
FACTSHEET

June 16, 2010

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE FOR OLIVER RESIDENTS

Residents impacted by flooding and mudslide in Oliver are eligible for three kinds of provincial assistance:

Disaster Financial Assistance (Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General)

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) has been approved for individuals impacted by the debris torrent near Oliver and is provided to help people cope with the cost of repairs and recovery from uninsurable disaster-related property damage.
- The DFA program helps eligible homeowners, residential tenants, farmers, small business owners and charitable organizations. Individuals may apply for DFA in more than one category. For example, if a farm owner has a personal residence on the affected property, they may apply for access to multiple categories to receive financial assistance for home rehabilitation and land reclamation.
- Small business and farm owners must demonstrate it is their primary source of income. Owners of damaged rental property must apply and qualify as a small business.
- Experts from Emergency Management BC (EMBC) are in Oliver to help impacted individuals with the DFA application process.
- DFA covers eligible essential items. A homeowner or residential tenant must show that the home is their principal residence. Seasonal or recreational properties, hot tubs, patios, pools, garden tools, landscaping, luxury items (like jewellery, fur coats and collectibles) and recreational items (like boats) are not eligible for assistance.
- Over the past five years, the provincial DFA program has provided \$7.3 million to individuals, \$30 million to local governments and \$0.8 million to farms to help fund the cost of recovery from disasters.
- In 2005, the Province increased the DFA eligibility amount for replacement or restoration from \$100,000 to \$300,000. Financial assistance is provided for each accepted claim at 80 per cent of the amount of total eligible damage that exceeds \$1,000, to a maximum limit of \$300,000 in any one category.
- Applications for DFA must be submitted to the Emergency Management BC program within 90 days of the date that DFA was authorized.

Production Insurance (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands)

- Production Insurance coverage amounts vary by policy. They depend on an individual grower's production and how much coverage they have chosen to purchase.

- Production Insurance helps producers manage their risk of crop losses caused by naturally occurring perils, such as hail, spring frost, excessive rain, flood, fire and drought.
- Production Insurance includes financial protection for both yield and fruit tree loss due to an insurable peril, such as landslides.
- Staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Lands are in Oliver to help assess damages and assist growers.

AgriStability (Ministry of Agriculture and Lands)

- Affected farmers who are already enrolled in the program for the 2010 year can apply for assistance from AgriStability. AgriStability protects a farmer from farm income declines including when there is a production loss. The program will cover income declines for 2010 and for the immediate future years.
- Normally producers must have completed six months of a production cycle to apply for an interim payment. However, AgriStability is waiving that wait period for the Oliver growers and they can apply for an interim payment today. The Oliver situation is being treated as a priority situation and applications will be processed right away.
- The maximum amount paid out to any one entity in AgriStability payment benefits is three million dollars, which is dependent on the size of an agricultural operation.

Contact information

- DFA information for individuals and communities are available at EMBC/PEP Regional Offices, EMBC/PEP Recovery Office in Victoria at toll-free 1 888 257-4777, or on the PEP website at www.pep.bc.ca.
- For more information on Production insurance visit http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/production_insurance/.
- For more information on AgriStability visit <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/agristability/>.

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