



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF CENTRAL KOOTENAY MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

RDCK reminds residents to prepare a backup plan to stay warm this winter

Nelson, BC: The Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) recognizes that some of our residents rely on electrical power for heat and potential power outages during winter time could leave people in the cold. In past years, the RDCK Emergency Support Services (ESS) team has been able to assist residents by opening up temporary warming centres, but the challenges presented by COVID-19 will force the need to look at other options this year.

Our priority is to ensure everyone's health and safety and to help residents through this difficult time. The RDCK would therefore like to encourage anyone that has used warming centres in the past, or who think they might need help this winter, to please find alternative plans wherever possible. If you know of someone vulnerable in your neighbourhood, who might need support in an emergency situation and you are able to provide a warm, safe place for them, please reach out and offer to help.

"We admire the resilience and compassion of our communities, and encourage residents to plan for emergencies, including helping our friends and neighbors that may need a little extra support," said Chris Johnson, RDCK Emergency Operations Director.

During a power outage, the RDCK will be working with utility providers to ensure service resumes as quickly as possible, but we encourage all residents to understand and prepare for the hazards in your area. The RDCK ESS team stands ready to assist people who are still needing help, but we need your help to ensure that everyone stays warm and safe this winter.

Emergency preparedness information and tips from Prepared BC can be found here:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc>

To stay up to date on power outages in your area, click on the links below:

[BC Hydro](#)

[Fortis BC](#)

Incorporated in 1965, the Regional District of Central Kootenay (RDCK) is a local government that serves 60,000 residents in 11 electoral areas and nine member municipalities. The RDCK provides more than 160 services, including community facilities, fire protection and emergency services, grants, planning and land use, regional parks, resource recovery and handling, transit, water services and much more. For more information about the RDCK, visit www.rdck.ca.

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