

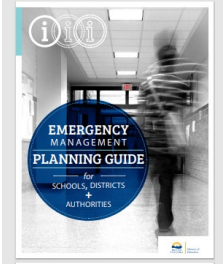



## Emergency Management Information and Resource Package



June 2024

**PURPOSE:** This document was created by the Ministry of Education and Child Care as a package of emergency management resources that district and school administration as well as child care operators can use to support planning and response. Resources included in this package can be shared with school districts, independent schools, communities, families, and educators.

**INTENDED AUDIENCE:** District and school administrators, independent school administrators, Child Care Operators, Ministry of Education and Child Care staff.

Emergency Management	
<p>Climate change increasingly affects our communities through climate-related events, such as wildfires, floods, and extreme heat events. These events require significant preparation and response efforts. In supporting emergency planning, the Ministry encourages the use of the following:</p>	
<p><a href="#">Ministry of Education and Child Care - Emergency Management Planning Guide for Schools, Districts and Authorities</a></p> 	<p>Document: Comprehensive guide for school districts and authorities to aid in emergency response planning. The guide outlines roles and responsibilities of school districts, independent schools, First Nations schools, the Ministry of Education and Child Care, administrative staff, educators, and families in the event of emergency.</p> <p>Additional information provided by the guide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Emergency Response Management System, including operational levels and command structure.</li> <li>• Emergency Management Cycle, including mitigation and prevention, planning, preparedness, response, and recovery.</li> <li>• District Emergency Management, including an outline of the planning process and District Emergency Operations Centre.</li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">Education and Child Care Emergency Management Support Key Contacts</a></p> 	<p>Document provides key contacts in the event of climate-related emergencies for both the K-12 and child care sectors.</p>
<p><a href="#">Emergency Management Planning for Schools, Districts and Authorities</a></p>	<p>Website accessed through the Safe and Healthy Schools page, providing information and resources in the event of an emergency.</p>



<p><a href="#">Master of Disaster – Youth Emergency Preparedness</a></p> 	<p>A free classroom program designed to help students in Grades 4-8 learn about emergency preparedness, including floods, wildfires, earthquakes, and tsunamis.</p>
<p><a href="#">Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Emergency Ready Planner</a></p>	<p>Website hosting an online tool to help families create a personalized emergency ready plan.</p>
<p><a href="#">BC Wildfire Service App</a></p> 	<p>App that provides up-to-date wildfire information, helping you stay informed about wildfires and wildfire-related events and conditions across B.C. The app is available through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">App Store</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Google Play</a></li> </ul>
<p><b>Emergency Management – Financial Resources</b></p>	
<p><a href="#">Public Safety and Emergency Services - Find wildfire recovery resources</a></p>	<p>Website provides recovery resources available for families, individuals, businesses, and communities impacted by wildfires. Resources include support services information, health resources, information for residents and visitors, disaster recovery resources, and current emergency information.</p>
<p><a href="#">Emergency Support Services</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information about registering for emergency services including through the Evacuee Registration and Assistance (ERA) tool.</p>
<p><a href="#">ChildCareBC Maintenance Fund</a></p>	<p>Website provides information for child care facilities impacted by emergencies such as wildfires and floods that may be eligible for assistance through the ChildCareBC Maintenance Fund.</p>

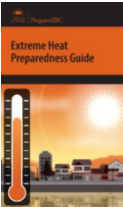

## Heat Events

Climate change is causing more heat events. Schools and child care centres are encouraged to inform their school communities about the potential risks of heat events, and to take precautions to ensure the safety and well-being of staff, students, and children. In addition to the resources below, your local municipality and regional health authority may have information to support planning and response.

School districts identifying cooling as a priority in their existing schools can submit requests for funding through the Ministry’s School Enhancement Program or Carbon Neutral Capital Program, as part of the annual 5-year capital plan submission process. In addition, the Annual Facility Grant can be used toward elements (HVAC upgrades, etc.) to adapt to and mitigate climate change.

<p><a href="#">BC Centre for Disease Control - Preparing for Heat Events</a></p>	<p>Website provides information to understand and identify heat alerts and emergencies; outline who is at higher risk from heat and how to prepare before extreme heat; and understand how to take care during heat events and the signs of heat illness.</p>
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<p><a href="#">Public Safety and Emergency Services BC - Be prepared for extreme heat and drought</a></p>	<p>Website defines extreme heat and its connection to climate change and provides steps to take before summer season, including identifying those most at risk and planning for extreme heat events. A guide for understanding alerts shared by Emergency Info BC and Environment Canada is provided, along with links and resources.</p>
<p><a href="#">Prepared BC - Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide</a></p> 	<p>Guide includes information about getting prepared for extreme heat events and what to do as temperatures rise. The document is available in the following languages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">English</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">French</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Simplified Chinese</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Traditional Chinese</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Punjabi</a></li> </ul>
<p><a href="#">BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (BC HARS): 2024</a></p> 	<p>Document contains information about heat events and criteria for the two alert levels: 1) heat warning and 2) extreme heat emergency.</p>
<p><a href="#">Safe and Healthy Schools BC- Preparing for Heat Events</a></p>	<p>Website outlines steps that schools can take to plan for heat events to support the safety and comfort of students and staff. Identified actions include closing blinds, using cooling systems, ensuring access to drinking water, and encouraging sun safety.</p>
<p><a href="#">Child Care Facilities and Heat</a></p>	<p>Factsheet created by Vancouver Coastal Health to support child care centres to prepare for and respond to extreme heat situations.</p>

## Drought

Impacts of climate change are significant and unpredictable, with many communities experiencing drought conditions during warmer months. We encourage everyone, including school districts and child care providers, to do their part in conserving water during drought conditions. Water conservation is everyone's responsibility.

[BC Government - Drought Preparation and Response](#)

Website hosts a number of resources related to understanding drought, providing updated drought conditions, preparing for drought, saving water, impacts on people and the environment as well as resources for communities.

## Mental Health and Well-being





Climate events can impact not only our physical environments but also our mental health and well-being. Resources are available to support children, youth, and families struggling with wildfires, loss of home, climate anxiety, and more.

[erases - Mental Health and Well-Being](#)







Website providing mental health information and resources for students, educators, and families as part of the *erases* (Expect Respect and a Safe Education) strategy.





<p><a href="#">Help Starts Here</a></p> 	<p>Website through the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions providing information about over 2600 resources for British Columbians in need of mental health or substance use support.</p>
<p><a href="#">Kids Help Phone - Mental Health and Wellness Support Information</a></p> 	<p>Pamphlet created by the Kids Help Phone with information on how to access confidential mental health and wellness support, including for those affected by wildfires. Kids Help Phone is available 24/7 to anyone (youth or adult) and provides free online mental health services through text, phone, or online chat.</p>
<p><a href="#">Kids Help Phone - Current wildfires in Canada: How to get mental health support</a></p> 	<p>Website with information about how to access mental health support for youth and adults distressed about wildfires; includes additional information about local resources, and coping with tragedy, upsetting news, and current events.</p>
<p><a href="#">Virtual Mental Health Supports</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information about virtual services available for British Columbians who are experiencing anxiety, depression, or with other mental health needs.</p>

## Child Care

Each Health Authority has resources available to support child care centres in an emergency or in areas affected by climate events who may need support. The Ministry of Education and Child Care is also available to support child care centres experiencing emergency events, such as sudden closures, that may affect funding.

<p><a href="#">First Nations Health Authority</a></p> <p><a href="#">Wildfire Response</a></p> 	<p>Websites provide information and resources for Aboriginal Head Starts on Reserve as well as related to wildfire response.</p>
<p><a href="#">Fraser Health</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information for child care centres located in the Fraser Valley, including factsheets and resources.</p>
<p><a href="#">Interior Health</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information for child care centres located in the Interior, including factsheets and a section for natural emergency information.</p>
<p><a href="#">Northern Health</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information for child care centres located in northern B.C., including factsheets and resources such as an emergency and disaster preparedness guide.</p>



<p><a href="#">Vancouver Coastal Health</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information for child care centres located in the Vancouver Coastal Health Authority, including factsheets and a section for emergency preparedness.</p>
<p><a href="#">Island Health</a></p> 	<p>Website provides information for child care centres located on Vancouver Island, including a section with emergency preparedness information.</p>
<p><a href="#">Child Care Resource and Referral Centres</a></p>	<p>Child Care Resource and Referral (CCRR) centres provide information, support, resources and referral services to parents and child care providers across the province.</p>
<p><a href="#">ChildCareBC Website</a></p>	<p>If you have any program specific questions, you can reach the Ministry at 1-888-338-6622 (toll free). Specific programs can be reached at the options below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Option 1 – Affordable Child Care Benefit</li> <li>• Option 2 – Child Care Operating Funding (Base Funding, Child Care Fee Reduction Initiative, ECE Wage Enhancement)</li> <li>• Option 3 – Early Childhood Educator Registry</li> <li>• Option 4 – Child Care Resource and Referral</li> <li>• Option 5 – Child Care Capital Funding (New Spaces Fund, Maintenance Fund, Start-Up Grants)</li> <li>• Option 7 – \$10 a Day ChildCareBC Centres</li> </ul>

## Independent Schools

<p>As part of Ministry of Education and Child Care inspections, independent schools are required to demonstrate emergency response planning aligned with Ministry procedures. In the event of an emergency, independent schools and authorities are requested to inform staff at the Ministry of Education and Child Care and at the Federation of Independent Schools Associations in British Columbia (FISABC).</p>	
<p><a href="mailto:StudentSafety@gov.bc.ca">StudentSafety@gov.bc.ca</a></p>	<p>First contact in the event of an emergency. This email connects you with Ministry staff from the System Liaison and Supports Division.</p>
<p><a href="mailto:info@fisabc.ca">info@fisabc.ca</a></p>	<p>Additional contact: the Federation of Independent School Associations in British Columbia - fisabc.ca. FISABC is as an external advocacy organization that represents member associations.</p>

## Remote and Online Learning

<p>Resources are available to support district and school administration in areas affected by climate events who may need to support students transitioning to remote or online classes. Please reach out to the Online Learning Team at the Ministry of Education and Child Care.</p>	
<p><a href="mailto:EDUC.OnlineLearning@gov.bc.ca">EDUC.OnlineLearning@gov.bc.ca</a></p>	<p>Online Learning team at the Ministry of Education and Child Care</p>