

PART 4.1 COAL HARBOUR

4.1.1 Overview

Coal Harbour is located on Quatsino Sound which has access to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Population is approximately 225.

Emergency Services: Call 9-1-1

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police - Port Hardy Detachment 9-1-1
- British Columbia Ambulance Service – Port Hardy – 9-1-1
- Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department – 9-1-1
- Fire Department local – 250-949-6430
- Water and Sewer Maintenance Technician 250-949-7075, Cell 250-230-0404
- Nearest Hospital – Port Hardy – 250-949-6161

Emergency Planning Committee:

- Emergency Planning is undertaken by the Local Community Commission.

Access:

- Coal Harbour is accessed by paved road from Port Hardy, a distance of 13 kilometers. A number of forest service roads also access this area.
- Air Service is by float aircraft, or helicopter only. There are no Transport Canada approved/licensed helicopter landing sites

Communications:

- Coal Harbour has regular telephone and cellular telephone service.
- Internet Service is available.
- No known licensed Amateur radio sites.
- Coal Harbour is included in the 9-1-1 service area of the Regional District.

Schools:

- There is no operating school. All students are bused to Port Hardy.

4.1.2 Contact Information

- (a) Coal Harbour Local Community Commission
361 Albert Hole Road
Coal Harbour BC V0N 1K0

Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department

Fire Chief Kirk Bell 250-949-6175 or 9-1-1

Coal Harbour Emergency Coordinator

- (a) [TBA]
- (b) Regional District of Mount Waddington
PO Box 729
Port McNeill BC V0N 2R0
Phone: 250-956-3301

Director Representing Coal Harbour:

Mr. Norm Prince – Director Area “C”

4.1.3 Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

A Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis have been completed for the entire Regional District of Mount Waddington, which includes Coal Harbour. 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 Coal Harbour 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.

4.1.4 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team

[UNDER DEVELOPMENT]

4.1.5 Coal Harbour Evacuation Rally Site

The evacuation and rally site for this community is the Coal Harbour Community Activity Center, 361 Albert Hole Road, Coal Harbour.

4.1.6 Coal Harbour Evacuation Plan

[UNDER DEVELOPMENT]

4.1.7 Coal Harbour Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Plan

[A community warning signal is to be activated - UNDER DEVELOPMENT]

- 4.1.7.1 Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. It is important to remember that tsunamis are rare events, and that not all earthquakes generate a tsunami.
- 4.1.7.2 Coal Harbour is exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island via Holberg Inlet, and may be affected by tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes. The tsunami threat to Coal Harbour is considerably less than to those communities directly exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island. The entrance to Holberg Inlet is severely restricted by the “Narrows” – which will block much of the tsunami wave energy.*

**Seaconsult Marine Research 1988*

- 4.1.7.3 On the advice of the Provincial Emergency Program and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the “safe zone” for Holberg Inlet (including Coal Harbour) on the west coast of Vancouver Island is land situated at least 6 meters above sea level.
- 4.1.7.4 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.
- 4.1.7.5 Tsunami Warnings and Watches are provided by the Alaska Tsunami Warning Center (ATWC) who in turn notifies the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) in Victoria.
- 4.1.7.6 For Coal Harbour residents, tsunami warnings may come from the following sources:
- Coal Harbour 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
 - Interactive Voice Recording System (IVR)

- 4.1.7.7 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 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.
- 4.1.7.8 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. Policing jurisdiction for Coal Harbour is held by the RCMP in Port Hardy, as there are no full time police officers posted to this community.
- 4.1.7.9 In the event of a short notice evacuation, there is some likelihood that a police officer from Port Hardy 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 Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port Hardy RCMP and the Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 4.2.7.10 The local plan involves the Coal Harbour Volunteer Fire Department personnel visiting each dwelling in the identified hazard area to issue the evacuation warning.
- 4.1.7.11 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 10 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. Go immediately to the High Ground evacuation site: the Coal Harbour Community Activity Center at 361 Albert Hole Road. 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.
 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. A 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.

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). 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 and earthquake or tsunami, plan to be on your own for a minimum of four days, but logistically families should carry enough supplies for one week or more.
8. When the Tsunami “ALL CLEAR” is announced, those affected will return to their homes, or if necessary, prepare for full evacuation to Port Hardy.