

Emergency Management FACTSHEET



Order No. 900.200-2
June 2015

Horticulture Sector Emergency Preparedness Tips for Flooding

If your horticulture operation lies within an area subject to flooding, your business could be severely damaged during high water events. The BC Ministry of Agriculture is advising BC's horticulture industry to be prepared for such flood incidents.

Considerations to mitigate impacts include:

- Protect farm equipment and supplies; move to high ground, where possible.
- Keep a supply of materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting and lumber handy for emergency waterproofing. Keep the list of local suppliers of those materials updated.
- Prepare a list of people (e.g. trucking companies to move assets) who can assist on short notice in the event of evacuation.
- Ensure hazardous materials (e.g. fertilizer, pesticides, fuel) are securely and safely stored to prevent their release into the environment.
- Properly dispose of unwanted hazardous materials. Clean Harbors (604-940-0894) and Terra Pure (604-952-1220) are companies in the Fraser Valley that dispose of pesticides on a fee-for-service basis.
- Anchor fuel tanks firmly to ensure they will not float away in floodwaters, and close valves.
- Ensure that your wellhead is protected by a surface seal and a cap to prevent downward movement of water and contaminants. Be ready to turn off the electricity to your well pump just prior to the flood.
- Abandoned water wells should be plugged. A qualified well driller registered with the Province of BC must be hired to plug a well.
- Shut off electrical power to areas where flooding is imminent.
- Secure copies of insurance policies and other essential farm documents.
- Make sure to have several on-farm and off-farm contact persons with knowledge of, or access to all relevant and updated essential information about your farm (contacts, animal identification, relocation information if applicable, location of fuel and chemical storage containers, electrical power shut-off)
- Make arrangements with buyers to accept early shipment of product to reduce inventory.
- Secure copies of insurance policies and other essential farm documents.
- Make sure to have several on-farm and off-farm contact persons with knowledge of, or access to all relevant and updated essential information about your farm (contacts, animal identification, relocation information if applicable, location of fuel and chemical storage containers, electrical power shut-off).

If your farm is above a flood plain, you should:

- Take into consideration that you may be isolated for some time as suppliers may not be able to access some roads.
- Purchase extra fuel in case of prolonged power disruptions.
- Be prepared where possible to assist other growers who may have to evacuate from the flood plain.

For more information about emergency preparedness, please contact the Ministry at AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca or toll-free: 1-888-221-7141 and visit the BC Ministry of Agriculture website at: <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/emergency/>