

2.01 PROVINCIAL SUPPORT FOR LIVESTOCK RELOCATION DURING AN EMERGENCY

2.01.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [2.01 Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency Policy](#)
- [2.01 Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency Procedures](#)
- [2.01 Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency Livestock Relocation Reimbursement Rate Card 2015](#)

2.01.2 FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q. Where can we find information regarding livestock relocation and the Provincial support for livestock relocation during an emergency?

A. Information is available on the Ministry of Agriculture [website](#) or you can follow the links above to related documents on the EMBC website.

Q. What is the role of the EMBC Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC)?

A. The PREOC is the primary point of contact for local authorities requiring any support from the province during emergencies or disasters. A PREOC provides support to local authority Emergency Operation Centres that are activated in response to any emergency within their jurisdiction.

Q. What is the role of the Ministry of Agriculture?

A. The Ministry of Agriculture provides advice to farmers on the protection of crops and livestock. The Ministry also provides support to local authorities in the coordination of the emergency relocation and care of poultry and livestock during an emergency via the PREOC. If the situation becomes significant or severe, the ministry may activate its Ministry Operation Centre (MOC) in Abbotsford. The Ministry of Agriculture will also support the coordination for the appropriate disposal of carcasses when mass carcass disposal is required.

Q. How will a local authority know if a producer requires assistance?

A. Producers will be directed to contact the local government via the phone number(s) provided on Evacuation Order or Evacuation Alert bulletins.



Q. As a local authority, whom should I contact if agricultural businesses within my community are at risk of being impacted by an emergency (as defined in the *Emergency Program Act*)?

A. Contact the appropriate EMBC regional office as per normal practices during emergencies. When warranted EMBC will contact the Ministry of Agriculture's coordinator who will arrange assistance for local government EOCs, Incident Commands Centres, and First Nations Communities. A Ministry of Agriculture local government liaison officer may also be available to provide guidance and can be reached through the PREOC. The primary support to local authority emergency programs remains a function of EMBC Regional Offices/PREOCs.

Q. What is the purpose of the "Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation during an Emergency" policy?

A. This policy is intended to provide enhanced support to the local authority and their agriculture businesses from AGRI, EMBC and any other provincial ministry involved in the emergency situation (for example, Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations Water Stewardship Branch during flooding). This support is in place to reduce or mitigate any imminent threat posed to a local authority's agricultural industry as a result of an emergency (as defined in the *Emergency Program Act*).

Under the policy, EMBC will reimburse local authority and First Nations eligible response costs for activities related to livestock relocation because of an emergency. This may include the costs of transportation (exit and return), feed, and housing. Reimbursements follow normal procedures regarding emergency response costs. Rates for reimbursement shall be based on Livestock Relocation Rate Cards negotiated between Ministry of Agriculture and Emergency Management BC. Reimbursement is available for incurred costs only i.e. livestock owners are not reimbursed for use of their own feed and equipment.

Local authorities who require further confirmation regarding reimbursement rates and procedures should contact their local EMBC regional office.

Q. When is the support detailed in the policy made available?

A. Activation of the support within the policy will only be considered when the local authority makes the request and the following conditions are met:

- An EMBC task number has been issued for the emergency.
- A broad geographic assessment of risk has occurred and agreement by the local authority and provincial agencies is reached that there is significant risk to livestock and relocation during the evacuation alert phase is supported.
- The local authority has issued an evacuation alert or evacuation order.
- The farm business operator has requested assistance through the local authority EOC.



Agricultural business evacuations can occur during the evacuation alert stage set by the local authority. It is recommended that the relocation of livestock occur during the evacuation alert phase, as noted on the agriculture assessment relocation form. During an evacuation order, the movement of livestock will only be endorsed if this movement does not interfere with the movement of people. Any local authority emergency response costs related to this policy will be reimbursed as per normal emergency response costs procedures.

Q. How does a local authority receive reimbursement for livestock relocation?

A. Once the decision is made to relocate animals it must be documented, for example in the situation report. The local authority must then ensure that an emergency response claim with properly completed documentation (task report, a signed expenditure authorization form and all receipts) is forwarded to the EMBC regional office. The EMBC task number must be noted on all documentation. In cases where the estimated emergency response costs for the relocation and/or housing of the animals may be beyond the financial capability of the local authority, local authorities should contact their EMBC regional office.

Q. What information should service providers (companies that will be relocating and/or housing animals) include in their invoice?

A. Service providers must submit invoices to the local authority for payment. All invoices must include the service provider's full name, address and dates for which the services were provided. Although not required for reimbursement, local authorities should also encourage service providers to provide the following information in their invoices:

- Type and number of livestock evacuated.
- Where animals were evacuated from and where they were sent.
- Names of livestock owners.
- Type and number of livestock fed and housed, and duration.
- Number and type of mortalities.

Q. Is the relocation of hobby farm animals or personal pets covered by the policy?

A. Farm business operations are defined by the *Farm Practices Protection (Right to Farm) Act* as business operations where a reasonable expectation of income, based on sales, is anticipated including, but not limited to, the rearing and keeping of livestock, cultivation of plants or other related operation is identified. Agricultural business operations do not include the keeping of pets such as members of the genus *Canis* or *Felis* or animals kept within the confines of a home. As required, the Ministry of Agriculture can provide additional guidance regarding the types of animals that qualify as an agricultural business.



Q. Once an evacuation alert or order is rescinded/cancelled, how long is the support available for livestock owners?

A. Reimbursement rates including costs for return of agricultural business operations will only be considered for a maximum of 96 hours (four days) following the announcement of a full evacuation order rescind or evacuation alert cancellation, unless a specific exception is approved by EMBC. The evacuation order rescind or evacuation alert cancellation date is the start point for the four day period of time that producers have to return livestock or poultry to their properties.