



April, 2023

# FVRD SPOTLIGHT

Welcome to the FVRD Spotlight, a quarterly newsletter designed to highlight services FVRD provides to electoral areas.



## FRESHET WATCH

### Seasonal Freshet & Emergency Preparedness

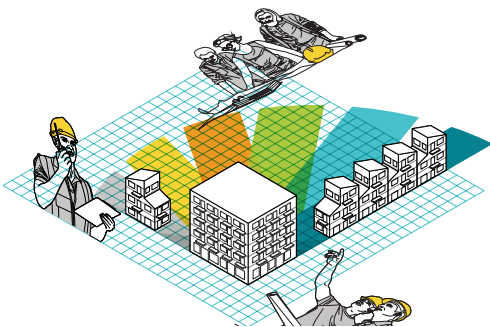
Flooding is a provincial risk every spring due to a combination of snowmelt and/or rainfall (also known as freshet). The weather conditions during spring play a critical role in the rate at which the snow melts. For example, a gradual warming under dry conditions is ideal to lessen flood risk. A lengthy cold period with high amounts of precipitation followed by a sudden extreme heat wave could lead to catastrophic conditions, especially if additional rain follows.

Spring weather is impossible to predict with accuracy in advance, and communities and residents vulnerable to spring and summer flooding should prepare accordingly. Information on how to Be Prepared for Floods can be found at Emergency Management BC.

### Be Prepared for Emergencies

Knowing the hazards in your area and preparing for emergencies is important. Find resources on building an emergency kit, making a family emergency plan and more at [getprepared.gc.ca](https://getprepared.gc.ca).

If you live in any of the communities within the FVRD's eight electoral areas, register for **Alertable** today to stay aware and plan ahead. Alertable is an emergency notification system that lets us send alerts to FVRD residents, businesses, and visitors during critical events such as fires or floods, as well as for community notices such as water advisories. Visit [fvrd.ca/alerts](https://fvrd.ca/alerts) to download this free app, or if you don't own a smartphone sign up for alerts by text, email or phone.



### Important New Building Code Requirements

Starting May 1, 2023, the Province of BC requires all new residential construction to be 20% more energy efficient than those built to the 2018 BC Building Code.

Visit [fvrd.ca/building](https://fvrd.ca/building) to learn more about the new BC Energy Step Code and how this may affect you.





## FireSmart

As we saw from last year, wildfires do occur in the Fraser Valley and threaten homes. Luckily, you are not powerless when it comes to protecting your home from wildfires. There are many simple FireSmart principles you can employ to help protect your home. Now is the time to ensure your property is FireSmart. The FVRD's 2023 FireSmart program is here to help you do that.

Book a free FireSmart Home Assessment with our Wildfire Mitigation Specialist who will assess your property for fire risks. You will receive a customized report that identifies risks and provides recommendations to mitigate them. If you undertake any of the recommendations identified in your assessment, you are eligible for a rebate of 50% of the

expenses incurred, up to \$1000. If you complete all the recommendations, you will receive a FireSmart Certificate that can be used to receive a discount on insurance coverage at certain insurance agencies.

Neighbourhoods can also request a free neighbourhood wildfire hazard assessment, where the Wildfire Mitigation Specialist looks at general neighbourhood risks and provides recommendations in a customized report.

Neighbourhoods in high wildfire risk areas can also request a wildfire preparedness day where the Wildfire Mitigation Specialist provides education on how to FireSmart your yard, and provides green waste bins or a wood chipper to remove branches and vegetative debris.

Email [firesmart@fvrd.ca](mailto:firesmart@fvrd.ca) to book your Firesmart Assessments or wildfire preparedness day. Visit [fvrd.ca/firesmart](https://fvrd.ca/firesmart) for more information and resources.

## Property Tax Notice

In June, you will receive your Property Tax Notice from the Province's Surveyor of Taxes Office. There are many ways to pay your taxes, but it is important to note that they **CANNOT be paid at the FVRD**. Instead you can pay:

- » online using eTax BC
- » at a Service BC location
- » at your bank or financial institution
- » through your mortgage agreement
- » by mail to:

Surveyor of Taxes Office  
P.O. Box 9446 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9V6

