



## 2.07 ROAD AND MEDICAL RESCUE

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### 2.07.1 GENERAL

The Policy describes the support provided by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to all service providers that are recognized pursuant to this policy. Reimbursement under this policy will only be considered for the delivery of services that fall within the definition of Out of Jurisdiction Response, and applies to all Road Rescue Service Providers.

***Related Policies:***

- 1.01 Task Report
- 1.04 Hepatitis B Prevention/Post Exposure Follow-Up
- 2.02 Task Authorization
- 2.05 Red Flashing Lights and Siren Permits
- 5.01 Task Registration
- 5.02 Expense Reimbursement
- 5.04 Repair/Replacement of Lost/Damaged Equipment/Personal Property
- 5.07 Injury, Disability, and Accidental Death Coverage
- 5.08 Liability Coverage

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### 2.07.2 DEFINITIONS

See Terms and Definitions

**Fire Suppression Services:** The equipment and staff required to protect response personnel and/or subjects where there is an actual or imminent threat to life due to fire. This definition includes response to structures and hazardous materials (hazmat) incidents for the purposes of rescuing entrapped subjects. This definition does not include response efforts beyond the rescue.

**Medical Rescue:** A Road Rescue Service Provider or Fire Department response to assist BC Emergency Health Services (operating the BC Ambulance Service, or BCAS) where there is an actual or imminent threat to life and BCAS requires assistance in accessing and moving injured subject(s) to a safe location. Such action can include treating the subject at site. This applies only where no EMBC recognized Search and Rescue (SAR) group is available to respond within a reasonable time frame and/or does not have the specific training and equipment required. The Road Rescue Service Provider or Fire Department must have the specialized rescue skills and equipment required for the response. This definition does not apply to Emergency Medical Assistant (EMA) First Responder assistance to BCAS.

**Out of Jurisdiction Response:** The service provided is outside the established municipal and/or fire protection area and is not covered under a contract, mutual aid agreement, automatic aid agreement, or extended service by-law. This definition applies to organizations that operate without a defined



jurisdictional boundary (e.g. road rescue societies not affiliated with a fire department and search and rescue societies).

**Police:** The police service responsible for the jurisdiction where the incident occurs. In most situations, it is anticipated that this will be the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

**Road Rescue:** Rescue skills that may be called upon in response to a motor vehicle accident including extrication of vehicle occupants and embankment rescue. Water rescue that is required as a direct result of a motor vehicle accident is considered part of the road rescue response, if the Road Rescue Service Provider has the necessary water rescue skills and equipment required. The term Road Rescue is also interpreted to include the use of auto extrication tools and techniques for the release of subjects trapped by other means, such as farm or industrial accidents, train wrecks, or aircraft crashes.

**Road Rescue Service Provider (hereafter service provider):** An organized fire rescue service or volunteer rescue society whose members maintain an on-going competence through participation in a training and exercise program that meets the intent of the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards on operations and training for technical rescue incidents. For references within the standard to hazmat training, EMBC will recognize the hazmat awareness level as adequate for the purposes of this policy. EMBC may at any time require the service provider to produce evidence that this requirement has been satisfied.

**All Found Rate:** All found rates include all costs associated with a rescue response, with the exception of those items specifically identified in Annex A of this policy. Rates are applicable from the time of response vehicle departure from quarters and continue until return to quarters. For responses where extrication, embankment, or medical rescue services are rendered, an additional quarter-hour will be added to account for clean up after task.

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### 2.07.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) Service providers must maintain an on-going competence through participation in a training and exercise program that meets the intent of the current NFPA standards on operations and training for technical rescue incidents and hazmat awareness.
- (2) The police and BCAS are the EMBC-recognized tasking agencies for road and medical rescue. The BC Coroner's Service and the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre may request extrication support under this policy.
- (3) An EMBC Regional Duty Manager (RDM) may authorize, on the request of the tasking agency, helicopter deployment of a service provider to a remote area. An Air Services Emergency (ASE) number is required.



- (4) The following support is available to service providers for the provision of road and medical rescue services when authorized by a task number assigned by the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC), subject to the conditions set forth in this policy:
- a. Injury, disability, and accidental death coverage.
  - b. Liability coverage. Note: EMBC does not provide liability coverage for the organization and/or the local government.
  - c. Reimbursement for eligible expenses defined in this policy.
- (5) Service providers and fire departments will only be approved for tasking in medical rescues where no EMBC recognized SAR group is available to respond and/or does not have the specific training and equipment required.
- (6) The following activities are not covered under this policy:
- a. Traffic control is only authorized for ensuring the safety of the emergency services personnel involved in the removal of the subject(s). Once the subject(s) are safely extricated, traffic control is no longer covered by EMBC. (Note: In a situation where ongoing traffic control is required for the protection of other personnel at site, coverage will only be provided for injury, disability, accidental death, and liability.)
  - b. Transportation of patients to a medical facility is the responsibility of BCAS and is not covered under the EMBC task number.
  - c. Responders accompanying BCAS in an ambulance. (Note: Task coverage for this situation may be considered by the RDM on a case-by-case basis.)
  - d. EMA First Responder calls.
  - e. Response to fire and hazmat incidents, beyond rescue of entrapped subjects.
  - f. Time waiting at scene for coroner to arrive and/or release deceased subject(s) for extrication.
- (7) Reimbursement rates will conform to:
- a. The current “Interagency Working Group Report: Reimbursement Rates” between the Office of the Fire Commissioner and the Fire Chiefs Association of British Columbia. The rate used shall be the “All Found Rate” for Rescue Vehicles. This rate applies to all attending vehicles that are deemed eligible under this policy.



- b. Road and Medical Rescue Reimbursement Schedule, for all other equipment.
- (8) Reimbursement under this policy covers one rescue vehicle unless otherwise authorized within this policy. This does not prevent the attendance of additional resources, at the expense of the service provider.
- (9) Costs associated with provision of Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) may be supported by EMBC for tasked incidents, as approved by the RDM. Incident response time does not include CISM activities.

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#### **2.07.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES**

- (1) Fire suppression resources that respond to an incident will only be reimbursed when the response falls under the definition set out in “Fire Suppression Services” in this policy. (Note: this does not prevent the service provider from deploying additional resources, at the expense of the service provider.)
- (2) A local authority fire department must be formally established through bylaw, and have appropriate approval to respond outside their jurisdiction as a service provider. Fire departments must maintain liability/insurance coverage.
- (3) Service providers who are not local authority fire departments must have comprehensive third party liability insurance. Such coverage must be in place within six months of the enactment of this policy.
- (4) Service providers are responsible to ensure adequate insurance coverage is in place for all apparatus and equipment.
- (5) Prior to responding under this policy, service providers must be registered with their EMBC regional office.

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#### **2.07.5 AUTHORITIES**

*Emergency Program Act Sections 4(2) (h) and 18*

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***Original Signed by***

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Chris Duffy  
A/Assistant Deputy Minister  
Emergency Management BC

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**2.07.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- 2.07 Road and Medical Rescue Procedures
- 2.07 Road and Medical Rescue Reimbursement Schedule
- 2.07 Road Rescue Service Provider Registration Form
- 2.07 Road and Medical Rescue FAQs
- Inter-Agency Working Group Report Reimbursement Rates