

Canadian Institute of Public Health Inspectors BC Branch Continuing Education Fall Webinar Series 2013

Alberta Flood Recovery Response 2013 (as experienced by Cindy Watson and Phil Muirhead, Environmental Health Officers) **September 26, 2013 from 14:40 - 15:10 (PDT)**

In the days before 20 June 2013 meteorological events in the Rockies caused severe flooding in Alberta Rivers; the flow rates in the Elbow, Bow, South Saskatchewan and Highwood Rivers increased 5 to 10 times their norm in the space of 1-2 days. This “super flood” resulted in a total of 32 states of local emergency being declared and 28 emergency operations centers activated. Numerous communities were placed under evacuation orders.

Alberta Health Services called on their counterparts in BC, Saskatchewan and Manitoba for Environmental Health Protection staff assistance with flood response and recovery operations. A mutual aid agreement was prepared and signed between the Provinces shortly afterwards and on 4 July 2013 12 Environmental Health Officers from the Western Provinces were deployed to Calgary to assist in recovery operations in High River and Bragg Creek. This presentation depicts the experiences of Phil Muirhead and Cindy Watson, Environmental Health Officers, Vancouver Coastal Health.

Cindy Watson,
Environmental Health Officer,
Vancouver Coastal Health



Cindy Watson graduated from the BCIT Environmental Health program in 1990. She has worked as an Environmental Health/Drinking Water Officer in districts serviced by Public Health offices in Fort St. John, Kamloops, Sechelt and now Squamish BC.

Phil Muirhead,
Environmental Health Officer,
Vancouver Coastal Health



Phil Muirhead began work as an EHO in the West Kootenays of BC in 1997 before moving to VCH in 2001. In addition to providing EHO/DWO services to the North Vancouver area Phil also looks after the outer Central Coast, Bella Coola Valley and West Chilcotin areas of BC.