) is land situated at least 6 metres above sea level.

- 12.4.10.4 A tsunami hazard map has been prepared showing the threatened and safe zones for this community. The map is appended to this plan and this plan should be used only as a basic planning tool.
- 12.4.10.5 Tsunami Warnings and Watches are provided by the National Tsunami Warning Center of Palmer, Alaska who in turn notifies Emergency Management British Columbia in Victoria.
- 12.4.10.6 For Malcolm Island residents, tsunami warnings may come from the following sources:
- Sointula Volunteer Fire Department (via 9-1-1 Fire Dispatch);
  - Canadian Coast Guard radio – channel 16 and Weather (WX);
  - Royal Canadian Mounted Police;
  - Regional Emergency Coordinator;
  - commercial media broadcasts; or
  - Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) – where specific community members will be called directly.
- 12.4.10.7 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 6 metres 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.
- 12.4.10.8 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Policing jurisdiction for Sointula is held by the RCMP in Port McNeill as there are no full time police officers posted to this community.
- 12.4.10.9 In the event of a short notice evacuation, there is some likelihood that a police officer from Port McNeill 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 Sointula Volunteer Fire Department. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port McNeill RCMP and the Sointula Volunteer Fire Department will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 12.4.10.10 The local plan involves the Sointula Volunteer Fire Department personnel visiting each dwelling in the identified hazard area to issue the evacuation warning, *provided it is safe for them to do so*. This will include a brief check of beach access points for vehicles indicating persons in potential danger on the beach.

- 12.4.10.11 In the event of a *strong* earthquake – one that lasts several minutes and makes it hard to stand:
- a) 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 you are outside, get away from power lines and outbuildings.
  - b) All residents living below 6 metres 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!*
  - c) Go immediately to a High Ground Evacuation Site for your area: Sointula:  
Finnish Organization Hall, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Sointula  
Mitchell Bay: Turner residence, Mitchell Bay Road
  - d) If the roads are blocked along the way by trees or downed power lines, beware of live power lines, park well off the side of the road and continue on foot. Once at the evacuation site, monitor your radio or Marine VHF Channel 16 for information and updates.
  - e) Tsunami Warning Broadcast:
    - Tsunami Warning – a tsunami is confirmed, residents should evacuate.
    - Tsunami Watch – a tsunami MAY have been generated but there is not sufficient evidence to confirm if there is one or not.
    - Tsunami Advisory – No significant inundation is expected but strong currents dangerous to those in or very near the ocean are possible.
    - Tsunami All Clear – it is now safe to return to your homes.
  - f) 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). Pre-arrange an out of area telephone contact person for family members to check in and keep in touch.
  - g) 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.
  - h) When the tsunami “ALL CLEAR” is announced we will return to our homes or, if necessary, prepare for full evacuation.

