PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

From the Captain and Officers on the bridge deck, to those in food services, right down to the crew in the engine room, all our employees are certified by Transport Canada Marine Safety to deal effectively with emergency situations.

As part of our ongoing commitment to safety, operational guidelines call for regular and frequent safety drills for all crew members on every ship.

Over 1,000 drills will be conducted this year to ensure the highest safety standards for BC Ferries’ vessels and crews.

In the event of an emergency, always follow the instructions of ship’s personnel. Please note that in the case of an emergency, elevators are not available and vehicle access may be prohibited.

Ship Evacuation

The Northern Expedition has two Liferaft Systems Australia (LSA) marine evacuation stations on Deck 5, where canister-type life rafts are stored. There are six 100-person life rafts and two 50-person life rafts to effectively carry passengers to safety.

Emergency Signals

The following signals are used to alert crew members to an emergency:

- **FIRE** - a continuous ringing of the alarm bell.
- **PERSON OVERBOARD** - three long soundings of the whistle and general alarm bell. In case of Person Overboard situations, keep outer decks clear where rescue operations are underway.
- **BOAT/RAFT STATIONS** - seven (or more) short soundings of the whistle followed by one long sounding of the ship's whistle and/or alarm bell.

Signals will be followed by an announcement explaining the nature of the emergency. If you hear a signal, don’t panic. Our crew will take immediate charge of the situation and explain exactly what to do.

Bow Door Integrity

In accordance with the International Maritime Organization’s investigations of the safety of vehicle-carrying ferries, safety improvements were adopted in the design and construction of this vessel.

While at sea, the Northern Expedition’s bow visor and ramp are locked closed by hydraulically operated cleats, where watertight seals are formed by the compression of heavy rubber gaskets.

Life Jackets

Life jackets are stowed in clearly marked lockers on Deck 5 (interior and exterior).

There are two types of life jackets available: one for children up to 90 pounds (41 kg) and one for adults. In the unlikely event of an emergency, crew members will instruct you on the proper use of your life jacket.

Fire Suppression

Fire extinguishers are located in all interior and exterior passenger decks, with a manually activated sprinkler system protecting the Vehicle Deck.

A heat-activated Hi-Fog fire suppression system is in place in all passenger and crew areas, including the engine room and all machinery spaces.

Fire alarms are activated from pull stations throughout the ship. A panel on the bridge helps the crew quickly pinpoint the location of any manually activated pull station or automated detection alarm.

Rescue Boats

This vessel carries two six-person rescue boats to assist with towing life rafts and to help passengers to safety.

Any questions or comments?

Call BC Ferries toll-free: **1-888-BC-FERRY** (223-3779).
Visit us online at bcferries.com.
Our Commitment to Safety

At BC Ferries, passenger safety is our highest priority. We consistently adhere to the safety regulations established by Transport Canada, which meet or exceed all international standards. You can rest assured that our vessels’ design, operation, crew training and rescue equipment always work together to put safety first.

ACCESSIBLE SERVICES

BC Ferries provides a variety of services for persons with disabilities to ensure a safe and comfortable journey for all our passengers.

Please note: Persons with disabilities who will require special assistance in the event of an emergency are asked to advise the ticket agent on arrival at the terminal. Once you have boarded the vessel, please discuss your specific needs with the Chief Steward or request to speak with the ship’s First Officer.

In addition, persons with disabilities are encouraged to fill out and carry a C-MIST* card with them at all times. In the event of an emergency, passengers can be helped more efficiently by listing their specific needs in five key areas (communication, medical needs/support, independence, supervision and transportation).

Travelling In a Vehicle

We provide special vehicle loading for people who require wheelchair access to an elevator. If you use a wheelchair, please inform the ticket agent when you arrive at the terminal. Limited elevator parking is available and will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that these vehicles may be loaded first to assist with placement on the Vehicle Deck but, in most cases, will be unloaded last.

Please ensure you arrive at least 2 1/2 hours before your intended sailing. (Different northern routes have slightly different check-in times. Please call 1-888-BC FERRY (223-3779) to confirm.)

Customers who use a walking aid should also inform the ticket agent if they require access to an elevator. Your vehicle will be loaded as close to an elevator as possible.

Please note that in conditions of extreme weather, passenger elevators on the vessels may be unavailable due to safety regulations.

Travelling Without a Vehicle

We have a limited number of wheelchairs available to customers travelling without a vehicle. Reservations are required. Please call 1-888-BC FERRY (223-3779) at least 24 hours before your travels to reserve a wheelchair.

Customers travelling without a vehicle who are using our wheelchair assistance program will need to check their baggage in advance of being assisted to the pre-board lounge or to the ship.

It can take approximately 15 minutes for us to assist one customer to the pre-board lounge or ship and return to help the next customer. If three customers require assistance with boarding the same sailing, this process can take up to 45 minutes. We ask customers to please arrive 60 minutes before the sailing to ensure there is enough time to help everyone. Customers arriving without a reservation may not be accommodated on the sailing of their choice.

Personal Assistance

BC Ferries staff are available to answer any questions you might have and to familiarize passengers with the available amenities. Customers who require personal assistance while onboard our ships are asked to travel with a companion who is able to provide the level of assistance required. If you have any questions about the types of assistance we can provide, please call 1-888-BC FERRY (223-3779).

Service Animals

Service animals are permitted in our terminals and onboard our ships. Grass areas are available at most terminals. We appreciate you helping us keep our terminals clean by cleaning up after your service animal.

*A C-MIST stands for Communication, Medical, Independence, Supervision and Transportation

A C-MIST card can be downloaded from the BC Ferries website at: www.bcferries.com/travel_planning/disabilities

Customers with mobility challenges can have a friend or relative assist them to the ship using our Visitor Pass. Please call 1-888-BC FERRY (223-3779) to reserve a wheelchair and/or inquire about the Visitor Pass process.