

Central Coast Emergency Management Alerts, Warnings and Statements

Bella Coola, BC

No alerts in effect as of 11 AM Friday January 10, 2020

▼ Forecast						Hourly Forecast	Alerts	Jet Stream
Fri 10 Jan	Sat 11 Jan	Sun 12 Jan	Mon 13 Jan	Tue 14 Jan	Wed 15 Jan	Thu 16 Jan		
 0°C 60% Chance of flurries	 -1°C Periods of snow	 -6°C Periods of snow	 -12°C Sunny	 -12°C Sunny	 -13°C 60% Chance of flurries	 -13°C A mix of sun and cloud		
Tonight	Night	Night	Night	Night	Night			
 -1°C Snow	 -8°C Snow	 -13°C Clear	 -15°C Clear	 -21°C Clear	 -19°C 60% Chance of flurries			
▼ Forecast issued: 11:00 AM PST Friday 10 January 2020								
Today	Snow ending near noon then cloudy with 60 percent chance of flurries. Temperature steady near zero.							
Tonight	Snow. Amount 5 cm. Wind up to 15 km/h. Temperature steady near minus 1. Wind chill near minus 3.							
Sat, 11 Jan	Periods of snow. Amount 2 to 4 cm. Wind up to 15 km/h. Temperature steady near minus 1. Wind chill minus 3 in the morning.							
Night	Snow. Low minus 8.							
Sun, 12 Jan	Periods of snow. High minus 6.							
Night	Clear. Low minus 13.							
Mon, 13 Jan	Sunny. High minus 12.							
Night	Clear. Low minus 15.							
Tue, 14 Jan	Sunny. High minus 12.							
Night	Clear. Low minus 21.							
Wed, 15 Jan	Cloudy with 60 percent chance of flurries. High minus 13.							
Night	Cloudy periods with 60 percent chance of flurries. Low minus 19.							
Thu, 16 Jan	A mix of sun and cloud. High minus 13.							
Normals	Max 1°C. Min -4°C.		Sunrise	8:34 PST		Sunset	16:35 PST	

Please continue to check weather.gc.ca for weather alerts throughout the weekend.

Emergency Phone Numbers:

RCMP Bella Coola Detachment: 250-799-5363
 BC Ambulance: 1-800-461-9911
 BC Hydro incident: 1-888-769-3766
 Highway incident: 1-800-550-4997
 Nuxalk Fire Dept: 1-250-799-5650
 Bella Coola Fire: 1-250-799-5321

Stay Up to Date:

Weather conditions: <https://weather.gc.ca/>
 Road Conditions:
<https://www.drivebc.ca/mobile/events/index.html>
 Call toll-free 1-800-550-4997 for BC road information 24 hours-a-d

General Information

Preparing for Severe Weather Conditions



Severe weather - thunderstorms, hail, blizzards, ice storms, high winds or heavy rain - can happen without warning and in any season. With severe weather often comes a loss of power, so be prepared to be on your own by developing an emergency plan, putting together your emergency kit and connecting with your neighbours. Please **DO NOT** use barbecues or campstoves indoors due to the high risk of carbon monoxide build-up and fire hazard.

Prepare for severe cold

- Listen to weather forecasts and check your supplies. Prepare an emergency kit and make sure it includes enough food and water for 72 hours
- Bring your pets indoors and make sure they have access to water
- Get your car ready

If you are sick or dealing with chronic illness, please seek medical attention if symptoms are severe and stay at home if you or a member of your household is sick to avoid spreading flu and illness to others especially to young children and elderly. Make sure your emergency kit has extra prescriptions and medical supplies.

Protect your home

- 1) Protect your pipes from freezing (see below for tips)
- 2) Make sure your home heating sources are installed according to local codes and permit requirements and are clean and in working order
- 3) Make sure your home is properly insulated. Caulk and weather-strip doors and windowsills to keep cold air out.
- 4) Install storm windows or cover windows with plastic from the inside to provide an extra layer of insulation to keep cold air out.
- 5) Consider buying emergency heating equipment, such as a wood- or coal-burning stove or an electric or kerosene heater. - Stoves must be properly vented and in good working order. Dispose of ashes safely. Keep a supply of wood or coal on hand. - Electric space heaters, either portable or fixed, must be certified by an independent testing laboratory. Plug a heater directly into the wall socket rather than using an extension cord and unplug it when it is not in use. - Use a kerosene heater only if permitted by law in your area; check with your local fire department. Use only the correct fuel for your unit. Properly ventilate the area. Refuel the unit outdoors only, and only when the unit is cool. Follow all of the manufacturer's instructions.
- 6) Consider storing sufficient heating fuel. Regular fuel sources may be cut off. Be cautious of fire hazards when storing any type of fuel.
- 7) If you have a fireplace, consider keeping a supply of firewood or coal. Be sure the fireplace is properly vented and in good working order and that you dispose of ashes safely.
- 8) Consider installing a portable generator, following our safety tips to avoid home fires and carbon monoxide poisoning

Why Pipe Freezing is a Problem

Water has a unique property in that it expands as it freezes. This expansion puts tremendous pressure on whatever is containing it, including metal or plastic pipes. No matter the strength of a container, expanding water can cause pipes to break.

Pipes that freeze most frequently are:

- Pipes that are exposed to severe cold, like outdoor hose bibs, and water sprinkler lines.
- Water supply pipes in unheated interior areas like basements and crawl spaces, attics, garages, or kitchen cabinets.
- Pipes that run against exterior walls that have little or no insulation.

How to Protect Pipes From Freezing

Drain water from water sprinkler supply lines following manufacturer's or installer's directions. Do not put antifreeze in these lines unless directed. Antifreeze is environmentally harmful, and is dangerous to humans, pets, wildlife, and landscaping.

Remove, drain, and store hoses used outdoors. Close inside valves supplying outdoor hose bibs. Open the outside hose bibs to allow water to drain. Keep the outside valve open so that any water remaining in the pipe can expand without causing the pipe to break.

Add insulation to attics, basements and crawl spaces. Insulation will maintain higher temperatures in these areas.

Check around the home for other areas where water supply lines are located in unheated areas. Look in the garage, and under kitchen and bathroom cabinets. Both hot and cold water pipes in these areas should be insulated.

Consider installing specific products made to insulate water pipes like a "pipe sleeve" or installing UL-listed "heat tape," "heat cable," or similar materials on exposed water pipes. Newspaper can provide some degree of insulation and protection to exposed pipes – even ¼" of newspaper can provide significant protection in areas that usually do not have frequent or prolonged temperatures below freezing.

How to Prevent Frozen Pipes

- Keep garage doors closed if there are water supply lines in the garage.
- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe - even at a trickle - helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.
- If you will be going away during cold weather, leave the heat on in your home, set to a temperature no lower than 55° F.

How to Thaw Frozen Pipes

If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation. Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.

Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water.

Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.

Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.

Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.

Preparedness Checklist for Severe Weather

Preparing for severe winter includes packing a winter survival kit in your vehicle. Recommended items include:

- [Emergency kit](#) containing non-perishable food, blankets and first aid supplies
- Windshield scraper and snow brush
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Spare tire, wheel wrench and jack
- Shovel and traction mat, sand or kitty litter
- Battery operated radio
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Battery jumper cables
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Flares and matches or lighter
- Fuel line antifreeze
- Tire chains and glove

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BASIC EMERGENCY KIT SUPPLIES gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC

	First aid kit, prescriptions and other personal items		Emergency plan, copies of important documents and cash		Garbage bags, moist towelettes and plastic ties
	Battery-powered or hand-crank radio		Phone charger and battery bank		Blanket, seasonal clothing and footwear
	Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight		Non-perishable food for at least three days		Water for at least three days; four litres per person per day
	Whistle				