

DID YOU KNOW ... ?

- Earthquakes are common in B.C. and more than 2,000 are recorded each year across the province.
- Approximately 75 per cent of British Columbia's population lives in an active **earthquake** zone.
- In British Columbia, damaging **earthquakes** generally occur about every ten years.
- Off-shore **tsunamis** may be caused by seismic activity and generate a series of ocean waves that race outward in all directions at speeds up to 1,000 km/hour.
- In 1964, a magnitude 9.2 earthquake in Alaska produced a **tsunami** that caused major damage along the west coast of Vancouver Island.
- **Flooding** in B.C. causes on average \$12 - \$20 million in damages per year.
- In 1997, **flood damage** in the province exceeded \$80 million.
- In the 1948 Fraser Valley **flood**, 37,000 acres were flooded, 2,400 families were left homeless, 3,000 homes were damaged, and 100 bridges were washed out or damaged.
- The Fraser River has reached **flood** stage 25 times in the last 100 years.
- Each fire season brings the threat of **interface fire**. The 2003 fire season was the most catastrophic in British Columbia's recorded history. Homes were destroyed, tourism was down and the forest harvests were affected. 50,000 people were evacuated from their homes.
- More than 4,000 **hazardous materials** incidents per year are reported through the provincial emergency coordination centre.
- On average in B.C., 10 per cent of the commercial trucks and 35 per cent of the trains transport **hazardous materials**.
- In 1997, ten people were killed, hundreds of people were stranded and many communities were isolated by **avalanches** around the province. An extreme avalanche warning was issued for much of B.C.

- Damaging **rock falls** and **landslides** occur frequently in B.C., impacting communities, transportation and utilities.
- There have been 27 catastrophic **landslide** events over the last 100 years in B.C. The largest, the Hope slide, occurred in 1965.
- There are four regions in B.C. where **volcanic hazards** exist. They are the Stikine, Anahim, and Garibaldi volcanic belts and the Wells-Gray-Clearwater volcanic field.
- The Mt. Meager **volcano** in the Garibaldi belt last erupted 2,400 years ago on a scale similar to the Mount Saint Helens eruption in May 1980.
- The Provincial Emergency Program operates a 24-hour emergency coordination centre. In a typical year, more than **7,000 all-hazard incidents** are reported and the centre receives more than 260,000 calls.