
FACTSHEET

February 2017

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Emergency Management BC

Emergency Social Services

British Columbians forced from their homes by fire, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies may receive Emergency Social Services for up to 72 hours for immediate needs when alternative supports, including insurance, are not available.

Services may include mass care supports including meals, group lodging, clothing, emotional support, and information about the crisis and family reunification.

Specialized services such as first aid, child minding, pet care and transportation may also be available.

Facts:

- Under the *Emergency Program Act* (<http://ow.ly/LHvv308aP7x>), municipalities, First Nations communities and regional districts are responsible for responding to emergencies in their areas, including providing emergency social services.
- Mobile Support Teams (MSTs) are located throughout the Province to provide mentorship and additional support to local emergency social services efforts when requested.
- Capable personnel can also be called in from all across North America and around the world in the event of a large scale or catastrophic event.
- Numerous other relief agencies may be deployed to address the public health, medical and mental health needs upon request when required.
- Each year about 5,000 British Columbians volunteer to support 114 Emergency Social Service programs.
- Between January 2016 and January 2017, there were 347 calls for Emergency Social Services assistance impacting 2,445 residents in B.C.

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