

Exercise Coastal Response

Province of British Columbia

Coastal Response Update#2

March, 2016

On Feb. 17-18, Emergency Management BC (EMBC) hosted the Master of Sequence of Events List Conference (MPC) in Victoria. The MSEL is the script that outlines the activities and injects for the Exercise based on the input from all of the key participants through the Committee leads. Since the MSEL, the Exercise team continues to work closely with the Exercise Committee Chairs leading the exercise functions, 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 storyboard of events, and the set-up of the simulation suite that will be used to enhance exercise realism.

The various exercises linked to Exercise Coastal Response are also progressing well. These include:

Exercise Pacific Quake, the Canadian federal government earthquake exercise, has just completed their Mid-Term Planning Conference and MSEL coordination meeting. Federal exercise play will include the local federal coordination departments who have a presence in the lower mainland and Vancouver Island, such as Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Public Health Agency of Canada, and will extend to the Government Operations Centre in Ottawa.

COASTAL RESPONSE



Exercise Coastal Response 2016 continues to move forward and is on track.

In Update #2, the steering committee provides an update on progress in an effort to keep all key partners informed as we move into the final three months of planning.

*Sincerely –
Russell Dyson
Carol McClintock*

*Co-Chairs
Exercise Coastal Response
2016 Steering Committee*

Exercise Staunch Maple, led by Joint Task Force Pacific (JTFP) have also recently completed their Mid-Term Planning Conference and MSEL Writing Board. JTFP, the lead Canadian military formation in BC, have a range of activities planned, some of which are linked to Exercise Coastal Response activities located along the west coast of Vancouver Island.

Exercise Cascadia Rising, led by Northwest United States FEMA Region 10, will include most municipalities and counties in the Western half of Washington and Oregon, as well as parts of Idaho. Cascadia Rising will link in with Exercise Coastal Response through information sharing at the PECC level and possibly with update calls between the Premier of British Columbia and the Governor of Washington State. The Cascadia Rising team have recently held their Final Planning Meeting and are also well along in their planning for the follow-on related exercises, Ardent Sentry and Vigilant Guard, in which JTFP will participate.

The Exercise Planning Team will continue to attend all the collective meetings with our linked exercise partners to ensure our activities and scenarios are closely synchronized.

Training

EMBC Sponsored an additional six days of training between January and March 2016, in support of local authorities in the Alberni-Clayoquot and Qualicum regions. The training consisted of three EOC Essentials courses, delivered by the JIBC. Two of the course have already been delivered with the last one scheduled on March 22 – 23, 2016. Additional ESS training sessions have been planned for the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District in February and March.

Next Steps

The next milestones are the Emergency Operations Centre Exercise (EOCX) on April 12, and the Final Planning Conference on April 14. The EOCX is designed to test our communication systems and provide an opportunity to EOC personnel to train and refresh their understanding of procedures. The FPC will be the last opportunity for all participants to gather in one place to confirm that each of their organizations are ready and that all training objectives are on track to be exercised.

Staffing Plans for the Emergency Operations Centres (EOC), Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC), and Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) have been completed.

The next milestone for Exercise Coastal Response planning is the Final Planning Conference scheduled for April 14 in Victoria.

Objective Assessment

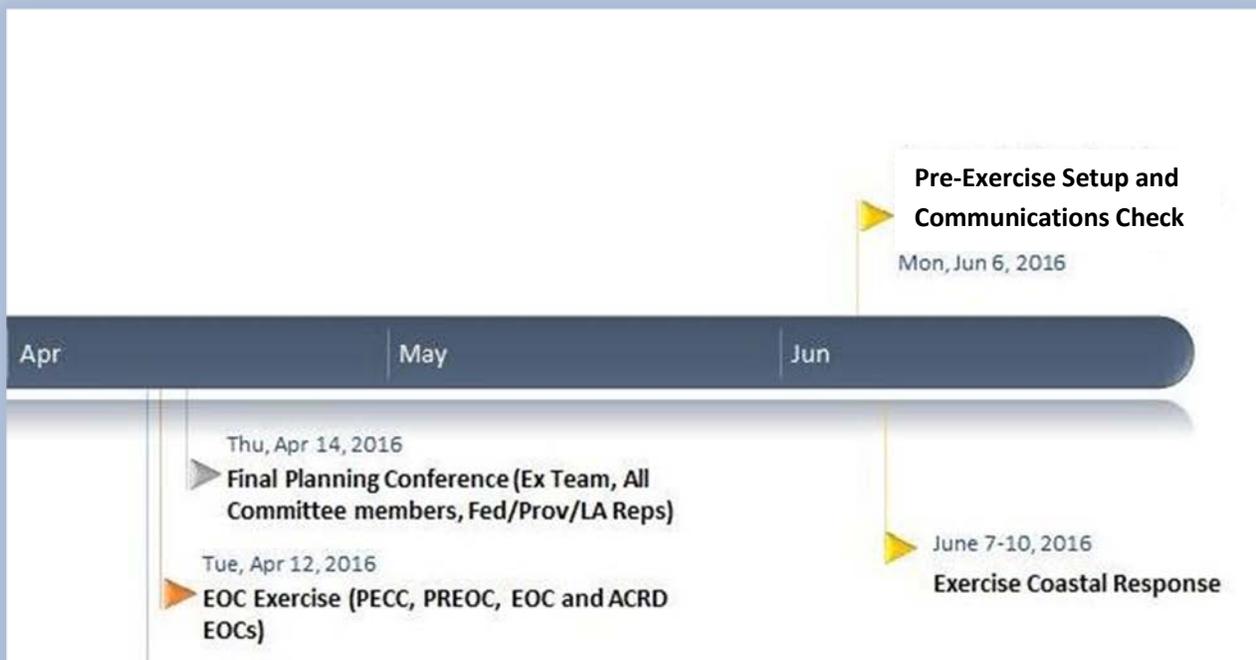
The Lead Evaluator for the Exercise is Claude Denver, Lead Response Manager from the State Emergency Operations Center, Alaska Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management.

COASTAL RESPONSE



Incremental Milestones

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



To date, Exercise Planning continues to be very collaborative as we work in close partnership with the Steering Committee co-led by Emergency Management BC and the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Chief Administrative Officer.

The Steering Committee is an integrated team with representatives from the Emergency Management BC, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council, Tseshaht First Nation, Hupacasath First Nation, City of Port Alberni, Mid-Island Emergency Coordinators and Managers, and Vancouver Fire and Rescue Services.



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The next update will occur in April. If there are questions before then, please connect directly with the Exercise Team through Carol McClintock carol.mcclintock@gov.bc.ca.