

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES AND NATURAL DISASTERS

A Resource for Community Economic Development Officers



Emergency planning is crucial for small businesses in B.C., protecting lives, assets, and livelihoods while boosting financial stability and resilience. The disaster preparedness self-assessment and resources can help Economic Developers support businesses in preparing for emergencies.

Complete the self-assessment to gauge your community's level of preparedness.

Economic Preparedness Planning Self-Assessment

Questions for Economic Development Officers	Rating Assessment			
	Yes	Somewhat	No	Don't Know
1. Am I engaging with my local Chamber of Commerce (and/or other local business association) when it comes to business continuity and preparedness?				
2. Do businesses in my community know where to access business continuity and emergency preparedness information and resources?				
3. Do I know who the emergency coordinator is in my community, and have we discussed which businesses may need to stay open during an emergency and which may need to return first after an evacuation?				
4. Does our local government require business licenses, and is the database regularly updated and accessible in an emergency?				
5. Are businesses in my community aware of the importance of having critical data backed up and accessible in an emergency?				
6. Do businesses in my community have business continuity plans and/or emergency preparedness plans and are they being regularly updated?				
7. Are businesses in my community reviewing their insurance to understand what their insurance coverage includes and what it does not include in the event of a disaster or emergency?				
8. Do businesses in my community know where to direct their employees for individual/home emergency preparedness information and resources?				

Next Steps

Take a moment to identify any gaps in your community's preparedness. Use these insights to determine which resources will be most beneficial.

Refer to the second page for a list of tools and supports to help address these gaps and enhance your community's resilience.

Contact the **Regional Economic Operations representative** in your region for more information.

Consider taking these actions to help businesses in your community

Share the Preparing for Emergencies and Natural Disasters Resource for Businesses with your network

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/download/1DA32C7B1E944B65A9DAE0429CA2B856>



Prepare your community's essential organizations and businesses by hosting a Canadian Red Cross Service Continuity Workshop

<https://cdn.redcross.ca/prodmedia/crc/azure/how-we-help/current-responses/2023-alberta-wildfires/service-continuity-workshop-one-pager-en.pdf>



Review these disaster preparedness and resiliency resources for additional tools to support your community and businesses

BC Economic Development Association (BCEDA) Economic Disaster Preparation
www.bceda.ca/economic_disaster_preparation.php



Share these resources to help businesses review their insurance coverage

Community Futures Insurance Guide
<https://cf-disastersupport.ca/resources/>



Community Futures Rural Resiliency Initiative
www.communityfutures.ca/projects/rural-resiliency-initiative



Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) Blog Insurance Why It Matters
blog.gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagement/insurance-why-it-matters/



Subscribe to and share these communication resources with your organization and with local business associations

Sign up for regular updates to EMCRC's Monthly Newsletter – Emergency Management Resources for Communities

e1.invoke.com/ext/pages/4e7adb2eb90ee234d356500cb3498562



Share the PreparedBC: Small Business and Tourism Operator Preparedness Social Media Package with your communications staff

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/education-programs-toolkits/social-media-toolkits/business-tourism



Download PreparedBC's Emergency Guides and Resources online. For printed copies, email PreparedBC@gov.bc.ca

www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/guides-and-resources

