
FACT SHEET

Jan. 19, 2017

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Emergency Management BC

Earthquake and preparedness investment in British Columbia

Since 2001, B.C. has either committed or already invested over \$17 billion in capital funding and seismic infrastructure upgrades – for highways, hospitals, schools, bridges and other critical infrastructure. Acting on recommendations from the Office of the Auditor General and Henry Renteria’s earthquake consultation reports in 2015, the Province was asked to create a better culture of emergency preparedness across B.C.

Facts:

Actions taken to better prepare for a major earthquake:

- Release of the B.C. Earthquake Immediate Response Plan, the first ever plan produced in B.C. that will guide our efforts in the event of a major earthquake. Notably, we are now engaged in sustained response planning;
- Execution of the \$1.2-million provincial-level catastrophic exercise – Exercise Coastal Response – in June 2016, which tested our preparedness and response to a major earthquake in B.C. We will use the lessons learned from this event to further improve our systems and planning;
- Introduction of Canada’s first Minister solely mandated with increasing public readiness and subsequent resilience to emergencies, the Honourable Naomi Yamamoto, Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness;
- Strong social media channels for alerting and public education;
- Increased provincial operational capacity with additions such as a new team of 24/7 provincial duty managers and a logistics team;
- More public education initiatives, including the PreparedBC site and corresponding guides and guidance for personal and neighborhood preparation;
- Investment of \$95,000 to improve the provincial emergency notification system to help get emergency information into the hands of those that need it faster, coinciding with tests of the new national emergency broadcast alerting system; and,
- Additional support to partner agencies, including funding to Search and Rescue, Vancouver’s Heavy Urban Search and Rescue and to Ocean Networks Canada to gather data-sets related to tsunami mapping.
- Under the *Emergency Program Act*, Emergency Management BC has access to significant additional funding and resources to help directly respond to emergencies across B.C.

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