



2.03 SUPPORT TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES WHEN DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

2.03.1 GENERAL

This policy complements the document “Declaring a State of Local Emergency in British Columbia, Oct 2011”.

Related Policies:

N/A

2.03.2 DEFINITIONS

See [Terms and Definitions](#)

2.03.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) EMBC staff must not provide legal advice regarding the *Emergency Program Act* but may provide information on the application of the legislation based on experience and documented practice.

2.03.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Applying the legislated authority to declare a state of local emergency and employment of the emergency powers must be justified. The situation must clearly be an emergency or disaster as defined in the *Emergency Program Act* and application of the powers must support the achievement of the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) goals by a local authority. While local governments are authorized by the *Act* to determine that the declaration of a state of local emergency is required, the Minister responsible or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may override this decision by either cancelling the local declaration or by issuing a provincial state of emergency for the same area.
- (2) The prescribed procedure and process for a local authority to declare a state of local emergency by an order is outlined in the document “Declaring a State of Local Emergency in British Columbia, Oct 2011”.

2.03.5 AUTHORITIES

[Emergency Program Act](#)

[Emergency Program Management Regulation](#)

[Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Duffy", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Duffy
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

August 4, 2016

2.03.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [Declaring a State of Local Emergency in British Columbia, Oct 2011](#)