



TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

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

Convergent Volunteer: means an individual that offers their service and/or expertise during a Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) activity and is signed in to the task but is not a registered PSL volunteer.

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA): A provincial program under the [Emergency Program Act](#) and the [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#) that can provide disaster assistance to persons and Local Government Bodies in accordance with this legislation.

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC): EMBC's 24/7 emergency call centre in Victoria.

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.

Emergency Radio Communications: 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-licenced 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 Social Services (ESS): Volunteers who provide services that preserve the emotional and physical well-being of survivors and response workers in an emergency. They include reception, food services, lodging, clothing, registration and inquiry, personal, and financial services.



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.

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.

Incident: An occurrence, either human caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by response personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and the environment to reduce economic and social losses.

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 SAR 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.

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).

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).

Local Authority: A term used to describe jurisdictions below the provincial government level. These could be a municipal council or board of a regional district, depending on the organization of responsibilities.

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).



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

- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Emergency Social Services (ESS)
- Emergency Radio Communications
- 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 Social Services, Emergency Radio Communications, PEP Air, and Road Rescue volunteers.

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.

Search and Rescue Manager (SAR Manager): Under the general direction of the Incident Commander, the SAR Manager will manage the volunteer SAR response during a SAR response.

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