

## 4.02 PROVINCIAL FLOOD RESPONSE ASSETS

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### 4.02.1 GENERAL

The Provincial Flood Response Assets policy describes the overall considerations for the approval, allocation, and funding of provincial flood response to address imminent flood threats and to address the risk of sudden onset flood incidents that pose a serious public safety or environmental threat.

This policy does not allow the use of provincial flood response assets for the creation of permanent flood protection works.

**Related Policies:**

N/A

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### 4.02.2 DEFINITIONS

See [Terms and Definitions](#)

**British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) Goals:** The eight response goals that guide decision makers in prioritizing response activities. Although the goals are listed in order of priority, personnel take all available information into account when determining incident-specific priorities. They are: provide for the safety and health of responders; save lives; reduce suffering; protect public health; protect infrastructure; protect property; protect the environment, and reduce economic and social losses.

**Critical Asset:** Any resource where availability cannot support the demands and where the lack of supply of that resource will have major/significant/critical impacts to public safety resulting in a requirement to set a prioritization for the resource's use by the owner/holder of the asset.

**Water dam:** A water filled cylindrical tube or bladder that acts as temporary flood protection and water diversion.

**Gabion/Hesco basket:** A wirework container filled with sand or other material used for temporary flood protection works.

**Provincial flood response assets:** Provincially-owned temporary flood response equipment and devices including sandbags, sandbag machines, gabion/Hesco baskets, water dams, and other assets the province may acquire.

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### 4.02.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) Provincial flood response assets are used in emergency management to address the short-term consequences of an imminent or sudden onset flood incident that poses a serious public safety or environmental threat.

- (2) The Province has the responsibility to prioritize the provision of any requested provincial flood response asset(s) if the Province has defined a resource as a critical asset. An assessment of the values at risk (public or private infrastructure, property values) must be made and priority placed on protection of critical infrastructure or public safety as described in section 4.02.4 (2) below.
- (3) Provincial investment in temporary emergency works should be avoided where possible in favour of mitigation measures that are appropriately planned and constructed at times when the imminent threat from flooding or erosion is not a complication.
- (4) Sandbags are the primary asset used in temporary emergency works when deemed appropriate by local emergency program staff.
- (5) Gabion/Hesco baskets, water dams, and other provincial flood response assets may be utilized in conjunction with or instead of sandbags for temporary emergency works. These assets will only be deployed in situations where the terrain is appropriate, the asset can achieve the desired outcome, and sandbags are determined to be inadequate or inefficient. A provincially qualified on-site technical expert must make assessment for use of these assets.
- (6) The Province will reimburse local governments for the purchase of fill material, the rental of sandbag machines or heavy equipment, and incremental labour costs directly related to the use of provincial flood response assets according to the “Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations.”
- (7) The Province will reimburse local governments for the disposal of sandbags and fill material and clean-up of deployed flood assets, according to the “Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations.”

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### 4.02.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) The Province maintains a provincial stockpile of flood response assets to supplement the needs of provincial ministries and local governments (including local authorities, First Nation communities and their respective Band Councils).
- (2) The following factors will be used to determine the approval and provision of provincial flood response assets:
  - a. The overall priority of the request in relation to other requests;
  - b. The level of risk to public safety should the request not be filled;



- c. The estimation of the values to be protected by the flood response assets. Such values may include infrastructure or private property values, environmental values, risk of provincial liability, etc. Ultimately, emergency management decisions are guided by the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) response goals;
- d. All provincial flood response assets (excluding sandbags) require a technical assessment by a provincially qualified engineer or technician of the feasibility of the proposed work to be undertaken;
- e. The long term consequences from river channel change should the emergency works not be undertaken (for example, the severity of the hazard and costs of future mitigation works);
- f. The mitigation measures already undertaken by the local government and/or property owners; and
- g. The level of risk to worker or public safety during the undertaking of the proposed emergency works.

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#### **4.02.5 AUTHORITIES**

[Emergency Program Act](#)

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#### **4.02.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- [4.02 Provision of Sandbags Procedures](#)
- [4.02 Provision of Gabion/Hesco Baskets Procedures](#)
- [4.02 Provision of Water Dams Procedures](#)
- [Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs; A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations](#)