

PIERS ISLAND EMERGENCY PROGRAM

CRD'S PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (PANS)

now using "ALERTABLE"

Previously, many Southern Gulf Islands residents subscribed to the CRD's free Public Alert Notification System (PANS). In the past couple of years, an upgrade was required and CRD is now using the *ALERTABLE* system which is powered by PEASI, a Canadian company providing Public Alert Notification System services to businesses, communities and government agencies across Canada. If you were subscribed under the old system, you must sign up for the new service before July 30, 2021 to continue to receive important alerts concerning emergencies, disasters, imminent threats (e.g. wildfires, hazardous spills) and local incidents (e.g. gas leak or boil water advisories) in your community. Whether you are re-registering or signing up for the first time, go to: crd.bc.ca/pans

This free service is available to residents living in all three CRD Electoral Areas:

- Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area (Pender Island, Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Saturna Island, smaller Electoral Area islands including Piers Island and Sidney Island)
- Salt Spring Island Electoral Area
- Juan de Fuca Electoral Area (East Sooke, Otter Point, Shirley, Jordan River, Port Renfrew, Malahat, or Willis Point)

There's more to help you stay informed...

In addition to registering for mobile or email notifications, residents are encouraged to download the [Alertable app](#) or visit Alertable.ca to receive additional advisory information such as service disruption notifications, weather warnings, or road safety information that will not be sent through email, text or phone call. Know before you go. Keep yourself and others informed and up-to-date.

Signing up is free and easy to do from your mobile phone, tablet, or computer by downloading the free Alertable app and selecting your community and alert preferences. Get started by going to: <https://alertable.ca/signup/index.html?site=BC7> and choose any combination that's right for you.

Notifications are fast, reliable and easy to see and hear. Personalize notifications by type and severity. Choose notifications for more than one location such as home, office, cottage, family and friends and more.

Don't confuse CRD's *Public Alert Notification System (PANS)* with the provincial system, *Alert Ready*.

Periodically your cell phone may buzz due to a test of the Canada-wide ALERT READY system. Currently in BC, ALERT READY only notifies you of Tsunami emergencies or Amber Alerts - it will not provide local life-saving information. However, CRD's PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (PANS) will send out notifications related to local emergencies - such as wildfires, along with necessary evacuation information, to those who have registered for this free service. Please read on to understand the important differences between these two systems. If you live in the Southern Gulf Islands and are not yet registered for the CRD's free Public Alert Notification System, visit: crd.bc.ca/pans

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

IF I GET EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS CURRENTLY, DOES THIS MEAN I'M ALREADY SUBSCRIBED?

Not necessarily. There are two different public alerting systems. If you have not signed up for the CRD Public Alert Notification System (PANS) you are not registered. All residents automatically receive public notifications from the national public alerting System, called "Alert Ready".

WHY SHOULD I REGISTER for PANS IF THERE IS A NATIONAL ALERTING SYSTEM?

In BC, Alert Ready is only used for Tsunami emergencies and Amber Alerts. This means you will not receive information, including evacuation instructions, for other emergencies, such as a wildfires or flooding. However, the CRD sends these alerts through the free subscription-based Public Alert Notification System (PANS).

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE NATIONAL ALERTING SYSTEM AND PANS-THE PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM?

The national system, Alert Ready, is an intrusive public alerting system. This means that it will go off no matter what you are doing, anytime during the day or night. Alert Ready cannot be turned off, and there is no way to unsubscribe. ALERT READY will be broadcast on your phone, TV, and radio and will disrupt whatever activity you are engaging in.

The CRD's PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (PANS) is a passive system. This means that it is subscription based and you must enroll into the system to begin receiving notifications. Similarly, you can choose to leave the system at any time. You can manage the type of notifications you receive to include any of: text, phone call, or email which you can manage through your user account in the system

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT TO THE CRD'S PUBLIC ALERT NOTIFICATION SYSTEM (PANS)?

Subscribing to PANS will ensure that you receive relevant information about emergencies that occur in the Southern Gulf Islands. This can include small scale emergencies such as boil water

advisories, to larger scale emergencies such as wildfires, flooding, or hazardous spill incidents and evacuation instructions.

If you do not live in the area year-round but would like to continue to receive notifications, you can register your address and you will be alerted for any event that may impact your home

For questions or further information email: ep@piersisland.ca

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