



KOOTENAI COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Media Release
Flood and Landslide Hazards
March 26, 2017

The Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) advises citizens to monitor weather forecasts. Recent rain and snow melt has produced increased runoff and raised the water table unusually high in Kootenai County resulting in ground saturation. Conditions are ripe for landslides and debris flows on steep slopes.

On Saturday, the OEM coordinated a conference call at the request of Harrison Mayor Wanda Irish to discuss the City's mudslide concerns. OEM, the Mayor and Bob Poole, Public Works Supervisor along with Kootenai County Commissioner Chris Fillios, Jerry Wilson with the Idaho Transportation Department and Jay Baker with the Idaho Office of Emergency Management discussed the request for state assistance in performing emergency stabilization work on Sunset Terrace and the hillside below. Trees, rock and debris continue to slide onto Highway 97 from the road and hillside. The Idaho Transportation Department and City Public Works continually monitors and removes debris from the highway as needed. Mayor Irish requested signage be placed along the highway to warn residents and other drivers that this hillside is unstable and at risk of slides.

"As Mayor of Harrison and all City Officials we are concerned with the flooding and mudslides impacting our community and are reaching out to residents and individuals to offer our assistance. We are working with our engineers and City Attorney Nancy Wolff to insure we have filed an Emergency Declaration that could open up state disaster funding opportunities to address the repair of any public damage. Our City Council is aware of issues affecting our community. Our Public Works Supervisor, City Clerk and myself have reached out to individuals that have serious issues, replied Mayor Irish."

OEM had requested damage assessment reports from individuals and jurisdictions that have been impacted by flooding and land/mudslides. The amount of damages reported by individuals does not meet the threshold for Kootenai County to request individual funding assistance for our citizens, says Sandy Von Behren, Director of OEM. The County and local jurisdictions are covered under the State Disaster Declaration, which makes numerous resources available to assist in responding and performing emergency work on public infrastructure.

Kootenai County residents with homes on or at the bases of hillsides, such as Cape Horn Road in Bayview, should be aware of the potential for landslides and watch for leaning trees, water and mud seepage where not normally expected, in addition to other signs of potential ground movement. Drivers should be attentive and cautious when driving in landslide prone areas warns Von Behren.

With rain forecast for the next several days, localized small stream and field flooding continues. The

National Weather Service forecasts the flood warning to continue for Coeur d'Alene Lake until Tuesday afternoon. Minor flooding remains a threat through at least the middle of next week for the Coeur d'Alene River Basin, Rose Lake, Fernan Lake, Coeur d'Alene Lake and the Spokane River. Von Behren reminds boaters that no wake zones remain in place and to please be respectful of residents and businesses residing along the shores who may already be sustaining flood damage due to the high water levels. You are responsible for your wake and any damage it causes.

For more information on the threat of flooding and land/mudslides, go to <http://oem.kcgov.us>.

Sandy Von Behren, Director