

PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The All-Hazard Plan

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BRITISH COLUMBIA

4/11/2012

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Amendments

Sept. 24, 2012	Delete reference to “radiation” for Ministry of Environment on page 17.
Sept. 24, 2012	Add “offshore” to discussion on marine oil spills coordinated by the federal government on page 13.
Jan 15, 2014	Added description of CEMP to the Scope. (p.7)
Jan 15, 2014	Added Ministry of Natural Gas and Development to the table and transferred gas and gas leaks and land subsidence caused by petroleum extraction to the areas of responsibility. Added tailings dam failure and land subsidence caused by the collapse of old mine workings or of active underground mines to the Ministry of Energy and Mines. (p.16-18).
Jan 15, 2014	Deleted section regarding the PECC/PREOC Executive Director. (p.28)
Jan 15, 2014	Deleted reference to PECC/PREOC levels. These definitions are under review and will be re-inserted when finalized.
Jan 15, 2014	Replaced word system with structure to properly reflect BCERMS. (pages 30, 35, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Energy and Mines: Deleted oil and gas policy, offshore oil and gas policy and building policy. Added technical advice, support. Added electricity policy; tenure mines and minerals policy; health, safety, permitting and inspections of mining projects and corrected BC Geological Survey. Deleted the Oil and Gas Commission and the BC Housing Management Commission from the list of commissions and associated descriptions. (p. 45/6)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Environment: Added pollution prevention and water protection to the areas of expertise listed. (p. 46)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations: Added land use planning and replaced “mapping” with “GeoBC and information management”. (p. 47)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Health: Replaced public health issues with public health planning and response. (p.48)
Jan 15, 2014	Added Ministry of International Trade and associated description. (p. 49)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training: Changed ministry name (previously Jobs, Tourism and Innovation), deleted international trade policy, land use planning and matters involving the mountain pine beetle from the list of policy areas. Added Economic and sector analysis. (p. 49)
Jan 15, 2014	Added Ministry of Natural Gas Development and description, which includes the Oil and Gas Commission, BC Housing Management Commission and BC Safety Authority. (p.52)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Social Development and Social Innovation: Modified the Ministry name (previously Social Development). Deleted multiculturalism and added volunteer and non-profit support in list of policy areas. (p. 53)
Jan 15, 2014	Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizen’s Services: Modified the Ministry name (previously Ministry of Labour, Citizen’s Services and Open Government). Deleted sentence regarding agreements. Updated the description. (p. 53)
June 6, 2015	Replaced Wildfire Management Branch with BC Wildfire Service. (p.47)
June 22, 2016	Replaced all references of BCERMS with BCEMS. (pages 9, 11, 21, 30, 31, 66)
June 22, 2016	Deleted “EMBC houses the BC Coroners Service.” (p.9)
June 22, 2016	Replaced Ministry of Justice with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure.

	(p.10)
June 22, 2016	Updated “Technical Lead by Hazard Matrix” to reflect EMBC’s move from Ministry of Justice to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. (pages 18-20)
June 22, 2016	Replaced “Ministry of Justice” with “Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General” (pages 18-20)
June 22, 2016	Changed BCERMS to BCEMS. Updated wording of the summary and response goals. (p. 21)
June 22, 2016	Updated link to BCEMS. (p. 31)
June 22, 2016	Changed AANDC to INAC. (pages 34, 37, 42)
June 22, 2016	Changed Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada to Global Affairs Canada. (p. 35)
June 22, 2016	Changed Emergency Health Services Commission to BC Emergency Health Services. (p.38)
June 22, 2016	Added “Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General” to “Roles and Responsibilities: Provincial Ministries.” Included responsibilities previously held by the Ministry of Justice. (pages 52, 53)
June 22, 2016	Ministry of Justice: Removed responsibilities now held by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. (p. 52, 53)
March 30, 2022	Fixed broken weblinks.

All-Hazard Plan

Purpose

The All-Hazard Plan outlines the response framework for emergencies and disasters that require the activation of Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) to coordinate the provincial integrated response. This plan is the basis for the response to the danger, or risk, posed by all types of hazards in British Columbia.

Scope

The All-Hazard Plan:

- Outlines a provincial all-hazards methodology compatible with the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS);
- Describes the roles and responsibilities of provincial ministries and agencies, local authorities, federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, volunteers and the private sector; and
- Outlines collaborative intergovernmental relationships and integration between local, provincial and federal agencies.

The All-Hazard Plan outlines the operational structure and responsibilities of the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC) managed by EMBC. It does not detail the activities of provincial ministry operation centres located outside the purview of EMBC as these are addressed in ministry response plans.

The All-Hazard Plan provides an overview of the role of local authorities and local authority EOCs. Additional information on EOC activities, roles and responsibilities can be found in EOC Operational Guidelines or local authority response plans.

The All-Hazard Plan is the primary component of the [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan](#) (CEMP). The CEMP also includes support annexes that address functional aspects of emergency management and hazard specific annexes.

Plan Administration

The All-Hazard Plan will be reviewed and updated by EMBC every four years. In addition, it will be reviewed and updated if necessary following cabinet shuffles or changes in government.

Role of Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC)

EMBC is the coordinating agency for the provincial government's emergency management activities. EMBC provides executive coordination, strategic planning and multi-agency facilitation and continually develops effective working relationships in an increasingly complex emergency management environment. The overall purpose of EMBC is to increase life, safety and resiliency for individuals and communities throughout British Columbia.

EMBC aims to reduce the consequences of emergency events by providing support and leadership to local authorities. EMBC houses the Office of the Fire Commissioner. The focus of the All-Hazard Plan is to detail the provincial emergency management structure and provincial government support to local authority emergency management organizations.

Relationship to Other Provincial Government Plans

The Emergency Program Management Regulation Schedule 1 establishes the responsibility for provincial ministries to develop hazard specific emergency response plans. Ministry plans must also follow the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).

During events that require the activation of the provincial emergency management system, the All-Hazard Plan and any other relevant ministry plans will be activated. EMBC will act as the coordinating provincial agency while the ministry responsible will coordinate tactical and operational response to the hazard. The plans work in unison, allowing each ministry to fulfill its statutory obligations while contributing to the overall BCEMS response goals. Ministry plans will guide ministry activities and the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) will guide EMBC activities.

Relationship to Local Authority Plans

The *Emergency Program Act* and the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation established the responsibility of local authorities to develop emergency plans based on the hazards and vulnerabilities in their communities. Although not legislated to do so, local authority emergency response plans often follow BCEMS to provide for maximum inter-operability within the provincial emergency management system.

The All-Hazard Plan does not override local authority plans except where a local authority is under a provincial state of emergency. During events that require the activation of the provincial emergency management system, both the local authority plan and the All-Hazard Plan may be activated. Local authority plans guide local authority response and the CEMP will guide EMBC activities.

Authorities

The All-Hazard Plan is developed under the authority of the *Emergency Program Act* and the Emergency Program Management Regulations.

Governance

Emergency Management British Columbia is a branch of the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. Under section 7 of the *Emergency Program Act* the Minister may designate the authority to activate provincial emergency plans even if a state of emergency has not been declared. This authority has been provided to the head of EMBC by a delegation order.

Planning Assumptions

NATURE OF EMERGENCIES

- Emergencies and disasters can result in:
 - Fatalities;
 - Casualties;
 - Displaced people;
 - Interruption of essential public services;
 - Property damage or loss;
 - Economic impacts;
 - Damage to basic infrastructure; and
 - Significant harm to the environment.
- Emergencies vary in scope and intensity, from small, localized incidents with minimal damage, to multi-jurisdictional disasters resulting in extensive devastation and loss of life.
- There are “notice” and “no-notice” events. “No-notice” emergency events occur with little or no warning and can cause an extreme emergency condition in any area of the province. During a “notice” emergency, prior warning may come from outside organizations that have access to scientific methods for predicting floods, forest fires and severe weather. Where reliable prediction is possible, action can be taken before the onset of an emergency.
- Individuals, community-based organizations and businesses may offer services and support in time of disaster.
- Emergencies can exceed the capabilities of private sector infrastructure owners, local authorities and the Provincial government.
- The greater the complexity, impact and geographic scope of an emergency, the more multi-agency coordination and resource sharing will likely be required.
- The combined expertise and capabilities of all levels of government, the private sector, and other nongovernmental organizations will be required to prevent, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies of major or catastrophic proportions.

- In major emergencies or disasters, a spontaneous influx of donations, convergent volunteers and supplies may occur and create additional management challenges.
- Consequences are typically managed at the geographic, organizational and jurisdictional level that is most appropriate to the scope of the event.
- A situation occurring at the international or national level may reverse or otherwise change the normal “bottom-up” approach to response.
- Individuals and families are educated and encouraged to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 hours, however, recent events have shown that individuals and families should have emergency supplies at hand for a week or longer.

Local Authority Response

- Local governments will initiate actions to save lives and property in support of the site command.
- The Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation requires that every local authority in British Columbia establish an emergency management organization and develop and maintain a current local emergency plan. Local authorities will activate emergency plans and directly control the resources under their jurisdiction for the purpose of emergency response and recovery.
- Local authorities have capabilities, plans and procedures to provide for the safety of their citizens during emergencies. They will execute the initial response using jurisdictional resources as well as resources available through mutual aid/assistance agreements.
- Local authorities have direct control of the resources available under their jurisdiction.

Provincial Response

- The Province will coordinate available resources to provide emergency response assistance that supplements but does not substitute for community resources.
- Provincial ministries will mobilize to deliver emergency and critical services during emergencies and disasters. The ability of ministries to carry out critical services is enhanced by the creation and maintenance of business continuity plans.
- Emergency response and recovery will be carried out in accordance with the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).
- Emergency Management British Columbia can activate, on short notice, one or more Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) and/or the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) to coordinate provincial response and recovery, monitor emergency events and assist impacted communities in emergency response and recovery.
- If several ministries are involved in an integrated provincial response, EMBC will coordinate integrated provincial emergency management through the PREOCs and PECC.
- When the Province determines that there is a need for federal government support, the process to obtain federal emergency assistance is initiated by a verbal request followed by a formal letter from the Minister or a designated alternate elected official.

- The federal government will provide emergency assistance to British Columbia when requested.
- Sustained provincial incident management operations and support activities may be required over the long term to support community recovery and mitigation.
- During a catastrophic event, resource shortfalls at all levels of government may require the Province to look to other governments and international organizations for assistance.

Situation

GEOGRAPHY

As of 2010, the population of British Columbia was 4.53 million people. The major population centres are Metro Vancouver (pop. 2.4 million) and the Capital Regional District (pop. 370,000). Other population centres include: Kelowna, Kamloops, Nanaimo and Prince George.

There are 27 regional districts, 160 municipalities, 198 First Nations bands and six treaty First Nations communities in B.C.

British Columbia is ethnically and culturally diverse. According to the 2001 census, the top ten languages in the province are English, Chinese, Punjabi, German, French, Tagalog, Spanish, Italian, Korean and Dutch. Each year over 40,000 immigrants arrive from around the world.

British Columbia is bordered by:

- Washington State, Idaho and Montana to the south;
- Alberta to the east;
- the Northwest and Yukon territories to the north;
- Alaska to the northwest; and
- Pacific Ocean to the west.

British Columbia's ecology is varied with coastal, mountainous, plateau and desert terrains as well as extensive river and lake systems. B.C.'s total land and freshwater area is 95 million hectares, occupying about ten per cent of Canada's land surface. British Columbia has nearly 1,000 provincial parks and protected areas, attracting about 20 million visitors each year.

Hazards in British Columbia

The diversity of British Columbia's climate and geography creates a diverse hazard profile. There are numerous identified manmade and natural hazards within B.C. including earthquakes, tsunamis, overland floods, hazardous material spills and wildfires. Continued urbanization and climate change will directly influence the number, types and severity of disasters faced by individuals, communities and all levels of government in the future. High-risk hazards are detailed as follows:

SEISMIC

Earthquake

Earthquakes are unpredictable events and rank among the most severe hazards threatening British Columbia. Damaging earthquakes can occur anywhere in British Columbia and coastal waters, but the highest risk is in the coastal regions. Three types of earthquakes can occur within British Columbia: shallow North America plate earthquakes; deep Juan de Fuca Plate earthquakes; and subduction zone earthquakes.

Historically, British Columbia has experienced some of the world's largest earthquakes. This includes a magnitude 9.0 event along the Cascadia subduction zone in 1700 and a magnitude 8.1 earthquake along the Queen Charlotte Fault in 1949. Further, the 1918 magnitude 7.0 and 1946 magnitude 7.3 shallow earthquakes on Vancouver Island were among the largest earthquakes recorded in North America during the 20th century.

Annually, thousands of earthquakes take place in and adjacent to British Columbia. A small number are large enough to cause damage if they occur in populated areas. Compared to other hazards threatening the province, earthquakes have a lower risk of occurring, but could potentially result in very serious consequences.

TSUNAMI

Tsunamis are a rare but serious threat to coastal communities of British Columbia. The three main types of tsunamis that could impact British Columbia's coast are Pacific-wide tsunamis, regional tsunamis, and local tsunamis.

In 1964, the Alaskan Earthquake caused a regional tsunami that impacted the B.C. coast. This tsunami caused millions of dollars of damage to several communities. Port Alberni on Vancouver Island was the most severely affected community. Because of its geographic location and topography, British Columbia continues to be a region with a high risk of tsunami.

VOLCANIC

Volcanic Eruption

Many of the mountain peaks in British Columbia are dormant volcanoes. There are four volcanic belts within British Columbia: the Anahim, Garibaldi, Stikine and Wells-Gray. At least ten volcanoes in these regions have experienced earthquake activity since 1985. Some of the

volcanoes have also offered evidence of geothermal heat, indicating that they may still be active.

Mount Baker in Washington State could also affect Canada because of its proximity to the Canadian border. A Mount Baker eruption could impact southern British Columbia with volcanic ash, volcanic mudflows ("lahars") or floods in stream valleys that originate near Mount Baker but cross the border into Canada. Mount Meager, Mount Cayley and Mount Garibaldi in southwest B.C. all have the potential for explosive eruptions which could generate volcanic ash, possibly disrupting air traffic in addition to the public safety risks on the ground nearby.

The most recent volcanic eruption in Canada was a small lava eruption that took place approximately 150 years ago at Lava Fork in northwestern B.C. The last large explosive eruption in Canada occurred approximately 2350 years ago at Mount Meager in southwest B.C. Scientific studies have indicated that ash was scattered as far away as Alberta. In 2007, the Nazko region experienced a seismic swarm, piquing the interest of volcanologists and emergency planners.

WILDFIRE

Wildfires generally occur in British Columbia between May and September. B.C. experiences, on average, 2,000 wildfires annually. A small percentage of these are wildland urban interface fires, which occur in areas where structures and other human development meet and intermix with wildland areas containing flammable vegetation, such as trees, brushes, and grasses. Although only a small percentage of wildfires are in interface areas, the impacts can be devastating.

The summer of 2009 was one of the worst fire seasons on record in terms of economic losses and areas burned. The season took place between May 2nd and September 23rd. The PECC was activated for 53 days and PREOCs were activated for a total of 127 days. Further, 21 local authority emergency operations centres were activated and more than 20,000 individuals were evacuated from their homes. Only the 2003 fire season was more devastating, resulting in the loss of or damage to 310 homes and the evacuation of over 50,000 people.

HYDROLOGICAL

Flood

There are two flood seasons in British Columbia- fall flooding and freshet (spring) flooding. Fall flooding is caused by storm systems containing heavy rainfall which inundates the river systems. Freshet flooding is caused by spring snow melt and can be escalated by rain-on-snow events.

In 2007, there was a risk of freshet flooding in many areas of the province due to higher than normal snow packs. The northwest region of B.C. was most affected. Much of Terrace was evacuated due to flooding and the community became isolated as a result of highway closures on both sides of the city. In January 2009, a rain-on-snow weather event resulted in extensive flooding for Chilliwack and portions of the Fraser Valley Regional District. Freezing conditions

overwhelmed the drainage works within the area and more than 1000 individuals were evacuated from their homes for as many as 45 days. In addition to flooding, the weather event also caused numerous landslides, impacting properties and roads due to slope instability. Recovery costs for the event were nearly \$9 million as a result of damage to infrastructure.

Drought

In British Columbia, drought may be caused by combinations of insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather or a delay in rainfall resulting in a water shortage for communities, agriculture or aquatic ecosystems. Droughts can be defined as meteorological, hydrological, agricultural or socio-economic, each of which implies different impacts. Droughts vary in length but can cause significant damage and harm to the local economy.

In 2010, the Peace River area reached Drought Level 4 which is defined as extremely dry conditions resulting in insufficient water supply to meet community or ecosystem needs. Water use restrictions were intensified, including an elimination of water withdrawals from specific rivers by the oil and gas industry. Dawson Creek faced a serious drought risk and implemented strict water use restrictions to conserve the resource.

Severe Weather/Storm Surge

Severe weather refers to any dangerous meteorological phenomena that poses risks to life, property and/or causes serious social disruption. Severe weather events can contribute to other hazards such as flooding and landslides. In 2006, British Columbia experienced a series of intense winter storms with winds between 70 and 100 kilometres per hour. Infrastructure and property were damaged and over 800,000 BC Hydro customers, or an estimated 1.6 million residents, experienced at least one power outage between late October and mid- January.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL AND SPILLS

Hazardous Material Events

Hazardous materials are a category of substances that includes dangerous goods, special wastes, recycled materials, biohazards and landfill materials. A hazardous material incident is an event which occurs during manufacturing, use, transportation, storage, handling or disposal of a substance where the release or imminent threat of release of that substance may cause serious damage or risk to health, life, property or the environment.

Oil Spills

There are two types of oil spills- inland and marine. Oil spills that occur on land or in freshwater lakes, streams and rivers are categorized as inland. Inland oil spills originate from events such as pipeline ruptures, train derailments or vehicle accidents. Marine oil spills occur in coastal marine and estuarine waters. Response to offshore marine oil spills is coordinated by the federal government.

In 2007, the rupture of a delivery pipeline during road construction resulted in an inland oil spill in Burnaby. Approximately 235,000 litres of sweet crude oil were released into the environment, impacting homes, roadways, sewer systems and shorelines. Also in 2007, a barge carrying heavy equipment sank in the ecologically sensitive water region known as Robson Bight, creating a marine spill with an oil slick of approximately 62 square kilometres.

Dam Breach

Dams in B.C. vary in purpose from hydro electric to domestic supply and range in size from small privately-owned irrigation dams to BC Hydro's 242 metre high Mica Dam. Due to the topography of British Columbia, many dams have been constructed high in the mountains, often above populated corridors containing highways, railways, residential dwellings and/or communities.

Historically dam failures have caused damage to property and loss of life within B.C. In May 1995, a six metre high earth-filled irrigation dam failed, causing approximately half a million dollars damage. The sudden release of water destroyed 1.5 kilometres of public road, damaged 100 acres of hay fields and introduced 700,000 cubic metres of material into the Quesnel River. On Sunday June 13, 2010 a privately-owned earthen dam at a man-made reservoir on Testalinden Creek failed. The failure resulted in a debris and mud torrent that caused severe damage to agricultural lands and damaged or destroyed several buildings, including three homes.

DISEASE AND EPIDEMICS

Pandemic Influenza

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), a pandemic influenza occurs when a known influenza strain changes to a new and virulent strain that is readily transmitted from human to human and against which people have little to no immunity. The increase in globalization and urbanization allow new influenza viruses to quickly take hold around the world.

The worst known impacts of pandemic influenza occurred during 1918–1919, when an H1N1 virus killed an estimated 30,000 to 50,000 people in Canada and over 20 million people worldwide. In the spring of 2009, the outbreak of H1N1 influenza signalled the first occurrence of a pandemic influenza (WHO phase 6) in over 40 years.

TERRORISM

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosive Events (CBRNE)

CBRNE events refer to the uncontrolled release of chemicals, biological agents or radioactive contamination into the environment or explosions that cause widespread damage. CBRNE events can be caused by accidents or by terrorist attacks.

There has been an increased focus on CBRNE terrorist events since the terrorist attacks that destroyed the World Trade Centre and damaged the Pentagon in 2001. Since then, there have

been great advancements in the ability to detect, prevent and respond to such events. Extensive CBRNE planning, including fatality management was conducted in B.C. in anticipation of the 2010 Vancouver Olympics, a high-profile event which posed a potential target for CBRNE attacks.

Technical Lead by Hazard Matrix

The following chart outlines the key provincial ministries by hazard as listed in the Emergency Program Management Regulation. The chart does account for changes in ministry names, areas of responsibility and branch transfers since the original filing of the regulation in 1994 and, as such, is more current than the regulations.

Hazard Groups	Hazard	Agriculture	Environment	Transportation and Infrastructure	Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	Energy and Mines	Natural Gas and Development	Health	Public Safety and Solicitor General
Accidents	Air crash			X					
	Marine Accidents			X					
	Motor Vehicle			X					
Atmosphere	Snow storms			X					
	Blizzards			X					
	Ice storms			X					
	Hail storms			X					
	Lightning			X					
	Hurricane			X					
	Tornado			X					
	Heat waves			X					
Dam Failure	Dam failure				X				
	Tailings Dam Failure					X (on-site)			
Disease and Epidemics	Human Disease							X	
	Animal disease	X							
	Plant disease	X							
	Pest infestations	X							

Hazard Groups	Hazard	Agriculture	Environment	Transportation and Infrastructure	Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations	Energy and Mines	Natural Gas and Development	Health	Public Safety and Solicitor General
Explosions and Emissions	Gas and gas leaks (pipeline)		X						
	Gas and gas leaks (gas wells)						X (through OGC)		
	Mine explosion					X			
	Other explosions			X					
Fire – Urban and Rural	Urban and rural fire			X					
General	General/ non-specific			X					
Geological	Avalanches (highways)			X					
	Avalanches (other)			X					
	Debris avalanches and debris flows		X						
	Landslides (highways)			X					
	Landslides (other)			X					
	Submarine slides		X						
	Land subsidence					X (caused by drought)	X (caused by the collapse of old mine workings or of active underground mines)	X (caused by petroleum extraction)	

Hazardous Materials	Hazardous spills (general)		X						
	Hazardous spills (radiation)							X	
Hydrological	Drought				X				
	Erosion and Accretion				X				
	Flooding			X	X ¹				
	Ice jams			X					
	Storm surges			X					
Power Outage	Electrical power outages			X					
Riots	Riots/public disorder								X
Seismic	Seismic ground motion			X					
	Seismic tsunamis			X					
Space Object	Space object crash			X					
Structural	Structural collapse			X					
Terrorism	Terrorism								X
Volcanic	Volcanic ash falls			X					
	Volcanic pyroclastic flows			X					
	Volcanic lava flows			X					
	Volcanic mudflows			X					
Wildfire	Wildfires (including interface)				X				

¹ There are two technical leads for flooding events. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is the technical lead due to infrastructure impacted by flooding. The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is the technical lead for subject matter experts, including forecasting and mitigation works.

Provincial Emergency Management Structure

When an emergency or disaster occurs that requires coordination of provincial emergency management activities and/or has created a request for assistance from a local authority or another ministry, the provincial emergency management structure is activated by EMBC.

BC EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (BCEMS)

The Province of British Columbia has developed and adopted the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS). The British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) is a comprehensive framework that helps ensure a coordinated and organized approach to emergencies and disasters. It is intended to:

- Provide a structure for a standardized approach to developing, coordinating, and implementing emergency management programs across the province
- Establish guiding principles, processes, and a common terminology, thus enabling a range of stakeholders to participate in all phases of emergency management
- Emphasize integration and partnerships that facilitate communication and coordination on all levels

Developed under the authority set out in the BC Emergency Program Act and the Emergency Program Management Regulation, BCEMS is standard practice for all provincial government ministries and Crown corporations as indicated in the Regulation. It is recommended as best practice for all emergency management stakeholders in BC and applies to emergencies, disasters, and catastrophic events.

BCEMS evolved from and expands on the framework previously in place across the province – the BC Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS).

The BCEMS operational goals are as follows:

- Ensure the Health and safety of responder
- Save lives
- Reduce suffering
- Protect public health
- Protect infrastructure
- Protect property
- Protect the environment
- Reduce economic and social losses

BCEMS identifies four operational levels:

1. Site level
2. Site support
3. Provincial regional coordination

4. Provincial central coordination.

EMBC has a leadership role within the provincial regional coordination and provincial central coordination levels of BCEMS.

PROVINCIAL REGIONAL COORDINATION

EMBC has its headquarters in Victoria and incorporates six regional offices. During emergencies, one or more of the PREOCs will activate as required, in support of local authorities and provincial ministries. PREOCs are responsible for the provision and coordination of provincial support for local authorities and First Nations within designated regional boundaries.

Region	PREOC Location	Regional Districts within Regional Boundaries
Vancouver Island	Victoria	Capital; Cowichan Valley; Nanaimo; Alberni-Clayoquot; Powell River; Comox Valley; Strathcona and Mount Waddington
Southwest	Surrey	Sunshine Coast; Squamish Lillooet; Greater Vancouver and Fraser Valley.
Central	Kamloops	Thompson – Nicola; Okanagan –Similkameen; Central Okanagan; North Okanagan; District of Lillooet and a portion of Columbia-Shuswap
Southeast	Nelson	Kootenay Boundary; Central Kootenay; East Kootenay; and a portion of Columbia-Shuswap
Northeast	Prince George	Northern Rockies; Peace River; Fraser-Fort George; Cariboo and Central Coast.
Northwest	Terrace	Bulkley-Nechako; Kitimat-Stikine; Skeena-Queen Charlotte and Stikine (unincorporated).

The following map illustrates the emergency management regional boundaries:



Figure 1: Map of regional boundaries

During activation, the activities of a PREOC include:

- Coordinating multi-jurisdictional response activities;
- Supporting local authority EOCs and provincial ministry EOCs;
- Coordinating and deploying critical resources;
- Providing advice to local authorities as requested;
- Providing public information in cooperation with local authorities and provincial ministries;
- Facilitating information sharing between impacted local authorities, provincial ministries and stakeholder agencies;
- Liaising with critical infrastructure owners in the area; and
- Providing situational reports to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC).

The PREOC receives situation reports and resource requests from local authority EOCs. In turn, the PREOC submits resource requests that cannot be acted upon at the regional level, as well as regional situation reports to the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre. The following diagram illustrates this information flow:

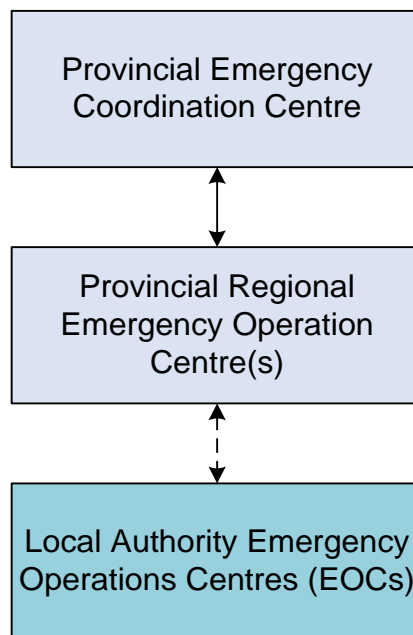


Figure 2: Information flow and reporting relationship at the Provincial Regional Coordination level.

PROVINCIAL CENTRAL COORDINATION

Emergency Coordination Centre

The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is a 24-hour centre that records, reports and monitors emergency incidents across the province 365 days per year. If an emergency incident occurs with potential to escalate or has required the activation of the local emergency operation centre(s), the ECC will contact designated EMBC regional and headquarters staff. EMBC staff will activate the PREOC and/or PECC if deemed necessary. The ECC facilitates the flow of information within and between agencies and senior officials if local telecommunications are impacted.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

The PECC is the central EOC responsible for the overall coordination of the integrated provincial response and implementation of the provincial priorities. The PECC is located in Victoria.

During activation, the activities of the PECC include:

- Supporting PREOCs;
- Coordinating provincial response and recovery activities;
- Assigning provincial critical resources;
- Providing provincial messaging;
- Creating and distributing provincial situation reports;
- Liaising with the federal government;
- Ensuring provincial senior officials are apprised of provincial response activities; and
- Implementing policy directives received from the Central Coordination Group (CCG).

Central Coordination Group

During large emergency responses the Central Coordination Group (CCG) is activated to ensure cross-government and multi-agency coordination of response activities. The primary function of the CCG is to provide strategic direction as well as oversight of provincial integrated emergency response and recovery activities to the PECC. Participation is hazard-based and includes senior representatives from ministries/agencies with responsibilities associated with the event.

Organizational structure of the CCG is determined by the hazard type and the identified consequences or potential consequences of an emergency or disaster. It is generally co-chaired by EMBC and a senior representative (Executive Director or ADM level) from the ministry with primary responsibility for the event hazard.

The CCG role is to:

- Share information and situational awareness between ministries;
- Evaluate the situation and assess the provincial government's involvement;
- Report to Ministers-Deputies Emergency Council (M-DEC);
- Provide strategic and policy direction to the PECC; and
- Oversee the implementation of the B.C. government communication strategy.

Ministers-Deputies Emergency Council (M-DEC)

Ministers-Deputies Emergency Committee (M-DEC) is composed of the key ministers and deputies who provide direction for policy and strategic decisions to the CCG. The composition of the group varies depending on the event hazard and identified consequences or potential consequences of the emergency or disaster.

M-DEC may be required to:

- Provide executive level policy decisions, strategic direction and support to the Central Coordination Group;
- Validate the need for a declaration of a provincial state of emergency;
- Authorize extraordinary funds to support emergency management activities;
- Ensure the full support of all provincial ministries, crown corporations and agencies to the integrated government response; and
- Approve the B.C. government communication strategy and support the Government Communications and Public Engagement Branch in implementing the provincial public information strategy.

The following chart illustrates the information flow between provincial central coordination bodies, elected officials and PREOCs.

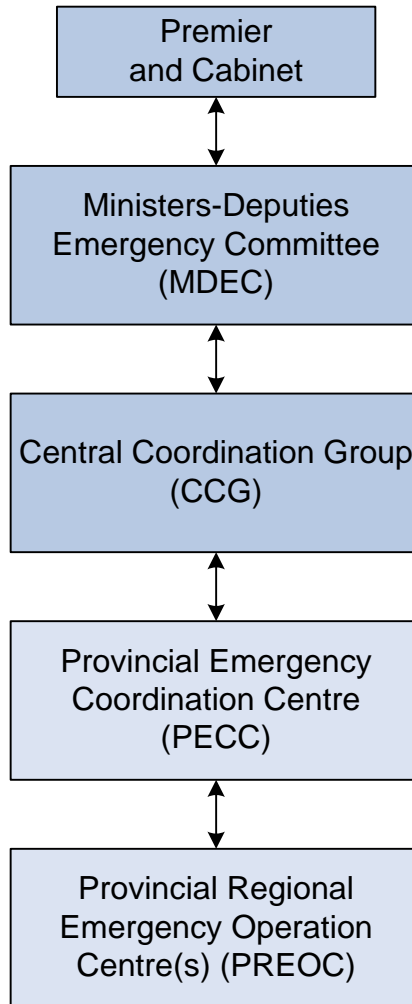


Figure 3: Information flow and reporting relationship at the provincial central coordination level.

PREOC AND PECC OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

BCEMS identifies key functional branches, roles and responsibilities. EMBC, PREOCs and the PECC are structured according to the following BCEMS organizational chart:

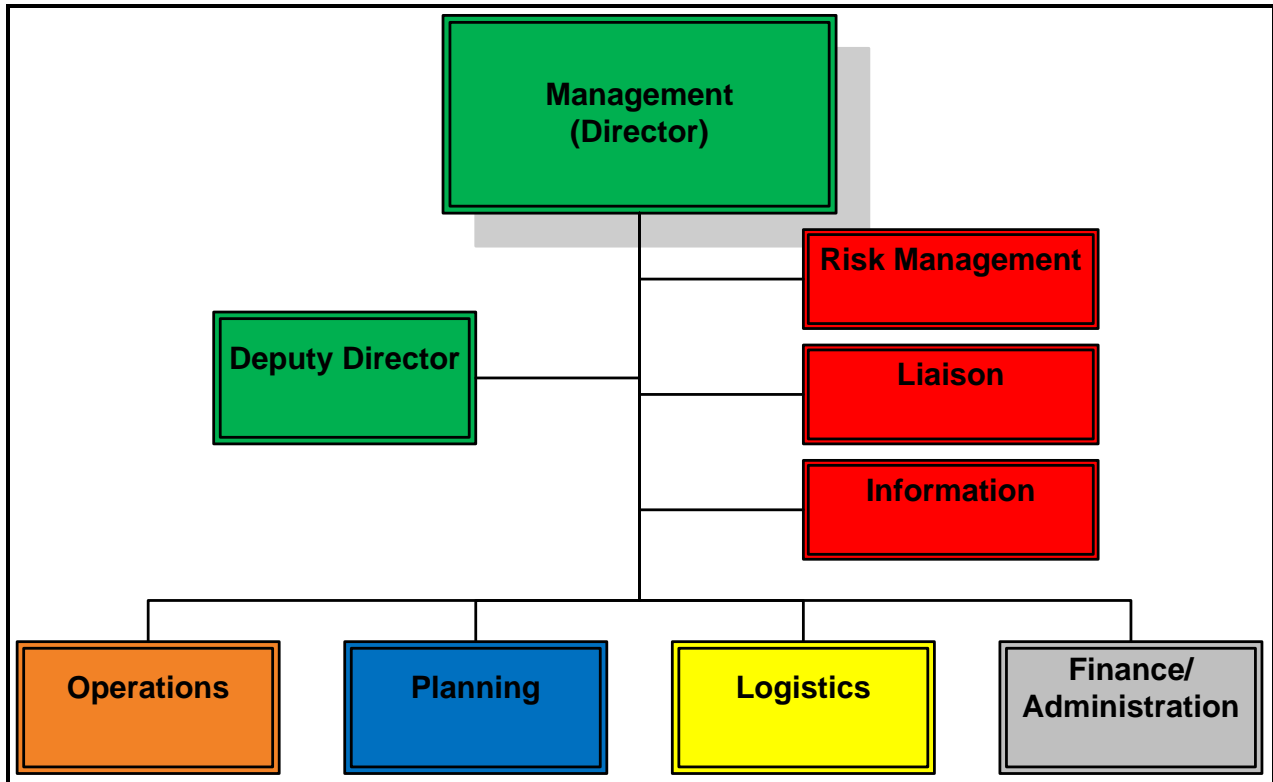


Figure 4: BCERMS Organizational Chart

In the practice of BCEMS, positions or functional roles are activated as and when required.

The **Director** and **Deputy Director** are responsible for coordinating inter-agency support to Local Authorities, interfacing with other agencies requiring information; setting priorities and coordinating with ministries.

The Director (**Management**) has the overall management responsibility for the direction and coordination of inter-agency support to Local Authorities from the provincial regional level. Additional positions within command/management include the Deputy Director, Risk Management Officer, Liaison Officer and Information Officer. The duties of any BCEMS functional position that is not filled will remain the responsibility of the Director, unless otherwise delegated.

Liaison Officers are located in the PREOC and PECC. The Liaison Officer assists the PREOC/PECC Director and management team in determining which agencies need to be represented in the PREOC to facilitate functional efficiency and acts as the point of contact for all agency representatives in the PREOC or PECC.

Information Officers are pre-identified and trained in emergency communications by the Government Communication and Public Engagement Branch. This position coordinates with Information Officers from EOCs and other stakeholder agencies to ensure that the public receives timely and accurate information regarding the event.

Risk Management Officers ensure that the concepts of risk management are applied throughout the organization and the operations being coordinated. The Risk Management Officer oversees safety, health and welfare of PREOC/PECC personnel. The Risk Management Officer informs the Director of all significant risk issues and provides factual information for Policy Groups.

The **Operations Section** coordinates all jurisdictional operational activities in support of the overall emergency response effort through implementation of the operational period action plan. An action plan is developed in coordination with the Planning Section to guide response activities.

The **Planning Section** is responsible for both advanced and recovery planning, situational reporting, documentation, situational awareness based on damage assessment, resources status and demobilization. Technical specialists often are co-located within the Planning Section.

The **Logistics Section** ensures the personnel, equipment, support services and systems needed to meet operational or support objectives are provided during an emergency, including the provision of support to the lower BCERMS levels.

The **Finance/Administration Section** supports the local authority finance sections as required as well as provides estimated expenditures to the PReOC/PECC, including daily wages and overtime tracking. The Finance/ Administration Section work is incorporated into the provincial budget requirements.

For further information on functional branches and responsibilities by position see the document [BC Emergency Management System](#).

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND CROSS-MINISTRY COORDINATION

Figure 5 outlines the provincial emergency management structure and communication lines with ministry-specific operations, local authorities and the federal government.

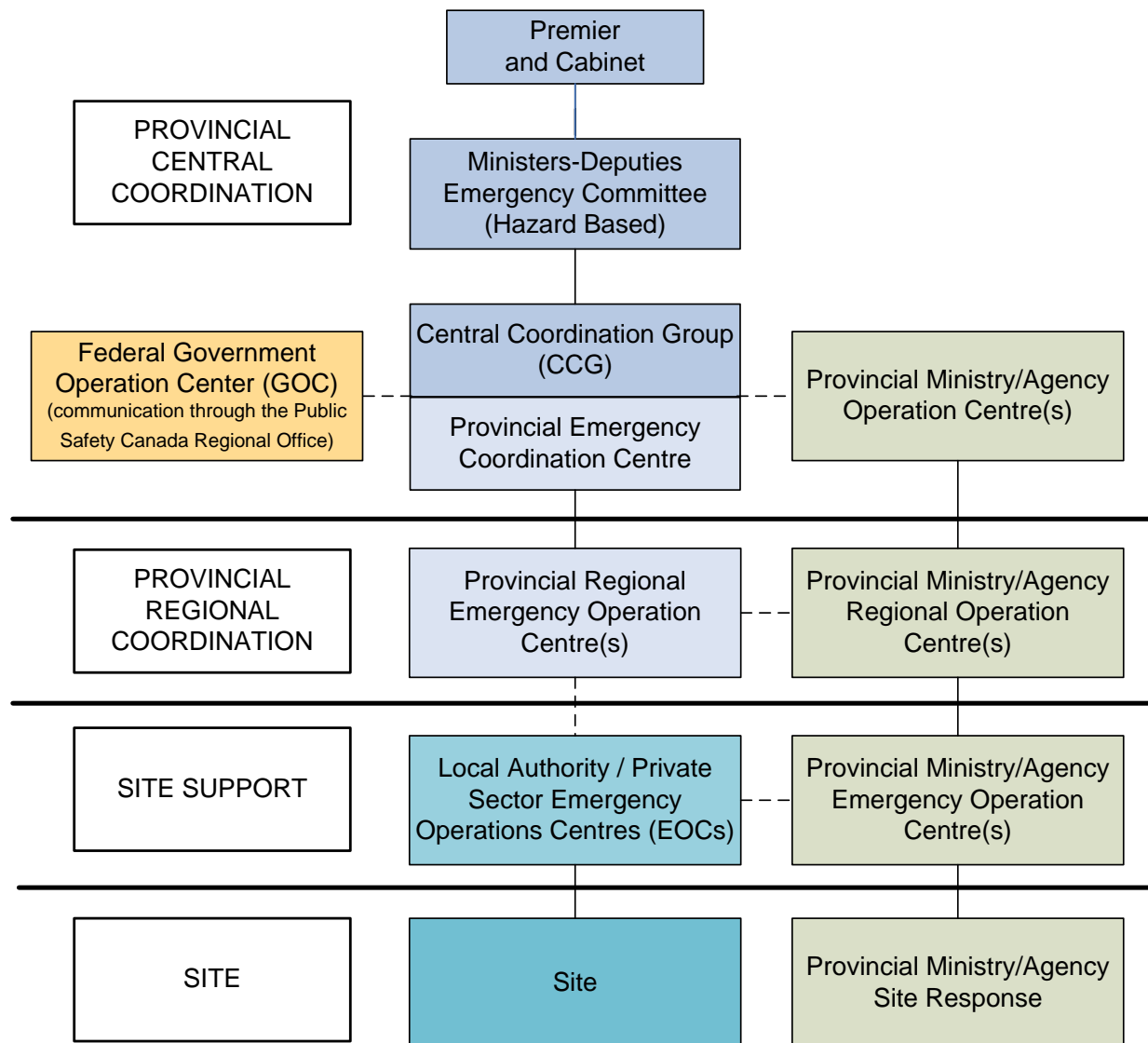


Figure 5: Diagram of intergovernmental and cross-ministry coordination.

Note: Some ministries do not have operations at the site, site support or regional coordination levels. The above figure shows the full potential of the emergency management structure but can be modified according to the organizational structure of the partner ministry. For further illustrations, see applicable support and hazard-specific event annexes.

Cross-Ministry Coordination

A Ministry Operation Centre (MOC) or Ministry Regional Operation Centre (MROC) is established by ministries with emergency management responsibilities. The MOC/MROC coordinates a ministry's emergency response and business continuity and assists ministry site operations, if applicable. All ministries follow the same structure but may use slightly different terminology. For example, the Ministry of Health's Health Emergency Coordination Centre is equivalent to a MOC.

Ministries are mandated to follow the BCEMS structure during emergency response. As illustrated in Figure 5, MOCs interact according to geographic and/or decision making levels.

Information sharing occurs through any of the following mechanisms:

- Shared situation reports;
- Information sharing sessions such as conference calls;
- Ministry representatives as agency representatives within EMBC operation centres or vice versa;
- Ministry representatives within the operation and planning sections of EMBC operation centres;
- Co-chair role of the CCG;
- Participation within the CCG;
- Co-chair of the M-DEC;
- Participation within the M-DEC.

Intergovernmental Coordination – Local Authorities and Provincial Government

Local authority EOCs submit resource requests, situation reports and provide documentation to the appropriate Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC). The PREOC uses the information provided by the local authority for situational awareness and strategic planning. This information is also applied to create provincial regional operational objectives and provincial regional situation reports. If an approved resource request cannot be fulfilled at the regional level, the request is submitted to the PECC.

Communication between the local authority and regional levels is frequent. PREOCs share updates and expertise with local authorities as required and requested. The PREOCs, in turn, establish conference calls that facilitate information sharing between local governments, provincial and federal government representatives, relevant non-government organizations (NGO) and the private sector.

PREOCs provide assistance in the creation of emergency declarations and orders and pre-authorise local government expenditures that are not captured in current financial guidelines. PREOCs may also provide subject matter experts for EOCs.

Intergovernmental Coordination – Provincial and Federal Government

Integrated governmental coordination is guided by the National Emergency Response System (NERS) which provides a management framework for the harmonization of joint federal and provincial responses to emergencies. The NERS supports and facilitates procurement and logistics coordination between all levels of government, the private sector, non-government organizations (NGO's) and international stakeholders. While it mostly applies to federal support at the request of the Province, it can also be used in instances where the Province supports a federal response to an emergency under federal jurisdiction.

The NERS identifies Public Safety Canada (PS) as the federal point of contact for information flow, logistics support, response coordination and decision making during an event. Standard Operating Procedures between the EMBC and Public Safety Canada are identified in Annex B of the NERS.

Federal representatives from Public Safety Canada, Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Department of National Defence (DND) often sit as representatives within EMBC operation centres in order to share information, facilitate situational awareness, conduct integrated and advanced planning, conduct joint risk assessments as required, and coordinate federal emergency response activities.

The Requests for Federal Assistance (RFA) protocol is identified in the Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP) and the NERS. All requests for federal assistance will flow from EMBC to the PS BC Regional Office as per the RFA protocol. The RFA also requires a letter between provincial and federal ministers. Provincially, requests for assistance are signed by the Minister. A sample letter regarding requests for assistance is captured in the NERS document. The NERS does not, however, supersede agreements that the Province may have with other provinces and territories or with neighbouring American states.

Interprovincial Assistance

In 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Inter-jurisdictional Emergency Management Assistance was finalized between the members of the Canadian Council of Emergency Management Organizations (CCEMO). The MOU establishes protocols for requests for mutual assistance between the provinces and mutual cooperation and collaboration in emergency management activities. The MOU allows the impacted emergency management

organization to request mutual aid from one or more signatories of the MOU and outlines protocols for the mutual aid request.

In addition, an MOU has been established between British Columbia and Alberta for interprovincial emergency management assistance. This MOU will expedite the movement of people and resources between the two provinces in the event of a disaster.

International Assistance

Several Canada-USA agreements detail cross-border response activities during major emergencies. *The Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of the United States of America on Emergency Management Cooperation* addresses the need to share information and to provide for mutual cross-border assistance during disasters. International assistance is coordinated by Public Safety Canada with Global Affairs Canada. The Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat within the Office of the Premier would also be engaged in the process of accessing international aid.

British Columbia, the Yukon, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Alaska are signatories of the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA), established to facilitate cross-border assistance in an emergency or disaster. All requests for assistance from Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement members will be coordinated between authorized representatives and the Chair of the PNEMA Task Force. This mutual aid arrangement also allows for the mutual temporary acceptance of various licenses, certifications or permits granted by participating members to professionals and trades people within their jurisdiction.

Roles and Responsibilities – Partner Agencies and Groups

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Local authorities include municipalities and regional districts. Local authorities hold primary responsibility for emergency planning, response and recovery within their jurisdictions. Under Section 6(2) and 6(3) of the *Emergency Program Act*, the local authority must develop emergency plans for response and recovery as well as establish an emergency management organization to develop and implement emergency plans and other preparedness, response and recovery measures.

First Nations communities with treaty agreements are local authorities under the *Emergency Program Act* and its regulations. Although not required, some treaty First Nations communities have formal agreements with neighbouring jurisdictions regarding emergency services and programs, such as the 2009 agreement between the Tsawwassen First Nation and the City of Delta.

The Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation requires local authorities to prepare emergency plans which reflect and are based on “the potential emergencies and disasters that could affect all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has

responsibility". In order to fulfill this requirement, the local authority should have a current assessment of the relative risk of the occurrence of a hazard and the potential impact on people and property. This can be accomplished by completing a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA).

In summary, a local authority should perform the following preparedness activities:

- Set up and maintain an emergency management organization which can include an executive committee, emergency program management committee, emergency program coordinator or emergency social services director;
- Develop and maintain a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) to identify potential emergencies and disasters in its jurisdictional area;
- Educate community residents and business owners about the need for personal emergency preparedness;
- Prepare for emergencies and disasters through mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery planning;
- Conduct training and exercises for all emergency response staff;
- Establish procedures for implementing, reviewing and revising response and recovery plans;
- Complete periodic reviews and updating of the local emergency plan;
- Respond to emergencies when required;
- Establish procedures for notifying persons threatened by emergencies or impending disasters;
- Identify procedures for obtaining emergency resources;
- Establish priorities for restoring essential services; and
- Work with volunteer groups to plan for the provision of food, clothing and shelter to victims.

During an emergency or disaster, the local authority will activate its emergency operation centre. In larger events, neighbouring local authorities may choose to run a joint emergency operation centre. Through the emergency operation centre, the local authority:

- Assesses the situation;
- Provides support to the first responders, including resources ;
- Provides public information, including media briefings;
- Coordinates the provision of food, clothing, shelter and transportation;
- Liaises with volunteer groups;
- Provides situation reports to the PREOC;
- Tracks finances;
- Coordinates recovery of essential services; and
- Coordinates community recovery efforts.

If the local authority requires access to the emergency powers in the *Emergency Program Act*, a state of local emergency may be declared either by the head of the local authority or by the local authority through a bylaw. States of local emergency expire after seven days unless an extension is granted by the Minister.

During emergencies and disasters the local authority's primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is the PREOC.

FIRST NATIONS COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE OF TREATY

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) holds legislated responsibility for emergency management on First Nations reserves. Through a Letter of Understanding with INAC, EMBC has agreed to support the provision of emergency response and recovery services to First Nations communities when requested by either INAC or the local Band Council.

The primary link to the provincial emergency management structure for First Nation communities during an emergency response is Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC).

INDIVIDUAL

Emergency preparedness starts with the individual. Current literature and training state that individuals should be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. However, the outcome of recent catastrophic events worldwide have demonstrated that individuals would benefit from having more emergency supplies capable of sustaining them for a week or longer.

FIRST RESPONDERS

First responders work at the site level of an event and include police, fire and ambulance. Activities of first responders include medical response, firefighting and managing crowds or evacuation zones. When a local authority EOC is activated, police and fire first responder agencies provide situational awareness to the local authority and submit requests for support to the local authority EOC. The BC Ambulance Service provides situational awareness and coordinates resources through the PREOCs and PECC.

Police Services

Police forces assist local authorities with emergency response activities. The RCMP E-Division provides policing services to the majority of B.C. and is designated as the Provincial Police Service. Currently, there are 11 municipal police departments in British Columbia serving the following communities: Abbotsford, Delta, Central Saanich, Nelson, New Westminster, Oak Bay, Port Moody, Saanich, Vancouver, Victoria and West Vancouver. The RCMP serves all other B.C. municipalities.

Fire Services

A fire department is an organization that provides fire suppression services. Any additional first response services provided by a fire department are determined by the local authority responsible, and may include hazardous material incident response, road rescue, and medical rescue.

BC Ambulance Service

The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) operates under the authority of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) and is tasked with the provision of pre-hospital emergency care and transport of patients across the province.

BCAS staff actively participates in emergency planning, mock emergency exercises and other joint training initiatives to ensure emergency preparedness and response resources are identified and deployed quickly and effectively when they are needed most.

PUBLIC SAFETY LIFELINE VOLUNTEERS

Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers include Emergency Social Services (ESS), Search and Rescue (SAR), Road Rescue, PEP Air and Emergency Radio Communications volunteers and general service volunteers.

Emergency Social Services

ESS provides short-term assistance to individuals who are forced to leave their homes due to fires, floods, earthquakes or other emergencies. ESS assistance includes food, lodging, clothing, emotional support and family reunification and is typically provided for up to 72 hours.

Search and Rescue

SAR teams respond to calls for stranded, lost, or injured persons. SAR responders have extensive specialized skills, which may include navigation, tracking, rope rescue, swift water and avalanche training. SAR may also assist coroners with body recovery. Most SAR teams are organized as registered volunteer societies and have varying degrees of association with the local municipality. The police force of jurisdiction has the responsibility for ground and inland water SAR and may request SAR activation via the ECC. The BC Ambulance Service, Coroner, Canadian Coast Guard, Department of National Defence or Parks Canada may also utilize the services of SAR groups.

PEP Air

Search and Rescue for missing and downed aircraft is the responsibility of the Department of National Defence (DND) and is coordinated by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) located in Victoria. PEP Air may assist DND during search and rescue missions and is also dedicated to providing air support to the Ground and Inland Water Search and Rescue Program. PEP Air is a B.C.-wide volunteer aviation organization composed of pilots, navigators and spotters.

Road Rescue

Road Rescue teams provide vehicle extrication, rope rescue and other specialized rescue services in response to motor vehicle accidents outside of established fire protection jurisdictions. B.C. road rescue organizations may be organized within fire departments, Road Rescue Societies and SAR teams.

Provincial Emergency Radio Communications

When communications are impaired, the inability to share and access critical information can seriously hinder response and recovery efforts. Emergency Radio Communications (ERC) members have the necessary skills and resources to provide alternative means of communication when normal methods fail. ERC establishes communication linkages with personnel at various sites, such as:

- Incident Command Post
- Emergency Operation Centre
- ESS Reception Centre/Group Lodging
- PREOC
- PECC
- Agencies
- Utilities
- Non-Government Organizations

EMBC maintains communications equipment at each of the PREOCs to allow contact with local and regional EOCs. EMBC also has deployable kits that can provide communications capabilities in the field for site support or operations.

General Service Volunteers

General Service volunteers offer short-term support to local authorities during emergency response. These volunteer services include EOC staff, as well as drivers, first aid attendants, manual workers and clerical support staff.

NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND CHARITIES

Non-government organizations (NGOs) and charities play an important role in emergency response and recovery. B.C. hosts a variety of unique organizations that offer diverse services during emergencies.

Non-government contributions during emergency response and recovery include:

- Addressing citizens' unmet needs after an emergency;
- Animal shelter and re-location;
- Structure rebuilding;
- Coordination of supplies from private partners; and
- Donations management.

The EMBC partnership with non-government organizations and charities is coordinated through the Integrated Disaster Council of British Columbia (IDCBC). IDCBC fosters integrated planning and is an avenue for information sharing and communication during preparedness, response and recovery. This group was created to foster collaborative and effective service delivery in support of local authorities and the public during emergencies and disasters.

During emergencies and disasters, the primary link to the provincial emergency management structure for NGOs and charities is the operations branch within the PREOC(s) and/or PECC.

PRIVATE SECTOR

Private sector owners are encouraged to maintain business continuity plans. Private companies that manage resources with associated risks such as oil and gas, or with essential applications such as power, are required by legislation to maintain contingency plans.

Private sector owners of critical resources that may be impacted by an event often provide agency representatives within EMBC operation centres. They act as liaisons, sharing information relating to threatened or disrupted power, transportation, telephone, gas services and infrastructure. This partnership facilitates the coordination and prioritization of critical service restoration.

During emergency events, small business leaders often contribute to response and community recovery through donations and resource support.

During emergencies and disasters, private sector owners of critical resources impacted by an event often provide agency representatives as liaisons within the PREOC(s) and/or PECC.

SCHOOL BOARDS

Under the School Act, school boards are responsible for the safety of students while on school grounds. School boards may temporarily close a school building if the health or safety of students is endangered. Subject to orders of the Minister of Education, a board may open, close or reopen a school permanently or for a specific period of time.

During emergencies and disasters, school boards' primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is the local authority emergency operation centre, Ministry of Education, and/or the PREOC.

HEALTH AUTHORITIES

Under the leadership of the Ministry of Health, the Regional Health Authorities and the Provincial Health Services Authority are responsible for the delivery of medical services to the general public. This includes planning for and conducting the evacuation of health care facilities, if required. During events, health authorities also publish information on health risks associated with air and water quality and food safety. Psychosocial support for fragile and at-risk populations is co-ordinated by health authorities, as required.

During emergencies and disasters, health authorities' primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is through the Health Emergency Co-ordination Centre, operated by the Ministry of Health, Emergency Management Unit. Health Authorities also frequently link with PREOCs through the Health Branch of operations.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Public Safety Canada

Under the *Emergency Management Act*, the Minister of Public Safety is responsible for coordinating the Government of Canada's response to an emergency. The Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP) is the Government of Canada's "all-hazards" response plan. The FERP is designed to harmonize federal emergency response efforts with those of provincial/territorial governments, non-government organizations, and the private sector.

Public Safety Canada houses the Government Operations Centre (GOC). The GOC is the hub for monitoring events across Canada, disseminating information to stakeholders and coordinating the federal response to an emergency or disaster.

Within British Columbia, the Public Safety regional office is located in Vancouver. Public Safety Canada also maintains a regional office in Victoria. Public Safety Canada regional offices:

- Play a critical role in developing and maintaining awareness of threats to public safety and producing and sharing situational reports;
- Provide situational awareness, risk assessments and operational support to the Government Operations Centre;
- Serve as the primary link to provincial and territorial emergency management organizations and federal regional departments to ensure a whole-of-government response;
- Support regional, national and international exercises; and
- Contribute to the recovery efforts of affected communities and partner organizations through the delivery of departmental financial assistance programs.

Requests for federal assistance from the Province are directed through the regional office of Public Safety Canada. Upon request from British Columbia, Public Safety Canada will coordinate federal integrated response efforts and resource provisions in support of the Province. These response efforts and resource provisions include:

- Department of National Defence (DND), Canadian Forces personnel and other resources;
- Environment Canada subject matter expertise; and
- Industry Canada situational awareness of critical telecommunications infrastructure.

During emergencies and disasters, Public Safety Canada's primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is through the PECC and CCG. Public Safety Canada regularly deploys regional staff to the PREOC(s) and/or PECC to liaise, conduct planning, facilitate situational awareness and coordinate requests for federal assistance.

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada

Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is the federal agency with responsibility for First Nations communities and lands that have not entered into treaty negotiations. INAC provides support to First Nations communities including funding for mitigation and preparedness. Through a Letter of Understanding with INAC, EMBC has agreed to support the provision of emergency response and recovery services to First Nations communities when requested by either INAC or the local Band Council.

During emergencies and disasters, INAC's primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is through representatives deployed to act as liaison(s) within the PREOC(s) and/or PECC.

Department of National Defence-Canada Command

Canada Command, represented in British Columbia by Joint Task Force Pacific, when required may coordinate with Public Safety Canada and the Province of British Columbia to provide Canadian Forces support to affected communities in response to major emergencies and disasters. Depending on the availability of the military resources at the time, possible functions include situational awareness, communications, logistics management and specialist capabilities.

During emergencies and disasters, Canada Command's primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is through Public Safety Canada and the PECC.

Other Federal Departments/Agencies

Like provincial ministries, federal departments/agencies are assigned responsibility for response to particular hazards and have developed relationships with provincial partners. The Federal Emergency Response Plan outlines key agencies for federal emergency support functions. During a major emergency or disaster, federal agencies will be reporting to the Government Operation Centre (GOC) led by Public Safety Canada.

During emergencies and disasters, federal agencies' primary link to the provincial emergency management structure is through Public Safety Canada and pre-established relationships with provincial ministries.

Roles and Responsibilities – Provincial Ministries

The following section outlines the roles and responsibilities of provincial ministries. The section accounts for changes in ministry names and branch transfers since the original filing of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* in 1994.

CONTINUITY OF PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

According to the Emergency Program Management Regulation and provincial government core policy, all ministries are required to complete a business continuity plan to outline the manner and means by which the ministry will minimize the impact of an emergency or disaster on its provision of essential services.

The core policy outlines the requirements for ministries to:

- Use standard templates for business impact analyses and business continuity plans;
- Conduct annual exercises;
- Establish Ministry Operations Centres;

- Adequately resource business continuity initiatives and critical service redundancies;
- Conduct annual reviews to ensure plans are accurate and accessible during an incident; and
- Determine critical dependencies.

During emergencies and disasters, the primary link regarding business continuity support within the provincial emergency management structure is the Government Services Branch of the PECC Operations Section.

In addition to business continuity initiatives, all provincial elected officials have identified designates to act on their behalf during an emergency in case they are unavailable for decision making. If the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure is unavailable, the Minister Designate is authorized to act on the Minister's behalf.

ALL MINISTRIES

Each minister must develop emergency plans and procedures to be followed in the event of an emergency or disaster. Emergency plans and procedures may include strategies for assisting local authorities with responses to or recovery from emergencies or disasters.

All ministries are authorized to provide staff to the Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) which allows staff to be assigned roles within emergency operation centres. This helps to increase surge capacity for integrated provincial response. TEAMS is a pool of public service employees from across government who have training and experience managing emergency operations and communications during disasters.

MINISTRIES IDENTIFIED IN SCHEDULES OF THE EMERGENCY PROGRAM REGULATION

Ministers with identified responsibilities in Schedule 1 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* are required to set out the manner and means by which the government will respond to the hazards for which that minister is designated.

Ministers with identified responsibilities in Schedule 2 of the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* are required to set out the manner and means by which that minister will perform the duties set out in Schedule 2 or as may be imposed on that minister by the Lieutenant Governor in Council.

In order to facilitate the coordination of plans and procedures, every minister referred to in Schedule 2 must appoint one representative to the Inter-agency Emergency Preparedness Council.

In the event of an emergency or disaster, whether declared or not, each minister referred to in Schedule 2:

- Must ensure the minister's emergency plan and procedures are implemented:

- in accordance with the directions, if any, of the Lieutenant Governor in Council; and
- in a manner that is, to the greatest extent possible, coordinated and consistent with the implementation of the emergency plans and procedures of every other minister referred to in Schedule 2.
- Must make staff and resources available, to the greatest extent possible, on the request of the Lieutenant Governor in Council, the director or any other minister carrying out emergency measures; and
- May, at the request of a local authority, provide to the local authority such advice and assistance as is practicable in respect of emergency response.

The Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council (IEPC) is established by the Emergency Program Act (EPA) and is chaired by the Deputy Minister for the Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness on a permanent basis. The council ensures, through recommendations, that all ministers' emergency plans and procedures are coordinated and consistent across government.

OFFICE OF THE PREMIER

The Office of the Premier provides leadership and is responsible for providing the highest level of strategic direction to the Minister-Deputies Emergency Committee. The Premier may also choose to act as a spokesperson for the Province, engaging in public communications efforts during response and recovery efforts. The Premier may choose to call a Cabinet meeting during an emergency or disaster to discuss strategic response and recovery issues. The Office of the Premier, through the Intergovernmental Relations Secretariat, also fosters relationships with the federal government, other provinces and international partners.

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL RELATIONS AND RECONCILIATION

The Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation (MARR) is responsible for aboriginal policy and coordination, including treaty and non-treaty agreements. If an agreement impacts the composition or responsibilities of emergency management on First Nations reserve land, EMBC of the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is notified and consulted.

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding First Nations communities.

MINISTRY OF ADVANCED EDUCATION

Before, during and after emergencies the Ministry of Advanced Education could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding post-secondary institutions.

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Agriculture may be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding:

- Agriculture;
- Aquaculture and food industry development;
- Animal health;
- Crop/plant protection;
- Food safety and quality; and
- Crop insurance.

Examples of emergency management activities carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture are:

- Providing advice to farmers, aquaculturalists and fishers on the protection of crops, livestock and provincially managed fish and marine plant stocks;
- Consulting with and providing support to impacted agricultural industries;
- Coordinating support and/or managing agricultural animal relocation;
- Assisting the Ministry of Health with inspection and monitoring of food safety and quality;
- Developing emergency response plans addressing animal disease and plant health; and
- Administering provision of crop insurance to cover damage from disasters or emergencies.

MINISTRY OF CHILDREN AND FAMILY DEVELOPMENT

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Children and Family Development could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding:

- Reunion services;
- Child protection;
- Children and youth with special needs; and
- Child and youth mental health.

MINISTRY OF COMMUNITY, SPORT AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding local government including the Community Charter, the Local Government Act, and partnership with the Union of British Columbia Municipalities.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Education could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding school system requirements and accountabilities. The Ministry would also provide support to school boards and school districts to interpret policy and revise guidelines in order to meet the immediate needs of students during an emergency.

MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND MINES

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Energy and Mines could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice, support and/or policy direction regarding:

- Electricity policy²;
- Tenure, mines and minerals policy;
- Health, safety, permitting and inspections of mining projects; and
- BC Geological Survey.

Major Agencies, Boards and Commissions housed within the Ministry of Energy and Mines with potential emergency management roles are:

- BC Hydro and Power Authority
- Columbia Power Corporation
- Columbia Basin Trust

BC Hydro and Power Authority has the following responsibilities according to the Emergency Program Management Regulation:

- In the event of an emergency or disaster implement emergency plans and procedures to the extent required;
- Coordinate the restoration of electric facilities, taking into account domestic, commercial, industrial and government responsibilities;
- Interrupt hydro services when they pose a threat to life or property; and
- Conduct safety measures with respect to BC Hydro dams, including initiating warnings in the event of dam failures.

Representatives from BC Hydro are often represented within the liaison group of provincial operation centres, acting as a conduit between the provincial operation centre(s) and the BC Hydro emergency operation centre(s). In addition, BC Hydro often sits on the CCG.

² Policy direction and advice only.

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Environment could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding:

- Parks, wilderness and protected areas;
- Air, land and water quality standards;
- Pollution prevention and waste management;
- Species and ecosystem protection policy;
- Water protection and sustainability policy;
- Water and air monitoring and reporting;
- Conservation and resource management enforcement;
- Climate action;
- Environmental assessment ;
- Environmental monitoring; and
- Environmental emergency response (including hazardous materials).

In the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* the Ministry of Environment is identified to:

- Provide professional or technical advice and direction at hazardous material or pollution spills;
- Ensure the proper disposal of hazardous wastes and pollutants;
- Assess and monitor air and water quality; and
- Provide conservation officers to act as special constables to reinforce police forces in law and order and traffic duties.

If evacuations are required within park boundaries, representatives from the Park Branch will liaise with provincial operation centres, agencies and local authorities as required.

MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Ministry of Finance responsibilities, according to the *Emergency Program Management Regulation*, are to provide risk management services with respect to possible compensation and liability claims. The Ministry of Finance will coordinate, in cooperation with other ministries, the establishment and maintenance of emergency financial management and response.

The BC Public Service Agency is housed within the Ministry of Finance. The BC Public Service Agency provides leadership and services in people management. It also improves the overall effectiveness of the public service by providing human resource management policies and frameworks, as well as a variety of human resource services, products and programs. Before, during and after an emergency the Public Service Agency could be called upon to assist with creating surge capacity for provincial response and provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding human resources. During emergencies the Public Service Agency could also be

engaged to provide messaging to public service staff and risk management services for possible compensation and liability claims.

MINISTRY OF FORESTS, LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCE OPERATIONS

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding:

- Forest stewardship policy;
- Land use planning;
- Water use planning and authorizations;
- Drought management;
- Dam and dike safety and regulation;
- Flood plain management;
- GeoBC and information management;
- Pests, disease, invasive plants and species; and
- Wildfire management.

Within the *Emergency Program Management Regulation* the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations is identified to provide personnel, equipment, supplies, telecommunications equipment, aviation support and weather information to assist in emergency response operations.

Five key agencies are housed within the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations: BC Wildfire Service, Dam Safety, Flood Safety, GeoBC and the River Forecast Centre.

The BC Wildfire Service is tasked with managing wildfires on both Crown and private lands outside of organized areas. While the BC Wildfire Service is mandated to protect life and assets, particularly forests and grasslands, it gives high priority to fires in the areas as interface is between wildland and developed areas.

The River Forecast Centre provides flood forecasts and bulletins as well as flood assessment, technical services and planning staff at EMBC operation centres during times of flooding.

The provincial Dam Safety Program was formed to aid dam owners in ensuring that their structures are designed, constructed and maintained according to acceptable standards for public safety. The Dam Safety Program is responsible for monitoring and auditing dams throughout British Columbia.

Provincial responsibilities and general supervision relative to the construction and maintenance of dikes falls under the mandate of the Office of the Inspector of Dikes. Activities include: approval of all works in and about dikes; joint inspections to monitor and audit the owner's dike management program; and the ability to issue orders to protect public safety.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Health could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding:

- Health service delivery;
- Public health planning and response;
- Community and home support services;
- Mental health; and
- Communicable disease prevention.

According to the Emergency Program Management Regulation, Ministry of Health responsibilities are to:

- Provide public health measures, including epidemic control and immunization programs;
- Provide and coordinate ambulance services and triage, treatment, transportation and care of casualties;
- Provide the continuity of care for patients evacuated from hospitals or other health institutions and for medically dependant patients from other care facilities;
- Provide standard medical units consisting of emergency hospitals, advanced treatment centres, casualty collection units and blood donor packs;
- Monitor potable water supplies;
- Inspect and regulate food quality with the assistance of the Minister of Agriculture;
- Provide critical incident stress debriefing and counselling services; and
- Provide support services for physically challenged or medically disabled people affected by an emergency.

During an emergency the Ministry of Health will provide the continuity of care both for patients evacuated from hospitals or other health institutions and for medically dependant patients from other care facilities. The Ministry will also provide emergency psychosocial services.

The BC Ambulance Service provides and coordinates ambulance services within British Columbia, including triage, treatment, transportation and care of casualties.

The Provincial Health Officer and Medical Health Officers lead public health initiatives and have the authority under the Public Health Act to implement public health measures.

The Ministry of Health Emergency Management Unit (EMU) exists to ensure that the provincial health system is capable of planning for, responding to and recovering from the impacts of extreme events, whether natural, accidental or intentional in nature.

The EMU leads and oversees the development and maintenance of emergency plans and procedures for the provincial health sector and, in the event of an emergency, is responsible for the management and coordination of the Ministry's response, including:

- The resumption of mission-critical ministry functions, services, programs and operations within a reasonable time following the onset of the emergency;
- The provision of emergency-related direction and support to the regional health authorities;
- The coordination of a provincial response by the health sector; and
- The coordination of the emergency management response with the provincial integrated response structure.

MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of International Trade could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding international and internal trade policy and partnership development.

MINISTRY OF JOBS, TOURISM AND SKILLS TRAINING

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Jobs, Tourism and Skills Training (Minister Responsible for Labour) could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding:

- Tourism strategy;
- Aboriginal tourism;
- Regional economic and rural development;
- Economic development policy; and
- Economic and sector analysis.

MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL

The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General works to maintain and enhance public safety in every community across the province. The Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General also houses the BC Coroners Service.

During a response, the BC Coroners Service will provide services as necessary, including the operation of temporary morgues, identification of the dead and mass fatality planning.

The Police and Community Safety Branch of the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General will work with EMBC to:

- Prepare, promulgate and implement orders relating to law enforcement and internal security;
- Provide through the jurisdictional police force:
 - Advice to local authorities respecting the maintenance of law and order;
 - Reinforcement of local police services;
 - Security control of emergency areas; and
 - Traffic and crowd control.

Jurisdictional police forces also task search and rescue services for missing persons on land and in inland waters. Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding police and correctional services.

MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice provides legal services to the government. Policy direction and legislative changes are made in consultation with the Ministry of Justice. During emergencies or disasters the Ministry of Justice may be called on to assist with risk management and provide expertise. This could include providing advice to provincial ministries and government corporations on legal matters relating to the preparation and promulgation of emergency orders, regulations, declarations and contractual arrangements.

MINISTRY OF NATURAL GAS DEVELOPMENT

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Natural Gas Development (Minister Responsible for Housing) could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding:

- Oil and gas policy;
- Housing policy;
- Building policy; and
- Safety policy for regulated technical equipment and systems.

The Ministry of Natural Gas Development and Minister Responsible for Housing works with major agencies, boards and commissions with potential emergency management roles including:

- Oil and Gas Commission
- BC Housing Management Commission
- British Columbia Safety Authority

The Oil and Gas Commission ensures that industry operators are complying with legislation and safety requirements, including emergency response plans. During emergencies the Oil and Gas

Commission (OGC) acts as a liaison between industry operators and the provincial emergency management structure to provide situation updates related to threatened oil and gas assets.

During emergencies the BC Housing Management Commission provides group lodging assistance, emergency social services support and rapid damage assessment teams. The provincial group lodging stockpile is coordinated and deployed by BC Housing.

The BC Safety Authority (BCSA) implements a business continuity plan in the event of a natural disaster. This plan ensures the BC Safety Authority resumes safety services as soon as possible. Though BC Safety Authority is not a first responder, they will provide technical support including inspection services to the recovery team relating to the technical equipment and systems covered by the Safety Standards Act (e.g., gas, electrical, elevating devices, boiler and pressure vessel technologies) after first ensuring the safety of its employees. Starting in the planning phase and through collaboration with other agencies, BC Safety Authority can provide most value to the public and best support the other agencies.

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL INNOVATION

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Social Development could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding:

- Income assistance;
- Disability assistance;
- Delivery of employment programs;
- Adult community living services;
- Mental health services coordination; and
- Volunteer and non-profit support.

MINISTRY OF TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION AND CITIZENS' SERVICES

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services could be called upon to provide expertise and/or policy direction regarding:

- Research, innovation and technology
- Service delivery to citizens
- Business and personal property registries services
- Information and privacy legislation, policy and standards
- Government Communications and Public Engagement
- Shared Services BC :
 - Integrated Workplace Solutions
 - Technology Solutions
 - Procurement and Supply Services
 - Corporate Accounting Services

Four key agencies are housed within the Ministry of Technology, Innovation and Citizens' Services: Government Communications and Public Engagement, Office of the Chief Information Officer, Service BC and Shared Services BC.

Government Communications and Public Engagement is responsible for providing public information, liaising with media on behalf of the province, facilitating press conferences and organizing other means of dissemination of information through media, and vetting public education materials. Before, during and after an emergency Government Communications and Public Engagement:

- Prepares public information regarding emergencies and disasters;
- Manages media information;
- Monitors media and reports' findings and clarifies or corrects factual errors as necessary;
- Acts as Information Officers in provincial and local authority operations centres as required;
- Establishes a provincial communications strategy;
- Coordinates social media messaging; and
- Coordinates provincial public information regarding emergencies and disaster, ensuring accuracy and consistency of information.

Office of the Chief Information Officer is responsible for providing a leadership role in promoting and guiding the management of government information and supporting technology infrastructure. Before, during and after an emergency the Office of the Chief Information Officer provides guidance and policy direction for government information management and protection of privacy.

Service BC is responsible for providing services to citizens through: sixty-one Regional Service BC Centres, BC Stats, BC Online, Service BC Contact Centre, and BC Registry Services (business, manufactured home and personal property registry services).

Shared Services BC is responsible for providing facility, technological, logistic and business support services to the public service and several other broader public sector organizations. During emergencies, Shared Services BC assists ministries and other public sector clients in returning to normal service levels, particularly with regard to essential services. During activations, resource requests for technological resources are also funnelled and managed through Shared Services BC, or may be directed by the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre, Government Services Branch during significant escalations. Shared Services BC:

- Provides technical advice and assistance with the acquisition of telecommunications infrastructure, equipment, systems, services and computers;
- Provides priority allocation of government buildings for operational accommodation, storage or other emergency requirements;
- Makes emergency rental or lease agreements for private sector buildings or other infrastructure;
- Provides government vehicles;
- Provides for leasing or purchase of emergency supplies and equipment;
- Provides corporate accounting services;
- Facilitates printing and mail distribution services through BC Mail Plus; and
- Assesses damage(s) to government buildings

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is housed within the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and is the lead agency in government for all emergency management activities. EMBC also contains the Office of the Fire Commissioner.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner is the senior authority in the province with respect to fire safety and prevention. The Fire Commissioner will support structure firefighting in a declared state of provincial emergency. The Office of the Fire Commissioner also manages the public education program FireSmart, which provides information on urban interface wildfires.

The Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure has overall responsibility for emergency management in the province. In the event of a disaster, the Minister may:

- Declare a provincial state of emergency;
- Make a formal written request for federal assistance or aid from the Government of Canada;
- Direct the establishment of M-DEC;
- Inform his/her colleagues of the situation; and
- Be available for media interviews.

The ADM of EMBC has been delegated by the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure statutory authority under the Emergency Program Act to exercise all the extraordinary powers under the Act other than [as set out in section 4(2)i] the power:

- (i) To make a declaration of a state of emergency
- (ii) To cancel a declaration of a state of emergency
- (iii) To cancel a declaration of a state of local emergency, or
- (iv) To limit a local authority's powers during a state of local emergency.

According to the Emergency Program Management Regulation, EMBC must:

- Prepare and maintain a hazard, risk and vulnerability study that identifies potential emergencies and disasters that could affect all or any part of British Columbia;
- Assess the potential impact on people or property of the emergencies and disasters referred to in the hazard, risk and vulnerability study;
- Make recommendations to the Minister respecting emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery strategies in relation to:
 - legislation, regulation and policy; and
 - the creation and maintenance of an emergency management program.
- Provide advice and assistance to other ministers in the development and implementation of multi-ministry or multi-agency emergency plans and procedures;
- Provide advice and assistance to local authorities in the development of local emergency management organizations and local emergency programs; and
- Coordinate or assist in coordinating the government's response to emergencies and disasters.

On the request of the Minister, EMBC must:

- Prepare or assist the Minister in the preparation of provincial emergency plans;
- Participate on behalf of or in conjunction with the Province in any initiatives by which coordinated plans may be developed and cooperation and mutual assistance may be fostered with respect to the mitigation of, preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters; and
- Assist local authorities with response to or recovery from emergencies or disasters.

According to the Emergency Program Management Regulation, EMBC must:

- Provide a 24-hour capability to direct requests for emergency assistance to appropriate municipal, provincial, federal or private sector agencies;
- Serve as the point of contact for requests for emergency assistance from and to the Government of Canada, unless otherwise specified in intergovernmental agreements;
- Administer the emergency assistance vote to cover eligible costs which:
 - are incurred by local governments, ministries and government corporations in responding to an emergency; and
 - the Minister has approved.
- Coordinate the emergency response activities of supporting ministries as requested or detailed in provincial emergency response plans.

In addition, EMBC may do one or more of the following:

- Provide advice and assistance to other ministers in emergency prevention, preparedness, response and recovery;
- Assist in the coordination of training and training exercise programs for individuals or organizations concerned with emergency planning and operations;
- Provide advice and assistance to business and industry in relation to emergency preparedness, response and recovery; and
Assist in the coordination of emergency plans between local authorities and the government, government corporations and government agencies.

Before, during and after an emergency the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) could be called upon to provide expertise, technical advice and/or policy direction regarding:

- Highway construction and maintenance;
- Safety and protection of provincial road and bridge infrastructure; and
- Transportation planning and policy.

In the event of an emergency, the Highway Department's Operations, Maintenance and Re-construction team plays an important role to ensure the public is safe and transportation routes are available for accessing emergency services. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure oversees provincial highways identified as emergency response routes - a network of pre-identified routes that can best move emergency services and supplies to where they are needed in response to a major disaster. Disaster Response Routes (DRRs) are a critical part of the overall emergency transportation system.

MoTI can authorize the closure of provincial transportation routes, including highways and inland ferries, where the safety of the public is at risk. MoTI can assist in public notification through the DriveBC website, as well as posting advisories on overhead message boards along designated routes.

In the Emergency Program Management Regulation, the MoTI is identified to coordinate and arrange for transportation, engineering and construction resources. MoTI is responsible for rebuilding and restoring provincial highways that are impacted by an emergency.

Major agencies, boards and commissions within MoTI that have identified responsibilities within the Emergency Program Management Regulation are BC Rail, BC Transit and BC Ferries. During an emergency, BC Rail will:

- Provide priority movement of emergency personnel, equipment and supplies;
- In cooperation with Transport Canada, assist in railway crashes and derailments in the conduct of rescue operations, removal of debris and the cleanup of hazardous material;
- Provide railcars for emergency facilities; and
- Provide specialized equipment.

BC Transit will coordinate requirements for public transportation, including school and privately owned buses.

BC Ferries is required to provide priority loading for emergency personnel, equipment and supplies and ensure ferries are available to serve as reception centres, hospitals, response centres or other emergency facilities.

Declaration of a State of Emergency

HISTORY OF DECLARATIONS

Three provincial states of emergency have been declared in the history of British Columbia. The first was declared by Premier Byron Johnson in 1948 in response to flooding on the Fraser River close to near Cache Creek.

Premier Glen Clark declared a state of emergency in 1998 in response to interface fires in Salmon Arm. In 2003, a provincial state of emergency was declared by Solicitor General Rich Coleman in response to interface fires in the interior of the province.

PROCESS TO DECLARE A STATE OF PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY

The declaration of a state of provincial emergency is a temporary emergency response which grants the use of extraordinary powers to the Minister and any delegated representatives. If a provincial state of emergency is declared, any state of local emergency made in the same jurisdictional area ceases to have force. The following questions outline some of the considerations to be made in advance of a declaration of a Provincial State of Emergency.

- Are local authority capabilities overwhelmed?
- Can resource requests through the PREOC and PECC address the local authority needs?
- Is other legislation able to address the potential consequences?
- Are any of the emergency powers within the Emergency Program Act required?
- Is a provincial fire department or provincial police force required?

AUTHORITY FOR A DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY

Under section 9 of the *Emergency Program Act* the Minister or the Lieutenant Governor in Council may, by order, declare a state of emergency relating to all or any part of British Columbia. The declaration must identify the nature of the emergency and the area of British Columbia in which the emergency exists or is imminent. Immediately after a declaration is made the Minister must ensure the details of the declaration are published. The following

excerpt from the *EPA* outlines the powers accessible by the Minister under a provincial state of emergency.

10 (1) After a declaration of a state of emergency is made under section 9 (1) and for the duration of the state of emergency, the Minister may do all acts and implement all procedures that the Minister considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including any or all of the following:

(a) Implement a provincial emergency plan or any provincial emergency measures;

(b) Authorize a local authority to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility;

(c) Require a local authority for a municipality or an electoral area to implement a local emergency plan or emergency measures for all or any part of the municipality or electoral area for which the local authority has responsibility;

(d) Acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(e) Authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide;

(f) Control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia;

(g) Provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of British Columbia;

(h) Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area of British Columbia that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property;

(i) Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the Minister to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(j) Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the Minister to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(k) Construct works considered by the Minister to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster;

(l) Procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any part of British Columbia for the duration of the state of emergency.

The Minister has the authority to delegate powers under a provincial state of emergency, potentially to the director of the PECC, EMBC executive or local authority/authorities as deemed appropriate.

In addition to the emergency powers listed above, the Minister or Lieutenant Governor in Council, in the event of a state of emergency, may assume jurisdiction and control over all police forces in British Columbia and their reserve, auxiliary or special forces and appoint the officer in charge to exercise the authority of the chief constable of those forces. In addition, the Lieutenant Governor in Council or the Minister may assume the jurisdiction and control of all firefighting and fire prevention services in all or any part of British Columbia and appoint the Fire Commissioner to exercise authority over those services. Under a declaration, the Minister can also direct emergency plans of any ministry to be implemented.

A declaration expires 14 days from the date it is made but the Lieutenant Governor in Council may extend the duration of the declaration for further periods of no more than 14 days each. Extensions must identify the nature of the emergency and the area of British Columbia in which the emergency exists or is imminent and must also be published.

CANCELLATION OF A DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY

When, in the opinion of the Minister or Lieutenant Governor in Council, an emergency no longer exists and the state of emergency is no longer required, the Minister or Lieutenant Governor must make an order cancelling the declaration.

Immediately after a cancellation the Minister must ensure the details of the cancellation are published in a manner that will make the cancellation known to the majority of the population of the affected area.

Appendix 1: List of Applicable EMBC Agreements

Memorandum of Understanding Interprovincial Emergency Management Assistance between Alberta EMA and EMBC, 2007

Memorandum of Understanding Interprovincial Emergency Management Assistance between Alberta EMA and EMBC, 2007

Letter of Understanding between the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and St. John Society - St. John, 2006

AB OFC, BC OFC Mutual Aid Agreement -2005

Universal declaration of media co-operation across Greater Victoria, 2001

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Forests and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Social Development and Economic Security and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Memorandum of Understanding Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System between Ministry of Transportation and Ministry of Attorney General, 2000

Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement, 1998

Agreement between the Government of Canada and the Government of United States of America on Cooperation in Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management, 1996

Letter of Understanding to Enable the Provision of Emergency Response and Recovery Measures on Indian Reserves in BC between the BC Provincial Emergency Program and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, 1993

Letter of Understanding between the British Columbia Provincial Emergency Program, the Ministry of Social Services and the Canadian Red Cross Society, 1992

Province of BC Provincial Police Service Agreement, 1992

Letter of Understanding of Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery in British Columbia and in Federal Parks within British Columbia, 1990

Memorandum of Understanding of Emergency Preparedness between the Government of Canada and the Provincial Government of British Columbia, 1988

Letter of Understanding Between the State of Idaho, U.S.A. and the Province of British Columbia, Canada on Civil Emergency Planning and Co-operative Emergency Arrangements, 1978

Letter of Understanding Between the State of Alaska, USA and the Province of British Columbia, Canada on Civil Emergency Planning and Co-operative Emergency Arrangements, 1970

Letter of Understanding Between the State of Montana, U.S.A. and the Province of British Columbia, Canada on Civil Emergency Planning and Co-operative Emergency Arrangements, 1969

Appendix 2: Definitions

All-hazard – Applicable to all forms of emergencies or disasters.

BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS) – A comprehensive management system that ensures a coordinated and organized approach to emergencies and disasters. The standards address operations and control management at four levels: Site Level, Site Support Level, Provincial Regional Coordination Level and Provincial Central Coordination Level.

Business Continuity (B/C) – An ongoing process supported by senior management and funded to ensure that the necessary steps are taken to identify the impact of potential losses and maintain viable recovery strategies, recovery plans and continuity of services.

Central Coordination Group (CCG) –The CCG provides strategic and policy direction to any provincial ministries and agencies involved in the response. The CCG is co-chaired by EMBC and the ministry that has the technical lead on the hazard event.

Charities – A type of non-profit organization that qualifies as a charitable organization as determined by the Canada Revenue Agency.

Cross-ministry – Joint activities involving two or more provincial ministries.

Delegation Order – Ministerial Order delegating powers or responsibilities.

Emergency– A calamity that is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or by the forces of nature and has resulted in serious harm to the health, safety or welfare of people, or in widespread damage to property.

Emergency – A present or imminent event that requires prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the safety, health or welfare of people or to limit damage to property.

Emergency management – An ongoing process to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from an emergency or disaster that threatens life, property, operations or the environment.

Emergency plan – A document developed to ensure quick access to the information necessary for effectively responding to an emergency.

Emergency Coordination Centre –The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) in Victoria provides 24/7 reporting to facilitate response to reports of human-made and natural disasters and other emergency incidents that occur throughout the province.

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) – The physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support domestic incident management activities normally takes

place. An EOC may be a temporary facility or may be located in a more central or permanently established facility, perhaps at a higher level of organization within a jurisdiction.

Government Services Branch-Business Continuity – The branch within the Operations Section of the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) responsible for assisting the business continuity efforts of activated Ministry Operations Centres (MOCs).

Intergovernmental - Joint activities and or/collaboration between two or more levels of government.

Hazard – Situation with the potential for harm to person, property or the environment.

Lieutenant Governor in Council- Representative of the Queen in Right of British Columbia and head of the Executive Council of British Columbia. The Lieutenant Governor in Council gives formal effect to decisions made by Cabinet.

Local authority – For a municipality, the local authority is the municipal council. In an electoral area of a regional district, the board of the regional district is the local authority under section 4(2) of the *Emergency Program Act*.

Ministers-Deputies Emergency Council (M-DEC) - The M-DEC is composed of the key ministers and deputies who provide direction, policy and strategic guidance to the CCG for flood emergency events. The ministry representation on the M-DEC generally mirrors the participant list in the CCG.

Ministerial Order - Subordinate legislation made under the authority of a statute. Ministerial orders may be made by a minister, or an authorized official or body. Orders are generally used to handle day-to-day administrative matters. While most orders are administrative in nature, some may be classed as regulations.

Mitigation/prevention - Activities which reduce or eliminate the impacts of an emergency or anticipated emergencies, before, during or after the emergency event.

Municipality - Municipalities are governed by a Mayor and Council. Municipalities are primarily an urban political unit with incorporated status.

Mutual aid agreement – A pre-arranged agreement entered into by two or more entities whereby parties to the agreement undertake to render emergency-related assistance to one another.

NERS – The National Emergency Response System (NERS) focuses on joint F/P/T emergency management and is not activated unless a formal request for assistance from either a provincial government or the federal government is issued. Once activated, NERS supersedes other working agreements that a provincial government may have with individual federal departments. NERS positions Public Safety Canada (PS), through the Government Operations Centre (GOC), as the federal point of contact for information flow, logistics support, response coordination and decision making during an event jointly managed by federal and provincial emergency measures organizations.

Non-government organizations - Private organizations that pursue activities to relieve suffering, promote the interests of the poor, protect the environment, provide basic social services, or undertake community development.

Order in Council - Subordinate legislation made under the authority of a statute. An Order in Council may be made by the Lieutenant Governor in Council, a minister, or an authorized official or body. Orders are generally used to handle day-to-day administrative matters. While most orders are administrative in nature, some may be classed as regulations.

Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC) – A regional emergency operation centre activated to provide overall coordination of regional provincial response to an emergency or disaster. Part of the provincial regional coordination level of BCERMS -the PREOC - acts in support of local level authority EOCs. Regional level support manages the assignment of multiple ministry and agency support to activated EOC(s). This may include acquiring and deploying resources, gathering situational awareness and coordinating resources outside of local authority jurisdiction. Coordination with regional stakeholders is also an important role of provincial regional coordination.

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) – The central emergency operations centre activated to provide overall coordination of the integrated provincial response to an emergency or disaster. As part of the provincial central coordination level of BCERMS, the PECC manages the overall provincial government response, which includes the provision of support for the regional levels. This may include consultation with senior elected officials, management of emergency information for the public, resource coordination and policy guidance. Communications and collaboration with external agencies such as crown corporations, federal emergency response agencies, non-governmental organizations and other provinces are managed at the Provincial Central Coordination level.

Preparedness - Activities undertaken prior to an emergency to ensure an effective response to and recovery from the consequences of an emergency event.

Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers – Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers provide an array of critical, front-line emergency services throughout British Columbia. Principle program elements include Emergency Social Services, Search and Rescue, Road Rescue, PEP Air and Emergency Radio Communications.

Recovery - Refers to those measures taken to recover from an emergency or disaster and return communities to pre-emergency conditions. Recovery activities include site-restoration; the reconstitution of government operations and services; and measures for social, political, environmental and economic restoration.

Regional District - Regional districts are governed by boards of directly and indirectly elected directors. They are the governing body over unincorporated areas of the province.

Response - Actions that must be carried out when an emergency exists or is imminent. Response includes immediate actions to save lives, protect property and meet basic human needs. Response measures address immediate and short-term effects of an emergency or disaster. The aim of these measures is to ensure that a controlled, coordinated and effective response is quickly undertaken to minimize its impact on public safety, environment and infrastructure. Response activities include the execution of emergency operations plans and of prevention activities designed to limit the loss of life, personal injury, property damage and other unfavourable outcomes.

Immediate Emergency Response – Immediate response includes all actions taken during the first few hours or days of an emergency event to save lives, protect property and limit damage to the environment. An example of immediate response is convergent life safety search and rescue activities that immediately follow the impacts of an emergency or disaster.

Sustained Emergency Response - Sustained response includes the immediate actions required to counter the critical infrastructure and human consequences of an emergency or disaster.

Resource management – A process for identifying and managing available resources to enable timely and unimpeded access to the resources needed to prevent, mitigate, prepare for, respond to or recover from an incident.

Site level - Governed by the Incident Command System (ICS), not BCERMS. One or more Incident Commanders or Incident Management Teams oversee site operations from an Incident Command Post (ICP). In some circumstances, site level response is managed by more than one responsible agency under unified command.

Site support level - Activates when the site level requires off-site support to manage the consequences of an event. An Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) may be activated by a local government or private sector. The EOC provides communication with the site level, manages local multi-agency support to the site level and acquires and deploys additional resources. The local authority EOC is activated to oversee and coordinate all non-site activities in support of the Incident Commander.

Situation analysis/assessment – The process of evaluating the severity and consequences of an emergency or disaster in order to make the most appropriate decisions.

Situation reports – Scheduled reports regarding the severity, consequences, response activities and forecasts for an emergency or disaster.

Stakeholder – Any individual, group or organization that might affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by an emergency.

State of Provincial Emergency – A circumstance in which a declaration of a state of emergency has been made by the Minister or Lieutenant Governor in Council under section 9(1) of the *Emergency Program Act*.