

## 12.5 QUATSINO

Quatsino is located on Quatsino Sound which has access to the Pacific Ocean on the west coast of Vancouver Island. Population is approximately 50 year round residents, 70 summer residents plus 6 summer/fishing guest lodges.

### 12.5.1 Emergency Services

- Royal Canadian Mounted Police – Port Alice Detachment 9-1-1  
ID Quatsino's location with "come by boat"
- British Columbia Ambulance Service – Port Hardy 9-1-1
- Quatsino Volunteer Fire Department – 9-1-1
- No medical services "on site" in this community
- Registered nurse in the community
- First aid qualified community members
- Nearest Hospital – Port Hardy 250-949-6161

### 12.5.2 Access

There is not any road access to this community. Access to Quatsino is by boat (water taxi) or by air service only. Water access is usually from Coal Harbour.

There is not any land based airstrips. Helicopter or float equipped aircraft only. No Transport Canada approved/licensed landing sites within the community.

Medivac GSP reading: 50 32.370N x 127 37.520W (Quatsino School Grounds)

ID landmarks "Government Wharf" and "Leeson Point"

### 12.5.3 Communications

Quatsino has regular telephone and cellular telephone service. Internet service is by dial-up access high speed satellite access. Quatsino is included in the Regional District 9-1-1 service area.

No known licensed Amateur Radio sites.

### 12.5.4 Schools

There is one school, currently closed.

### **12.5.5 Contacts**

See Index 5

### **12.5.6 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 Quatsino. 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 Quatsino 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.

### **12.5.7 Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Team**

See Index 5

### **12.5.8 Quatsino Community Evacuation Rally Site**

The community evacuation rally site will be the Quatsino School. Site phone is 250-949-6822.

### **12.5.9 Quatsino Evacuation Plan**

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

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

- 12.5.10.1 The community warning signals will be activated.
- 12.5.10.2 Tsunamis are caused by earthquakes. It is important to remember that tsunamis are rare events and that not all earthquakes generate a tsunami.
- 12.5.10.3 Quatsino is exposed to the west coast of Vancouver Island and may be affected by tsunamis generated by offshore earthquakes.
- 12.5.10.4 On the advice of Emergency Management British Columbia and the Canadian Hydrographic Service, the “safe zone” for the west coast of Vancouver Island (including Quatsino) is land situated at least 10 metres above sea level.
- 12.5.10.5 A tsunami hazard map has been prepared showing the threatened and safe zones for this community. This map is appended to this plan and should only be used as a basic planning tool.
- 12.5.10.6 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.
- 12.5.10.7 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.
- 12.5.10.8 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; or
  - Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) to specifically identified individuals in the community.
- 12.5.10.9 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 and Order to evacuate those properties lying below 10 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.

- 12.5.10.10 Managing and directing community evacuations are the responsibility of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). Policing jurisdiction for Quatsino is held by the RCMP in Port Alice as there are no full time police officers posted to Quatsino.
- 12.5.10.11 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 Volunteer Fire Department. A communication link by telephone or radio between the Port Alice RCMP and the Quatsino Volunteer Fire Department will be set up to keep all parties informed of actions being taken.
- 12.5.10.12 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.
- 12.5.10.13 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 10 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) When a tsunami event does occur, everyone is to proceed to the community rally site at the Quatsino School to check in. Assistance will be given to those who need it.
  - d) Once at the evacuation site, monitor your radio or Marine VHF Channel 16 for information and updates.
  - 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). Lodges will be responsible for the safety of their guests. 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 or Port Alice as outlined in the Quatsino Emergency Evacuation Plan.

*This page is intentionally blank*

