



## 5.14 Interim Extreme Weather Emergency Task Number Eligibility

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### 5.14.1 GENERAL

When extreme weather is forecasted actions are taken as outlined in the BC Public Alerting System or BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (HARS) and the event is considered an “emergency” within the meaning of both the *Public Health Act* and the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

Incremental reimbursement may be requested when Environment and Climate Change Canada issues an Extreme Heat or Cold Emergency, Heat or Cold Warnings, in support of a community’s response. Or when triggers are met as outlined in an Indigenous governing bodies and local authorities extreme weather plan. For the purposes of this policy, extreme weather is considered to be extreme heat or cold that is outside the region's normal range of weather.

As a result, task numbers can be requested by Indigenous governing bodies and local authorities for eligible emergency response costs, effective on the date of this policy, and within the meaning of the Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation.

#### **Related Policies and Guidelines:**

- Policy 2.02 TASK AUTHORIZATION
- Policy 5.02 EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT
- Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations
- BC Public Alerting System
- BC Provincial Heat Alert and Response System (HARS)

### 5.14.2 DEFINITIONS

For a comprehensive understanding of the definitions outlined in this policy, please refer to the corresponding 'Terms and Definitions' document located on the Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) Emergency Management [policies page](#).

### 5.14.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) Costs accrued by Indigenous governing bodies and Local Authorities responding to extreme weather emergencies before the effective date of this policy (i.e., retroactive costs) will not be reimbursed. Except in circumstances where prior task and expense approval has already been given by EMCR.
- (2) Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations outlines prospective extreme weather emergency response costs eligible for reimbursement by EMCR which include:
  - Incremental costs associated with activating an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) including activities related to planning, implementation, or monitoring of any specific response actions or measures directed by the Province of British Columbia through the Public Health Officer or



the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, or by federal counterparts in collaboration with First Nation governments within the Province.

- Incremental costs for the continuation of locally administered essential services. Included in the plans of Indigenous governing bodies and Local Authorities, essential services are critical to preserving life, health, and basic societal functioning.
- Costs associated with the organization of appropriately trained and equipped personnel, including volunteers, to meet the needs of vulnerable persons in isolation who cannot access support networks.

(2) EMCR will work with Indigenous governing bodies and Local Authorities to receive all response claims electronically to meet the expected demands and need for expedited payments and enable remote approvals by payment processing staff.

(3) This is an iterative policy and may be adjusted in response to unanticipated consequences or to reflect the dynamic reality of an extreme weather emergency.

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## 5.14.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

Indigenous governing body and Local Authority EOCs are asked to consider:

- Prudent use of staffing and physical assets.
- Employing the full range of employees that may be available, as well as volunteers, to implement necessary measures to sustain the long-term activation of a local EOC.
- Exercising patience when requesting expenditure authorization and resources from Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres.

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## 5.14.5 AUTHORITIES

- *Emergency and Disaster Management Act, Section 9*
- *Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation*

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### *Original Signed by*

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## 5.14.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs: A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations
- Eligibility Assessment for Extreme Weather