

# Exercise Coastal Response

## *Coastal Response Update*

February, 2016

On Nov. 26-27, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) hosted the Main Planning Conference (MPC) in Port Alberni, which represented a critical planning milestone to provide the strategic framework for the exercise. On day one, through a facilitated tabletop exercise (TTX), participants were able to identify and walk through each agency's initial roles and responsibilities as outlined in BC's Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP). On day two, committee chairs and their teams met to further develop the

*Exercise planning continues to be very collaborative as we work in close partnership with the steering committee co-led by EMBC and the Port Alberni Clayoquot Regional District CAO.*

overall exercise plan and general agency participation. Both days were extremely well attended with more than 100 participants representing all levels of government, First Nations, non-government organizations and the private sector to ensure full integration across all areas of the exercise, particularly the live events taking place in Victoria and the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD).

Since the MPC, the exercise team continues to work closely with the exercise committee chairs leading the exercise functions,

## COASTAL RESPONSE



We are pleased to report that planning for Exercise Coastal Response 2016 continues to move forward and is on track.

Beginning with this update, the steering committee will provide a monthly update on progress in an effort to keep key partners informed as we move into the final five months of planning.

*Sincerely –  
Russell Dyson  
Carol McClintock*

*Co-Chairs  
Exercise Coastal Response  
2016 Steering Committee*

which include medical, mass care, logistics, emergency operations, operational communications and strategic communications. The exercise contractor, Calian, continues to support the exercise team in framing the exercise design and developing products, such as exercise manuals and guides, the story board of events and the set-up of the simulation suite that will be used to enhance realism. The exercise team is also working closely with Joint Task Force Pacific, Public Safety Canada and Washington State, which are running separate exercises linked to Exercise Coastal Response.

## Next Steps

The next important milestone is the Master Sequence of Events List (MSEL) Conference scheduled for Feb. 17-18. The MSEL is basically the script that outlines the activities and injects for the exercise based on input from all key participants through the committee leads.

Staffing plans for the EOC's, PREOCs and PECC are underway. At this time we are planning for live exercise play to run 10 to 12 hours per day over the first three days, with time at the end of each day for

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review and preparation for the next day's events. The final day's events will wrap up around noon to allow time for detailed after action reviews and for the deployed elements of the exercise to return home in the afternoon. The PECC, Vancouver Island PREOC and South West PREOC will be activated and staffed for all four days. Central PREOC will likely be operational for only the first day or so of play. The EMBC operations team is in the process of developing the detailed staffing plan, which will be supported by staff training through EMBC's Organizational Learning Section. Provincial staffing plans will be completed by the end of February.

The ACRD is also working on its staffing plans. It has reached out to the Mid-Island Emergency Coordinators Membership to seek interest in participating in a few ways – observing/evaluating activities, filling the role of an evaluator and participating as active members to augment EOC/ESS staffing capacity. The ACRD is proposing to operate the EOC for all exercise days, operating two shifts with a relief mid-day. This approach will help build knowledge and skills and enable broader participation rather than overburdening participants. This work is still in the preliminary stages and more details will be shared as planning moves forward.

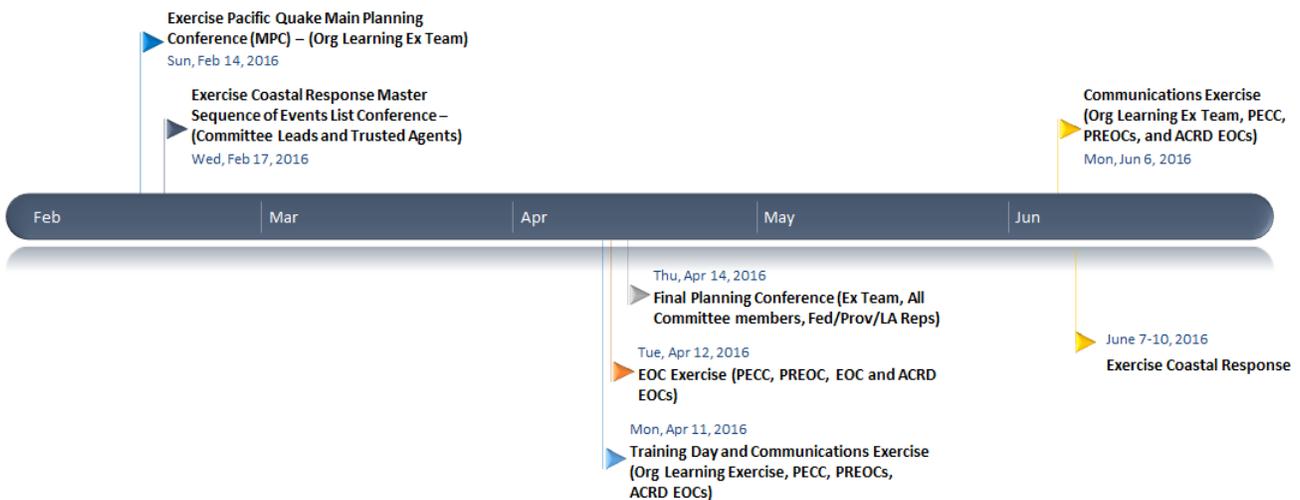
## Objective Assessment

To ensure objective assessment, the lead evaluator for the exercise is Claude Denver, Lead Response Manager from the State Emergency Operations Center, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

Claude has been involved in several Canadian engagements over the years and is an experienced leader for the evaluation team. EMBC will provide a deputy lead evaluator to assist Claude with team training and coordination prior to the exercise. EMBC will also be seeking evaluator participation from Emergency Program Coordinators on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, as well as across the provincial government. This outreach will take place shortly after the MSEL meetings once requirements are fully refined.

## Incremental Milestones

To set us up for success, key incremental milestones on the horizon include:



Emergency ManagementBC

The next update will occur in March. If there are questions before then, please connect directly with the Exercise Team through Carol McClintock [carol.mcclintock@gov.bc.ca](mailto:carol.mcclintock@gov.bc.ca).