

## 12.2 HOLBERG

Holberg is located on Holberg Inlet which has access to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Population is approximately 70 persons with the village located mainly at the head of the inlet.

### 12.2.1 Emergency Services

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Port Hardy Detachment 9-1-1
- British Columbia Ambulance Service – Port Hardy 9-1-1
- There are not any “on site” emergency medical facilities in Holberg.
- Western Forest Products (WFP) has a contingent of Level 3 First Aid providers and a private ambulance. WFP has the capacity to handle many emergencies.
- Holberg Volunteer Fire and Rescue – 9-1-1
- Holberg Volunteer Fire and Rescue has “First Responder” capacity.
- Nearest Hospital – Port Hardy 250-949-6161

### 12.2.2 Access

Holberg is accessed by a well maintained gravel surfaced forest service road from Port Hardy, a distance of approximately 45 kilometres.

Air access is by float equipped aircraft only and by helicopters. There are not Transport Canada approved/licensed helicopter landing sites within the community, however WFP has identified a number of helicopter access sites in the surrounding area.

### 12.2.3 Communications

Holberg has regular telephone and cellular telephone service and is included in the 9-1-1 service area of the Regional District. Wireless satellite internet service is available. There are not any known licensed Amateur Radio sites.

### 12.2.4 Schools

There are not any schools in Holberg.

### 12.2.5 Contact Information

See Appendix 4

### **12.2.6 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 Holberg. 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 Holberg may be subject to are:

- critical facility failure
- earthquake
- fire – interface or wildfire
- flood
- landslide
- storm surges
- transportation accident – air, land, or 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.

### **12.2.7 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team**

Due to the industrial organization of Holberg, emergency preparedness and response in non-disaster incidents may be organized by either Western Forest Products, through their *Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan* or through the Holberg Fire and Rescue and 9-1-1 dispatch. The Incident Commander and chain of command will be organized by these organizations in such a case. The Emergency Support Services (ESS) may be required to care for casualties in an ESS capacity.

Contacts: See Appendix 4

### **12.2.8 Holberg Evacuation Rally Site**

The community rally site is the Community Hall. If low lying areas of the community are threatened, then a rally site must be at a higher level.

### **12.2.9 Holberg Evacuation Plan**

*Under Development*

### **12.2.10 Holberg Tsunami Warning and Evacuation Plan**

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

12.2.10.2 Holberg 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 Holberg 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)

12.2.10.3 On the advice of Emergency Management British Columbia 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 metres above sea level.

12.2.10.4 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.

12.2.10.5 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.

12.2.10.6 For Holberg residents, tsunami warnings may come from the following sources:

- Holberg 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
- Interactive Voice Recording System (IVR).

12.2.10.7 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.

- 12.2.10.8 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). 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.
- 12.2.10.9 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 Holberg Volunteer Fire Department. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port Hardy RCMP and the Holberg Volunteer Fire Department will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 12.2.10.10 The local plan involves the Holberg 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*.
- 12.2.10.11 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. 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. *Do not block the road.*
  - d) 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 to Port Hardy.

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