



City of Maple Ridge News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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For further information, contact:
James Storey at 604-463-9581
jstorey@mapleridge.ca

City Responds to Windstorm Impacts

Maple Ridge, BC: On Thursday, December 20 City staff responded to multiple calls for service related to the windstorm that blew through the region.

“We activated our Emergency Operations Centre on Thursday morning so we could coordinate our resources and response to the storm. We deployed our staff to address the most urgent life safety issues related to downed power lines and trees and focused on keeping City services operating,” said James Storey, Director of Engineering Operations. “Close communication with our colleagues in the Fire Department allowed us to deploy Operations staff for traffic control to free up our Firefighters to be available for other safety related calls. We ask that people respect the barricades that are in place for their safety until BC Hydro can repair the lines.”

“Citizens just don’t realize the scope of work that rolls out when huge sections of the City are without power. Our staff rolled out the needed response quickly, calmly and efficiently. Our Fire Department and Operations staff were the first on site to close roads impacted by downed power lines and trees. I’m particularly impressed at how rapidly the Operations staff were able to deploy generators to ensure that our citizens had uninterrupted water and sewer service despite the power failures,” said Mayor Mike Morden. “I know that staff worked through the night to ensure that the traffic signals on our main routes were powered up to minimize the impacts for the morning commute. Work continues to fully address all of the impacts of the storm.

Mayor Morden continued, “I’m grateful that there were no injuries reported. I noted significant property damage from photos posted in social media. I know this is an inconvenience for many of our neighbours but thankfully everyone is okay.

City crews responded to all 137 separate sites where action was required by the end of Thursday. As of Friday morning there were 33 sites with downed powerlines in Maple Ridge. Crews have been focusing on the removal of debris from roadways and will transition to the

removal of debris from other areas of the City as power is restored. The cleanup is expected to continue into the New Year.

The City will continue to provide updates on full and partial road closures on the City website at www.mapleridge.ca. Scroll down on the home page and click on the 'Roadwork & Closures' tab to view the latest update. Citizens can get direct notification to their email and smartphone by clicking the 'Stay Connected' icon on the home page and signing up for push notifications. Updates are also being published on the City's Facebook page ([Facebook.com/YourMapleRidge](https://www.facebook.com/YourMapleRidge)) and Twitter (@YourMapleRidge).

Citizens can get the latest updates on power outages and estimated repair times from BC Hydro at www.bchydro.com.

The City's Operations Centre can be reached at 604-463-9581.