

Day, Kristin ENV:EX

From: Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 11:39 AM
To: Giddens, Kiel ENV:EX; Loiacono, Sabrina ENV:EX
Cc: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; MacDonald, Cairine ENV:EX; Jackson, Vickie ENV:EX
Subject: Fw: landslide QA
Attachments: QA_Kootenay landslides_July16.doc

Fyi

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 11:31 AM
To: Johnston, Karen GCPE:EX; Murphy, Bernadette GCPE:EX
Subject: FW: landslide QA

Hi – I see MTL had a Q about the landslides. His response looked good...FYI here's a QA on those topics.

From: Crebo, David GCPE:EX
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 11:15 AM
To: Southern, Evan FLNR:EX; Strongitharm, Bruce FLNR:EX
Cc: Clarke, Brennan GCPE:EX; Manwaring, Richard G FLNR:EX; Mills, Shane PREM:EX; Groot, Jeff GCPE:EX; Gleeson, Kelly T GCPE:EX; Mentzelopoulos, Athana GCPE:EX
Subject: landslide QA

Updated QA on some of the issues MST may face as a result of landslides:

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Q: Have budget cuts and reduced staffing impacted the way government can predict or respond to landslides?

- Analyzing terrain for potential hazards has in no way been affected by any budget reductions that have taken place over the years.
- A hazard analysis is undertaken anytime a new activity is proposed for a specific area, or if something has changed. For example:
 - Logging activity
 - Mining activity
 - Building a subdivision
- Before any of these projects could proceed an analysis of the slope takes place.
- As well, after a forest fire occurs a terrain analysis takes place because the soil composition will have changed.
- Government's new, integrated natural resource sector allows for stronger linkages and relationships between government agencies that are charged with anticipating and responding to public safety issues.

As well, with respect to Johnsons Landing:

- Johnson's Landing was originally set up over 100 years ago and most homes are at least 40 or 50 years old.
- This was the first noteworthy event at Johnson's Landing in our records.
- Future potential terrain hazards for the community will be assessed by professionals.
- Again, if individuals suspect imminent danger they are encouraged to call 911, or local emergency officials.

Q: What is the government doing if anything to step up monitoring of landslides? What does that monitoring look like?

- Government has a long history of mapping and risk assessment of landslide prone terrain in BC, in particular where it interfaces with highways and development activities across BC.
- This includes a thorough inspection of dams and watercourses.
- Through this work, we have an inventory of 'hot spots', or higher risk drainages and slopes that are regularly monitored by very experienced staff across multiple agencies.
- Monitoring and attention increases during seasonal rain events and spring freshet and is supported downstream by river forecasting and flood observation and assessment.
- Monitoring includes regular field review of streams, aerial reconnaissance and includes research on how risk changes with events such as wildfire on the landscape.
- Stream flows are also automatically recorded in many areas by BC Hydro and Water Survey Canada, with data available live.
- Snow packs are monitored through both real-time snow pillow instruments and manual measurements, to assess province wide water supply and enable flood and snowmelt forecasting.

Q: What about increasing monitoring in the SE, given these two slide events in the past few days?

- Every year government staff anticipate weather events that have the potential to affect slope stability and river levels and flooding.

- With increasing precipitation and snowmelt in this particular region there has been, and will continue to be, an increased monitoring and field presence, and a heightened level of emergency management preparation by all government agencies.
- We also have additional technical experts available in adjacent regions that are on standby, allowing us to shift resources to areas of increasing risk, easily and efficiently.
- That said B.C. is almost a million square km in size, and so we certainly encourage the public to alert us to areas of concern by contacting local emergency officials.