

Responding to the BC weather emergencies



Girl Guides
BC Council

Last updated: November 23

Emergency response FAQ

Thank you to the Girl Guide members who have expressed their concern & friendship during the flooding, landslides, power outages, & other emergencies unfolding in some areas of BC.

As we are hearing from many individuals with questions about these emergencies & how they relate to Guiding, please note the following information:

Q: Which items can/should we collect if our unit organizes a Guiding donation drive?

During an emergency, donated items (like food, clothing, hygiene supplies, & more) are often very valuable support. However, only REQUESTED items should be donated, & only when it will help - not overwhelm, create waste, or cause harm. Watch for credible local sources (e.g. municipalities, disaster relief organizations, charities) near you with a clear list of requested supplies & carefully follow their instructions about how/where to bring donations. Requests for help often evolve over time so watch for any changed instructions.

Q: Can we host a fundraising drive to collect money from members, families, or the public?

A: No. Due to charity rules & GGC policies, members may not fundraise through Girl Guides - nor use Guiding funds to donate (e.g. unit money) - to third-party causes.

Q: Can we volunteer with disaster response as Girl Guide members?

A: Yes! If you're able to safely help, please lend a hand, while ensuring that all COVID-19 protocols are followed & government orders are abided by. Where requested, activities like sand bag filling, providing help at evacuee centres, & other community service will create A Better World, By Girls. Units in unaffected locations may also wish to extend an open invitation to any evacuated children to join them for a unit meeting to offer fun & support. (Please ensure COVID-19 waivers are signed & any guests ages 12+ are fully vaccinated.)

Q: Do we have Girl Guide members who live in the affected areas?

A: Yes. Many Guiding members live in/near the affected areas & our thoughts are with them as they focus on their safety.

Q: Are alternative options available for activities if our unit needs to cancel our in-person meeting because we're in an affected neighbourhood?

A: Yes. Please visit www.facebook.com/bcgirlguides/events for upcoming Virtual events if your unit/family has access to power & technology. For low-tech/no-tech options, members can also access "Anytime Guiding" self-directed activity ideas on the Girls First platform at <http://experience.girlguides.ca> to share with families. Be sure to prioritize care & community right now - badges & tracking of program work can wait.

Q: Are Guiders expected to cancel our unit meetings?

A: There is currently no mandate to cancel unit meetings but Guiders are encouraged to use their best judgment. The situation across BC varies greatly between different communities & regions - some neighbourhoods are evacuated while others are unaffected. Please watch for government directives & other reliable info before making decisions accordingly.