



**Air Services Emergency (ASE):** A control number assigned by EMBC for tracking an approved air asset response such as an aircraft, helicopter, or unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV). An ASE number does NOT indicate approval of emergency response funding.

**British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS):** A comprehensive management framework that ensures a coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to emergency incidents. The broad spectrum of components of BCEMS includes operations and control management, qualifications, technology, training, and publications.

**British Columbia Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA):** is the organization representing GSAR Groups in British Columbia. The BCSARA board consists of elected directors and stakeholder agencies responsible for GSAR in BC.

**Capability:** Means GSAR Techniques as defined in GSAR Group Designations, Annex 2.12.

**Critical Incident Stress Management Program (CISM):** Peer based program through BCSARA and supported by EMBC.

**Convergent Volunteer:** An individual who offers their service and/or expertise during a recognized Public Safety Lifeline activity. They are signed into the task but are not a current, registered Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer.

**Data Management System (DMS):** The on-line data management system, used to capture and record essential information on all GSAR activities and members.

**Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA):** DFA is a provincially legislated program, under the [Emergency Program Act](#) and the [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#), to help Local Government Bodies and individuals impacted by a disaster cope with the cost of recovery from property damage for those events specifically designated as eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA).

**Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC):** Emergency Coordination Centre based in Victoria and staffed 24/7. The ECC is the main point of contact between GSAR Groups and EMBC Regional Managers for Task numbers, resources, and response approvals.

**Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC):** Emergency Management BC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including planning, training, testing, and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness. This work is done in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers. These steps taken in advance of a disaster will help the response effort and help British Columbians along the road to recovery. EMBC coordinates and supports authorized GSAR activities providing registered volunteers with Workers Compensation coverage and liability insurance as well as reimbursement for eligible expenses incurred during operations.

**Emergency Operations Centre (EOC):** A designated facility established by an agency or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall agency or jurisdictional emergency response and support to site in an emergency response.

**Emergency Radio Communications (ERC):** Radio communications volunteers who provide emergency radio communication service during emergencies and exercises. Most volunteers in the radio communication service will be licenced amateur radio operators although other radio communication



modes, such as citizen band (CB) radios, may be used. Although non-licensed volunteers are a valuable resource, their utilization in the communication service may be restricted in the operation of radio communication equipment.

**Emergency Response Funding:** Funding available through EMBC for the reimbursement of certain incremental and extraordinary emergency response costs as authorized under the [Emergency Program Act](#).

**Emergency Support Services (ESS):** Volunteers who provide services that preserve the emotional and physical well-being of survivors and response workers in an emergency. They include, but are not limited to, reception, food services, lodging, clothing, registration and inquiry, personal, and financial services.

**Event:** means a combination of incidents, in the same or different geographic locations, which are all linked.

**Expense Approval:** The following EMBC positions are authorized to provide approvals for expenditures to undertake specific emergency response works under Task: Regional Duty Manager, Regional Manager, Provincial Duty Manager, Senior Regional Manager, and others as specified by EMBC.

**Expenditure Authorization Form (EAF):** A local government may use this form to verify eligibility of specific emergency response costs.

**General Service Volunteer:** The general service volunteer component is comprised of all other volunteers who provide their services to either a local authority or Emergency Management BC, including clerical staff, drivers, exercise facilitators, first aiders, and manual workers. Volunteers who offer to perform short-term services in response to a specific emergency or disaster response task will also be included in this component.

**Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR):** The conduct of a search and rescue response to assist persons lost, missing, injured, or in distress on land and inland waters.

**Ground Search and Rescue Council of Canada (GSARCC):** is comprised of representatives from all provinces and territories

**GSAR Group:** A community-based organization recognized by EMBC as meeting the requirements listed in Annex 2.12.

**GSAR Incident:** An event which leads to a GSAR Response.

**GSAR Leader:** Any person with responsibility of direction and control over GSAR volunteers and other persons while preparing for or responding to GSAR incidents. This term includes, but is not limited to; Training Officers, Team Leaders (Ground Search, Rope Rescue, or Swift water), SAR Manager, SAR Commander, and SAR Incident Section Chiefs.

**GSAR Response:** The combined activities involved in searching for, rescuing, or recovering any person(s) who become lost, stranded, injured or deceased while in the out-of-doors.

**GSAR Team:** A group of persons trained to minimum standards as set by EMBC for GSAR Resources deployed to the field on a GSAR operation.

**GSAR Volunteer:** One who, as part of a GSAR group having completed the required training, including maintaining competencies, may be called upon to assist and support the police or other authorized



agency(s) in searching for, rescuing, or recovering any persons who become lost, stranded, injured or deceased while in the out-of-doors.

**Incident:** means a single occurrence of a specific hazard in one geographic location.

**Incident Commander (IC):** The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site. The term 'Incident Commander' includes Unified Command. During GSAR operations in British Columbia, the role of the Incident Commander is filled by a representative of the police, BC Ambulance Service, Fire Services, Coroner or Parks Canada working with the SAR Manager.

**Incident Command Post (ICP):** The location at which the primary command functions are executed. The ICP may be co-located or shared with the incident base or other incident facilities.

**Incident Command System (ICS):** A standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective. Originally developed as a fire response management system by various jurisdictions in the United States, the Province of BC has adopted ICS as the standard for emergency site management as part of its BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).

**Indigenous Services Canada (ISC):** The federal department that has primary responsibility for meeting the federal government's constitutional, treaty, political and legal responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit, and Northerners.

**Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) Victoria:** The joint Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)/Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) coordination centre operated at CFB Esquimalt to coordinate and control SAR response in support of air and marine incidents in the Victoria Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

**Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC):** is a provincial post-secondary institution with a mission to develop justice, public safety, and Ground Search and Rescue professionals through its applied education, training, and research.

**Local Authority:** means:

- (a) for a municipality, the municipal council,
- (b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district, or
- (c) for a national park, the park superintendent or the park superintendent's delegate if an agreement has been entered into with the government of Canada in which it is agreed that the park superintendent is a local authority for the purposes of this Act.

**Member in Training (MIT):** A member of a GSAR Group who is in the process of completing the required training to be registered as a GSAR Volunteer.

**Operation:** A Search and Rescue mission including its planning and execution.

**Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) Air:** A BC-wide volunteer aviation association dedicated to the promotion of Aviation Safety and to the provision of air search support services to the National Search and Rescue Program. PEP Air operates under the standards and procedures of the national Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) as approved by the Department of National Defence (DND).

**Provincial Training Committee:** Comprised of representatives from BCSARA, EMBC, and stakeholders.



**Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC):** The organizational structure responsible for managing the provincial emergency response at the regional level.

**Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) Discipline** means one of the following:

- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Emergency Support Services (ESS)
- Emergency Radio Communications (ERC)
- PEP Air
- Road Rescue

**Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) Organization:** An EMBC recognized provincial, federal or community-based society, or unincorporated group established to support volunteers engaged in preparing for and responding to emergencies, and/or providing advice to government.

**Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer (PSLV):** Includes Search and Rescue, Emergency Support Services, Emergency Radio Communications, PEP Air, Road Rescue and/or General Service volunteers who are registered with Emergency Management BC.

**Recovery Costs:** Those costs that are eligible for DFA as per Schedule 5 of the [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#).

**Resource Requests:** Requests for Resources are completed by the Operations Section and then are forwarded to Logistics for acquisition of the resources. Logistics then forwards approved and completed Request for Resources to the Finance/Administration Section in the EOC to track costs.

**Regional Specialty Team:** A Regional Specialty Team includes members from multiple GSAR Groups that come together for training, and response. This allows multiple GSAR Groups to share the administration, training, and equipment costs related to maintaining an approved Capability.

**Requesting Agencies:** Government organizations that are approved by EMBC under Search and Rescue Policy 2.12 to request GSAR Volunteers respond to an incident within the organization's area of responsibility.

**Resource Member:** Individuals having specific skill-sets i.e.: mountain guides, ski patrollers, river/rafting guides, avalanche technicians, snowmobile group members, etc., who, after successfully completing an EMRG 1703 Introduction To Search And Rescue In British Columbia online course and specified modules of the GSAR program or equivalent as specified by the GSAR Group's training program in relation to the usage of the Resource Member, may be utilized in a GSAR Response to the extent of their training.

**RADeMS (Response Assessment and Decision Making Support):** an 'all hazards tool' to evaluate risks that may be encountered during GSAR activities.

**Response:** The setup of command or initiation of on-site GSAR Response operations

**Responsible Agencies:** Government organizations that have the primary responsibility for all or parts of GSAR Responses within their mandate and/or legislation.



**Road Rescue 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.

**Search and Rescue (SAR):** Volunteers called upon to assist and support the police or other authorized agency(s) in searching for, rescuing, or recovering any persons who become lost, stranded, or injured, generally while in the out-of-doors.

**SAR Liaison Committee:** Agencies and organizations involved in Marine, Air, Ground and Urban Search and Rescue: Canadian Coast Guard, Canadian Forces, EMBC, RCMP, Municipal Police, BCAS, BCSARA, Parks Canada, PEP Air/CASARA, HUSAR.

**Search and Rescue Manager (SAR Manager):** A person who is trained and experienced in search and rescue, and having completed the JIBC SAR Management course, manages and coordinates a GSAR Response by leading and directing the SAR Resources.

**SAR Resource:** May be an individual GSAR Volunteer; a Technical Team; a vehicle; or piece of equipment.

**SAR Review:** A process bringing Agency Representatives and GSAR Volunteers together following a response to discuss what went well, what challenges were encountered, and to make recommendations to improve future responses.

**The Search and Rescue Volunteer Association of Canada (SARVAC):** is a registered not-for-profit and educational organization that supports, coordinates, develops, informs, promotes, and implements CSA-approved search and rescue emergency response with the underlying principle of saving lives.

**Search and Rescue Volunteer Joint Health and Safety Committee:** Consists of representatives from the GSAR community and provincial government to address health and safety issues across all aspects of volunteer involvement in GSAR.

**Support Member:** An individual who provides task, training, governance, or administrative support but is not field-deployable.

**Supporting Organizations:** Agencies such as EMBC and organizations such as BCSARA which provide support to GSAR Volunteers.

**Task:** An authorized GSAR operation.

**Task Number:** A control number assigned by EMBC for tracking an approved response. A task number does NOT indicate approval of emergency response funding.

**Technical Rescue:** A GSAR Response that requires specialized skills, equipment, training and experience to safely and effectively conduct a rescue or recovery. See Annex 2.12 for the list of current technical rescue capabilities EMBC recognizes.

**Unified Command:** Is a structure, which allows all responsible agencies to manage a response by establishing a common set of incident objectives, strategies, and action plans. Members of the Unified Command have decision-making authority for the response. This is accomplished without any agency losing or giving up authority, responsibility, or accountability.