

Emergency Management BC

FY 2014 - 2015 Annual Report



Emergency Management BC

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EMBC 2014 – 2017 Strategic Plan:

http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em/Emerg_Mgmt_BC/EMBC-Strategic-Plan.pdf

Assistant Deputy Minister's Message



I am pleased to present the *2014/15 EMBC Annual Report* which highlights the progress we have made in initiatives designed to support British Columbia in preparing for, responding to, recovering from, and mitigating emergencies.

In 2014, B.C.'s Office of the Auditor General (OAG) produced a report outlining the need for enhanced planning for a catastrophic earthquake in B.C. Over the past year Emergency Management BC (EMBC) has developed and implemented strategies to address all areas for improvement noted in the report. Of utmost priority is the need for all of us – from individuals and families, to local authorities and the province – to improve our ability to respond to a catastrophic event. By preparing for the worst, it will support our overall ability to respond to less challenging emergencies.

EMBC has established a three-year strategic plan for 2014-2017 to guide our longer term approach. In addition to other key projects, initiatives achieved this year related to catastrophic preparedness include:

- Enhanced capability with the creation of new internal teams and positions:
 - Organizational Learning – Including new exercise and training staff, this section institutionalizes our focus on continuous improvement both within EMBC and in supporting stakeholders externally.
 - Provincial Duty Managers (PDM) – These positions enhance our overall state of readiness to respond 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to emergencies with empowered leadership.
 - Logistics Section – This section will develop our provincial logistics framework and will contribute towards our ability to source, obtain and move supports in response to major emergency events affecting the province.
 - Provincial Coordination Team (PCT) – The PCT enhances our capacity during major emergencies, by providing on the ground situational awareness, coordination, technical expertise and direct support to provincial operations and Local Authorities.
- Earthquake Consultation Report – This report included significant stakeholder consultation, identified key areas for improvement and reinforced emergency management as a shared responsibility in B.C.
- B.C. Earthquake Immediate Response Plan – This plan is the framework for responding to a catastrophic earthquake through co-ordinated and integrated effort and sets the conditions for sustained response and recovery.
- Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) enhancement – EMBC renewed and re-configured PENS to enhance notification efficiency to key stakeholders, significantly reducing notification time for a potential tsunami.

Over the past year, EMBC also led and coordinated the provincial response to many emergencies and supported partners in their respective government and agency responsibilities. EMBC reviewed its response to these events with a view to identifying new strategies and informed practices that can be implemented, improving overall emergency management planning, coordination and response in B.C.

As we take stock in what we have achieved together, we value continued collaboration of our partners working towards a safe and resilient B.C. We intend to update our Strategic Plan later this year and would welcome the feedback and input of our stakeholders as we confirm our course for the future.

Pat Quealey
Assistant Deputy Minister
EMBC, Ministry of Justice

July 31, 2015

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Emergency Management BC (EMBC), a branch within the Ministry of Justice, was formed to be the lead coordinating agency in the provincial government for all emergency management activities. EMBC provides executive co-ordination, strategic planning, and multi-agency facilitation, and strives to develop effective working relationships in an increasingly complex emergency management environment.

EMBC works with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers to support the emergency management phases of mitigation and prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Additionally, EMBC engages provincial, national and international partners to enhance collective emergency preparedness.

This year, EMBC employed a total of 166 employees and provided leadership and support to stakeholders through a number of programs including:

- [Emergency Management](#)
- [Office of the Fire Commissioner](#)
- [British Columbia Coroners Service](#)

Legislation

The ***Emergency Program Act (EPA)*** requires local authorities, ministries, crown corporations, and government agencies to develop plans and programs to prepare and respond to emergencies and disasters in the Province. It also provides local authorities, the Minister responsible for the Act, and the Lieutenant Governor in Council, with the ability to declare a state of emergency in order to access the extraordinary powers required to co-ordinate emergency responses.

EMBC is currently reviewing the EPA and before any changes or revisions are considered, will be conducting formal consultation with key stakeholders.

The ***Fire Services Act (FSA)*** provides the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC) with its mandate and responsibility to deal with fire safety through prevention, investigation and inspection processes. The regulations stipulate that the OFC has responsibility for enforcement of the Fire Code which is accomplished through a system of Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner. The OFC also provides advice and guidance to fire departments on a variety of issues.

The OFC is currently reviewing the FSA and undertaking consultations with respect to possible changes.

The ***Coroners Act*** (the Act) mandates the deaths that must be investigated by a coroner. These include all unnatural deaths, all children's deaths, all deaths in correctional and mental health facilities, and sudden and unexpected deaths when the person was not under the care of a physician. The Chief Coroner is appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council to administer the Act and regulations and supervise coroners in their duties. Coroners are appointed by the Chief Coroner and are available 24/7 across the province to respond to reports of deaths.

Vision

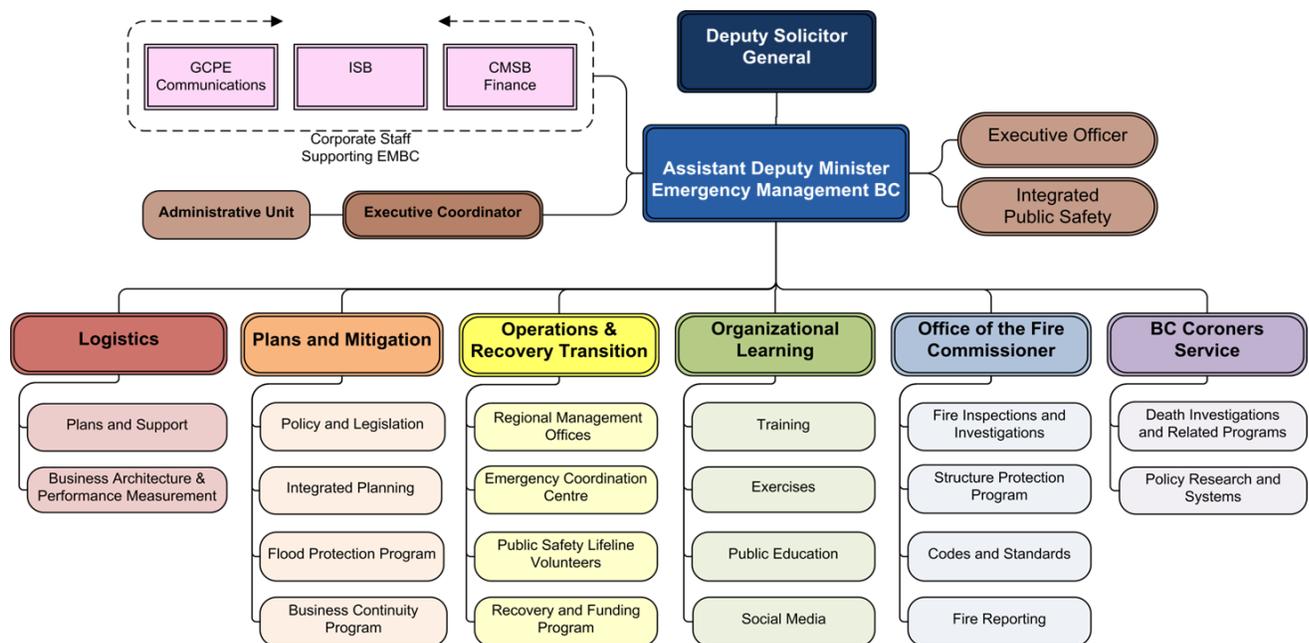
Emergency Management BC will be the premier organization in Canada for the management of emergencies and disasters at the provincial level. Our leadership will solidify a co-operative and effective approach to emergency management in British Columbia. As a result, the province will be resilient, adaptive and confident in its abilities when challenged by known and emergent threats to public safety.

Mission

Emergency Management BC is responsible to British Columbians for leading the management of provincial level emergencies and disasters and supporting other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction.

Organization

EMBC delivers its programs through the following core business areas:



Integrated Public Safety (IPS)

IPS coordinates information sharing internal to EMBC, ensuring all sections are kept apprised of important and emerging issues, and externally to all levels of government and stakeholders, optimizing on opportunities for co-ordination and collaboration. IPS also supports regional emergency management initiatives through the establishment of local/regional/provincial partnerships and integrated projects.

Logistics

Logistics partners with multiple government and non-governmental agencies and organizations across jurisdictions, to provide the overall logistical co-ordination and direction in the event of a large scale and catastrophic event, with a primary focus on earthquake preparedness in BC

Plans and Mitigation

Plans and Mitigation provides a critical role leading strategic policy and planning in support of the entire suite of EMBC's programs and services. It enhances the capacity of communities and partners to reduce the potential impacts of emergencies or disasters. This group also administers the province's Flood Mitigation Program, Business Continuity Program and provides cross-government leadership for significant and complex planning and post-event recovery activities.

Operations & Recovery Transition

Operations and Recovery Transition co-ordinates the provincial response to emergencies and disasters. It co-ordinates the delivery of Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) to support individuals and communities recovering from a DFA-designated disaster, and oversees the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) cost-sharing program that generates significant cost recoveries to the Province following large-scale disasters. Operations and Recovery Transition also coordinates Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLVs) who provide an array of critical, front-line emergency services including: Search and Rescue (SAR), Air Search & Rescue, Road Rescue, Emergency Social Services (ESS), and Emergency Radio Communications (ERC).

EMBC has its headquarters, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) and its 24/7 Emergency Call Centre (ECC) in Victoria. Six regional offices are located in Terrace, Prince George, Kamloops, Nelson, and Surrey, with the Vancouver Island regional office colocated at the headquarters facility in Victoria. Each regional office houses a Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC).

Organizational Learning

Organizational Learning supports and enhances effective Disaster and Emergency Management practices through a culture of continuous learning and improvement. This will be achieved by integrating knowledge, experience, best practices and current research with training and exercises to strengthen the Province's operational readiness and emergency preparedness.

Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC)

The OFC is the senior fire authority in the province with respect to fire safety and prevention. Services include administration and enforcement of fire safety legislation, training of local assistants to the fire commissioner, fire loss statistics collection, fire investigation, fire inspection, response to major fire emergencies, advice to local governments on delivery of fire protection services, public fire safety education and fire fighter certification.

BC Coroners Service (BCCS)

The BCCS is responsible for the investigation of all unnatural, unexplained and unattended deaths, as well as all children's deaths and deaths in correctional and mental health facilities. Deaths are investigated by coroners appointed by the Chief Coroner. When appropriate or

mandated, inquests are held to review the circumstances of a death. The chief coroner also has the authority to establish death review panels to review the facts and circumstances of deaths and provide advice to the Chief Coroner. Coroners are situated across the province to provide 24/7 response within their communities to deaths reported. The coroner's mandate is to determine the identity of the deceased, and when, where, how and by what means he or she died. Coroners, death review panel members, and juries all make recommendations to improve public safety and prevent deaths in similar circumstances.

For information on the specific programs and services of EMBC, please visit our website at www.gov.bc.ca/embc/

Finances

EMBC's yearly finances are accounted for through two streams:

- Annual Operations Budget = \$26.702M
 - EMBC Operations is \$14.425M
 - BCCS Operations is \$12.277M

For the fiscal year 2014/15 EMBC's total annual operations budget was \$26.702M. The EMBC Operations funds were used to undertake provincial emergency planning, preparedness, and mitigation efforts relating to flood, fire, and other hazards. These funds allow for promotion of emergency management capacity within British Columbia communities, business continuity and integrated public safety planning.

- *Emergency Program Act* = \$14.478M

Under Section 16 of the EPA, EMBC can access Consolidated Revenue Funds (CRF) to offset any expenditures over and above the voted funding allocation considered necessary to implement a provincial emergency plan or provincial emergency measure. For the fiscal year 2014/15 funding provided to EMBC through the EPA voted funding allocation totaled \$14.478M. These funds provide for ministry programs and operations described in the EPA, and account for costs associated for response through to recovery from emergencies, disasters, and for hazard mitigation initiatives.

2014-2015 EMBC Strategic Plan

In formulating its strategic plan, EMBC sought alignment with the Ministry's justice reform goals and developed five key goals that reflect EMBC's unique role in supporting safety and resiliency for British Columbia's communities. The 2014/15 - 2016/17 Emergency Management BC Strategic Plan reflected an ongoing commitment to these key goals:

1. EMBC is a learning organization with a culture of continuous improvement.
2. EMBC is expert in leading the management of catastrophic disasters of provincial significance and impact.

3. EMBC is effective in supporting other responsible authorities in their mandate to mitigate and manage emergencies and disasters.
4. EMBC excels in the provision of the OFC’s and BCCS’s unique services.
5. EMBC empowers and strengthens volunteer organizations.

In support of the five key goals, EMBC has prioritized its work activities for the 2014-2017 timeframe under six strategic lines of effort, these include:

1. Organizational Capacity
2. Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness
3. Training and Exercises
4. Partnerships
5. Public Education
6. Business Practices and Governance

Strategic Plan Progress:

EMBC is on track or ahead of schedule with all of the projects under our strategic lines of effort. The table below summarizes the status of these priority projects.

Line of Effort #1: Organizational Capacity

Activity/Project	Description & Value	Current Status & Next Steps
Develop key capacity in strategic areas	New positions provide EMBC with enhanced capacity and capabilities with 24/7 operational coverage, decision making, planning and coordinating emergency logistics, and, developing integrated training and exercise opportunities.	85% complete – Hiring of new staff positions. New Staffing Plan established with the following new priority hires: -Provincial Duty Managers (PDM’s) x 6 -Executive Director for Logistics -Assistant Director Logistics -Logistics Deployment and Planning -Logistics Resourcing -Training & Exercise Coordinator -Exercise Specialist EMBC will explore other potential staffing options to enhance surge capacity needs.
Provincial Coordination Capacity	Provincial Coordination Team (PCT) provides additional capacity during major events for the purpose of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enhanced situational awareness - Support to EMBC operations centers - Support to Local Authorities 	100% Complete – Development of PCT concept, feasibility, scoping and initial implementation. PCT was initiated one year ahead of schedule with 22 members recruited (EMBC staff and select external representatives) and provided with initial training. Engagement will be expanded to broaden potential PCT participation.

Line of Effort #2: Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness

Activity/Project	Description & Value	Current Status & Next Steps
Multi-year Earthquake Planning Roadmap	A roadmap that outlines the deliverables required for EMBC in leading earthquake preparedness in BC.	100 % Complete – Initial earthquake planning roadmap. Extend the roadmap beyond the immediate response phase to address deliverables for sustained response planning.
BC Earthquake Plans	The Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP) will address initial provincial actions to a catastrophic earthquake. The IRP identifies roles and responsibilities of provincial ministries and stakeholders in the immediate response phase of an earthquake and summarizes the key activities and integrated actions required.	100 % Complete – BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan. Conducting stakeholder consultation sessions on the IRP with provincial ministries, federal government, critical infrastructure stakeholders and local authorities. Initiate planning for sustained response phase.
Consultation with Stakeholders on the subject of earthquake preparedness	Undertook extensive consultation with British Columbia stakeholders regarding issues, priorities, and opportunities in the area of catastrophic earthquake preparedness. The consultation and subsequent report outlines a number of sensible, long-term steps to achieve a highly prepared British Columbia.	100 % Complete – Earthquake Consultation Report. Final report approved and published on March 26, 2015 and posted to EMBC website. EMBC has received and reviewed the report, and is now using the recommendations as input towards updating its annual strategic plan.
Enhance Business Continuity	Enhancing business continuity capabilities will ensure that critical government business and cross government coordination will continue with as little disruption as possible during catastrophic events.	100 % Complete – Refresh of Provincial Mission Critical Services list. 75 % Complete – Draft Business Continuity Plan for Government Services Branch. Implementing support strategies, recruiting Temporary Emergency Assignment Management System (TEAMS) members and developing training. 100% Complete – Alternate facility from which the Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) can operate. EMBC has successfully established and exercised an alternate operations facility. Further testing and exercises will be incorporated into EMBC exercise plans.
Enhance Provincial Emergency	Enhancements designed to decrease time to issue alerts, ensure right	100 % Complete – Enhancements to the PENS system.

Activity/Project	Description & Value	Current Status & Next Steps
Notification System (PENS)	people are notified and ensure reliability of system.	Ongoing stakeholder communication and testing, as well as, ongoing process and enhancements to the system with a commitment to continuous improvement. EMBC is actively exploring next generation alerting tools to further enhance key stakeholder and public alerting.
Enhance the communication ability of Senior Officials	Provide alternate communications for senior and elected officials to ensure backup communications are available to key decision makers during emergencies and disasters.	100 % Complete – Satellite phones disseminated and training provided as part of Senior Officials/Cabinet workshop held June 3, 2015.
Integrated Information Systems	EMBC has undertaken high level project scoping, budgeting, scheduling, and planning for interdependencies between its information systems projects, and has integrated its high level plans into broader Ministry of Justice Information Management Information Technology (IMIT) planning.	Further work is contingent upon available funding.
Critical Infrastructure (CI) Program	The protection and restoration of critical infrastructure assets is essential for recovery after a catastrophic event. Key elements of the critical infrastructure program include working with a broad range of critical infrastructure owners and stakeholders to identify a provincial list of critical assets and priority restoration requirements.	90 % Complete – New CI Assessment Tool for Local Authorities. EMBC collaborated with Defence Research Development Canada and Justice Institute of BC, to develop a new CI Assessment tool and education materials for Local Authorities, designed to identify, prioritize and analyze vulnerabilities to local CI assets. Developing a communications strategy to support dissemination of the CI tool. In partnership with IPREM, will implement use of CI tool with select Metro Vancouver Local Authorities.

Line of Effort #3: Training and Exercises

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
Training:		
Develop and deliver operational training for the PECC and PREOC's	EMBC is developing function specific training to ensure that staff in the PECC and PREOC's are adequately trained to fulfill operational roles.	100 % Complete – Delivery of operational training including Core and E-Team information management courses. 100 % Complete – Resource Management Course. Course developed and delivered in Dec., 2014.

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
		<p>90 % Complete – Situational Awareness Course. Course materials developed and manual currently in production.</p> <p>Training for Regional Managers set for summer 2015, in order to support broader training to EMBC staff and stakeholders.</p>
Develop and deliver training to Provincial Government Senior Officials	Senior Provincial Officials will be better prepared to carry out their roles and responsibilities during emergencies and disasters.	<p>100% Complete – Senior Provincial Officials Workshop.</p> <p>Workshop was delivered in June and included presentation on new decision making tools.</p>
Develop and deliver Elected Officials workshop for Local Authorities	Local Authority Elected Officials will be better prepared to carry out their roles and responsibilities during emergencies and disasters.	<p>100 % Complete – Local Authority Elected Officials training materials and accompanying presentation.</p> <p>Sessions delivered across EMBC regions to support Local Authorities.</p> <p>Training outcomes are being evaluated in order to modify future training delivery.</p>
Deliver Emergency Management (EM) training to Local Authorities and Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV)	Local Authorities and volunteers will be better prepared and trained to carry out their respective roles and responsibilities during emergencies and disasters.	<p>100 % Complete – Training programs delivered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 68 EM classroom courses (1258 participants) - 8 EM webinars (739 log-in's) - Online EM training (51 participants) <p>New fiscal year courses are being scheduled and posted to EMBC website.</p>
Exercises:		
Tabletop Exercises (TTX)	TTX's provide a baseline to test and validate plans, processes and procedures.	<p>100 % Complete – TTX's conducted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TTX in September, 2014 to support activation of the Canadian Red Cross Emergency Response Unit (ERU), Implementation Plan and Auxiliary to Government Agreement - TTX in April, 2015 to support annual freshet planning and exercising draft provincial guidelines for structures impacted by watercourses <p>Exercise recommendations and after action reports for both TTX's are being addressed.</p>
Full-scale Catastrophic Earthquake Response Exercise	Established a catastrophic earthquake and tsunami exercise roadmap to set the conditions for validating provincial response plans.	<p>100% Complete – Earthquake/Tsunami Exercise Roadmap.</p> <p>The exercise roadmap is a new initiative not yet reflected in our strategic plan.</p> <p>EMBC will lead the execution of exercises to test key elements of the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan.</p>

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
		A major full scale exercise is scheduled for June, 2016.

Line of Effort #4: Partnerships

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
Support to Local Authority Emergency Management Programs	EMBC has developed, and will implement, a strategy to advance engagement, support and communications with local governments in British Columbia. EMBC will provide a number of tools and services through the EMBC website and regional offices located throughout the province.	100 % Complete – Strategy developed to improve communications and support for Local Authority Emergency Programs. Ongoing follow-up with EMBC program staff and Local Authorities.
Expand network of regional emergency management partnerships	Regional emergency management partnerships can enhance all phases of emergency management and foster greater integration and collaboration by addressing regional gaps/issues, and prioritizing development of joint projects that will benefit multiple jurisdictions and stakeholders.	100 % Complete – Strategy for establishing regional emergency management partnerships with the province. Building on the success of IPREM – Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver, EMBC is working on establishing similar partnerships with other major populated regions across the province. 70 % Complete – Discussions underway with CRD Communities to approve/formalize a regional emergency management partnership with the province.
Partnerships with Existing Emergency Management Organizations	Ensuring the province’s ability to expedite requests for federal assistance and secure additional support, as needed, from other provinces and cross-border alliances during a disaster.	80 % Complete – Draft protocol and process for requesting federal assistance. Review and adaptation to a common process document, followed by implementation into the provincial emergency management structure. 100 % Complete – Responsibility for Executive Chair for the Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Arrangement (PNEMA) shifted to WA. Support to PNEMA is ongoing.
Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV)	EMBC will provide ongoing support and recognition to PSLV groups in various forms to ensure service provision across British Columbia.	100% Complete – Formal recognition program developed to support PSL Volunteers. A recognition ceremony will be held each year at the Legislature. Ongoing – Review and updating of volunteer policies to support operational readiness and responder safety, including:

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Swift Water Operating Guidelines - Code of Conduct and Policy for all PSLV - Interim Helicopter Rescue Policy - Road and Medical Rescue Policy <p>Work with B.C./ Search and Rescue Association (BCSARA) to research new strategies for funding support.</p> <p>EMBC will develop a comprehensive needs analysis to evaluate how the volunteer system in BC should evolve to ensure a robust, sustainable program.</p>
National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP)	EMBC will develop a natural hazard mitigation approach to protect the province’s strategic interests and to support local governments with the accurate identification of risks, construction of permanent mitigation structures and implementation of non-structural works to improve community resiliency.	<p>75 % Complete – Province working with Federal Government on an approved list of initial key NDMP projects.</p> <p>Initial focus is on risk assessments and flood mapping, but not precluding other activities.</p> <p>EMBC is working in partnership with provincial ministries and stakeholders to determine potential priorities for this mitigation funding.</p>

Line of Effort #5: Public Education

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
Public education needs assessment	Provided the framework for a comprehensive public education program.	100 % Complete – Public Education needs assessment report.
New and Updated Hazard Specific Education Materials	Review and update hazard specific materials in support of operational and seasonal readiness.	<p>100 % Complete – PreparedBC brand and new resources available on new PreparedBC website. Earthquake & Tsunami Smart Manuals revised. New education materials developed, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Basic Emergency Supplies Kit Card - In it Together -Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide - PreparedBC - Household Preparedness Guide
Tsunami public education campaign	Tsunami Preparedness Week is now an annual event in BC to help enhance the public’s awareness and education of the hazard.	100 % Complete – Tsunami Preparedness Week campaign initiated March 22-28, 2015. Public education resources developed including a Tsunami Smart social media campaign and updated Earthquake & Tsunami Smart Manuals.

Line of Effort #6: Business Practices and Governance:

Activity/Project	Description and Value	Current Status and Next Steps
Business/Financial Practices and Governance Review	EMBC conducted a review of all financial processes and governance, and approved several procedure enhancements as part of a renewed management framework to clarify accountabilities and improve efficiencies.	100 % Complete – Enhanced EMBC business and operational practices. During 2015/16 enhancements will focus on full implementation of new business processes, continuous improvement, additional training where required, and targeted policy clarifications.
Annual Reporting Process	EMBC’s Annual Report provides a high level snapshot of strategic activities and projects accomplished during the fiscal year, and insight into EMBC’s state of preparedness.	100 % Complete – Framework and process established for compiling an EMBC Annual Report. 100% Complete – EMBC Annual Report for 2014-2015 timeframe. Research and develop strategies to assess and analyze provincial government and crown corporations overall state of preparedness.
Review of <i>Emergency Program Act</i> (EPA) and Associated Regulations	The <i>Emergency Program Act</i> (EPA) may benefit from amendments in order to ensure the province is in a position to best lead the management of provincial emergencies and disasters while also empowering other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction. A review of the legislation will confirm the suitability of the Act.	60 % Complete – Initial review of legislation underway. Consultations required with internal and external stakeholders.
After Action Reporting	After Action Reporting provides a forum to summarize positive response activity as well as issues that require further attention and planning. Recommendations are identified and incorporated into plans and programs, in order to enhance future emergency response activity.	75 % Complete – Detailed Event After Action Reporting Guide and supporting documents. Post event operational debriefs are now routinely conducted by EMBC and after action reports compiled. EMBC is working towards consistency across all six of its regions to conduct internal post-event debriefs and after action reports. Debrief processes and after action reporting will also be expanded across provincial ministries, ensuring a structured, scalable and collaborative approach.

OFC – Office of the Fire Commissioner

As part of the overall EMBC Strategic Plan, the OFC has created a separate three-year Strategic Plan that can be found at this link: <http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc/index.htm>

In the fall of 2014 the OFC established a new minimum fire training standard. This meets a requirement of the OFC statutory mandate and addresses issues of concern for local communities and fire departments. This was accomplished by working co-operatively with stakeholders and incorporating their feedback with the issuance of a new training standard edition in May 2015. The standard enhances the capabilities of local first responders and standardizes the expectations for fire training within communities.

BCCS - BC Coroners Service

The BCCS's new strategic plan is under development and should be completed by September, 2015.

To support coroners in their investigative decision-making, *Coroners Service Policy* is being updated and converted to electronic format. A draft is complete and is undergoing final review. It will then be reviewed by a focus group of coroners before being introduced across the organization.

Enhancing Coroner Expertise – The establishment of a Learning and Development Coordinator role is the first step in creating a fulsome standardized training and development program for Coroners Service staff. In support of investigative excellence, basic training sessions are held three times yearly for new coroners, and a service-wide professional development conference was held for all staff in Spring 2015. Regional conferences are held bi-annually.

BCCS Memorandum Of Understanding's (MOU) to Enhance Working Partnerships – On May 2, 2014, the Coroners Service signed an MOU with the First Nations Health Authority of B.C. (FNHA), the first MOU the FNHA has signed outside the health care system. Coroners Service and FNHA will work together to improve the health, safety and well-being of First Nations in British Columbia.

Additionally, work is almost complete on a new MOU between BCCS, all police agencies and the Independent Investigations Office (IIO).

Child Death Review Panels have brought subject matter experts together in a positive, collaborative environment to review children's deaths and recommend ways to keep the province's most vulnerable citizens safer in the future.

Partnership Support:

Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council (IEPC)

The Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council is comprised of senior decision makers from provincial ministries, crown corporations and key emergency management stakeholders. As referenced in the EPA, it is responsible for recommending to greater government coordinated emergency prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures for the Province of British Columbia. The IEPC is led and supported by EMBC, and is tasked with developing and promoting policies and procedures for a government-wide integrated emergency management system. The IEPC oversees development, maintenance, training and exercising of comprehensive government plans and procedures to deal with any emergency or disaster, including security issues where appropriate, and promotes integration and consistency between the Province's emergency management system and those of other governments and organizations. In 2014-2015, the IEPC strengthened its Terms of Reference to ensure greater accountability for projects and activities it's associated with. It completed a detailed review of the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS), broadening the scope of the BCERMS Guide to include all four phases of emergency management and evolving the title of BCERMS to "BCEMS – B.C. Emergency Management System". The IEPC also formalized its ties to key emergency management working groups, including:

- B.C. Emergency Management System Steering Committee
- Emergency Communications Steering Committee
- Government Business Continuity Advisory Committee
- Integrated Exercise Working Group
- Landslide Policy and Mitigation Working Group
- Provincial Critical Infrastructure Steering Committee
- Seismic Safety Council

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM)

In 2009 EMBC partnered with the Greater Vancouver Regional District (referred to as Metro Vancouver) to form the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management, with each partner contributing 50% of the required budget. Recognizing emergency management as a shared responsibility, IPREM is a mechanism for coordinating a collaborative, inclusive approach to regional emergency management for the Metro Vancouver region.

IPREM's priority projects for 2014-2015, included:

- Integrated Regional All-Hazard Concept of Operations – provides for non-routine levels of coordination, joint decision making, prioritizing and allocating resources, and increased situational awareness between the South West PREGOC and Metro Vancouver Local Governments.
- Regional Emergency Communications Strategy – provides for effective and efficient exchange of information and communications, as required and authorized, during a regional emergency impacting Metro Vancouver.

Simon Fraser University (SFU) Telematics Research Lab

EMBC has established a very successful partnership with SFU to provide subject matter expertise on emergency alerting systems and communications before and during an emergency

event. SFU initiated two significant projects for enhanced communications and public alerting, these include:

- ***Improving End-to-End Tsunami Warning for Risk Reduction along Canada's West Coast Project*** – this project is funded by the Canadian Safety and Security Program managed through Defence Research and Development Canada (DRDC) Centre for Security Science (CSS). EMBC is serving as the project champion in partnership with Simon Fraser University.
- ***Deployable Public Safety Broadband Communications Project*** – SFU partnered with EMBC in the “Field Operational Test Facility for Next-Generation Interoperable Mission-Critical Communications Project” that is defining the operational requirements for next-generation mobile Public Safety Broadband Networking (PSBN) systems to support emergency responders in disaster response situations, where conventional communication infrastructure is damaged or non-existent. This project, supported through the Canadian Safety and Security Program, is establishing Canada's first national in-field PSBN wireless testing and validation capability, specifically focused on deployable systems to support the development of new protocols and strategies to overcome connectivity and interoperability problems.

Seasonal Hazard Preparedness

Each year EMBC Regions host annual forums to provide opportunities for Local Government and First Nations representatives to be briefed and collectively discuss relevant seasonal hazards, such as flooding and wildfires.

Flood Protection Program

Intake projects identified in 2013 are nearly 55% complete. All approved projects are underway and are to be completed by March 31, 2016. This year represents the final year of the 10-year Flood Protection Program in the Province. Since inception, EMBC has committed to 167 projects worth over \$173 million in total project costs. On-going successful completion of flood mitigation projects reduces a community's vulnerability and risk associated with flooding.

Local Government Emergency Management Plan Templates

Research was completed into inter-jurisdictional approach across Canada and USA. This resulted in the formation of a provincial working group with various stakeholder representatives from across the province to assist with development of an emergency plan template and planning toolkit that will be made available to Local Authorities to use as a basis for future development of their emergency management plans.

Seismic Safety Program

With a focus on catastrophic earthquake planning, EMBC established a new Seismic Safety Council comprised of both academics and emergency management practitioners. The Council created a draft statement of purpose and strategic objectives designed to provide structure and strategy for EMBC's Seismic Program and align priority seismic projects with EMBC's Strategic Plan.

ShakeOut BC Earthquake Drill/Campaign

In partnership with ShakeOut BC organizers, EMBC played a central role in the 2014 Great British Columbia ShakeOut Earthquake Drill which promoted and engaged more than 740,000

British Columbians to drop, cover and hold on. The 2015 Shakeout BC campaign will include a focus on educating the tourism industry on earthquake preparedness.

2014 – 2015 Emergency Response Events

EMBC led and/or provided coordination support to the following emergency response events that occurred between April 2014 and March 2015:

Event	Event Description	Observations and Learning
Wildfire Season	Large scale wildfires burned almost 360,000 hectares of land – third highest in province’s history. All EMBC regions were engaged with emergency coordination and providing local authority and stakeholder support, particularly the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC’s) in northeast, northwest and central regions of the province. The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) was activated for a significant period of time to affect provincial level coordination and situational awareness.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple regional activations • Significant duration of activations • Greater than 4,500 people affected by evacuation orders • Emergency Social Service support required for local authorities and evacuees • Significant Critical Infrastructure threatened (highways / power / telecommunications / gas transmission) • First Nations liaison and enhanced support through collaboration with Wildfire Management Branch’s First Nations Liaison staff
Mt. Polley Tailing Pond Breach	On August 4 th 2014, a major tailing pond breach at the Mt. Polley mine site released millions of cubic metres of effluent downstream into Hazeltine Creek and Quesnel Lake. A significant response and recovery effort was required by the mining company and multiple local, provincial, federal governments and First Nations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant social and business impacts to the community of Likely and surrounding area affecting jobs and tourism in the area • Monitoring and quantifying the environmental damages • Engineering cause investigation and recommendations • Local resident health concerns • Coordination of significant ministry, industry and agency resources and communications
Spring/Fall Flooding	Spring freshet and fall flooding saw events that required regional and provincial level activation and support. There were Disaster Financial Assistance events declared for the Kamloops area in July, and North Vancouver and Vancouver Island Communities in November-December timeframe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community level assessments and support

Event	Event Description	Observations and Learning
Avian Flu	An Avian Flu outbreak in December affected a number of farms in the Fraser Valley. EMBC supported Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) and BC Ministry of Agriculture in establishing and operating a Joint Emergency Operations Centre (JEOC) in Abbotsford. The Southwest PREOC, PECC and the Central Coordination Group provided senior level government engagement. This was the fourth Avian Flu incident in 11 years.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multiple agency support – almost 20 provincial and federal ministries & agencies were involved • A number of farms had to depopulate their flocks • Re-infection of farms and/or widespread contamination concern
Disabled Cargo Vessel – MV Simushir	On October 17 th a disabled Russian cargo ship off the coast of Haida Gwaii required swift and sustained action to secure the vessel and tow it to port for repairs. An Incident Command Post was established under Unified Command on Haida Gwaii, with additional coordination support provided by federal, provincial, local and stakeholder agencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMBC support to lead federal agencies was valued by partners • Complex multi-agency coordination including U.S. Coast Guard • Challenging weather and geographic distances for response • Significant environmental /cultural threat to Haida Gwaii
Overland Flooding and landslides – Central Region	A significant weather event occurred Feb 2-23, 2014, creating a Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) level event throughout many areas of EMBC’s Central Region, affecting multiple Regional Districts and smaller communities with overland flooding and landslides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex event across a wide regional area involving operational response across multiple agencies, and recovery through the DFA program • Multiple landslides and ice jams, affecting local authority infrastructure, businesses, farms and residences

Key Statistics:

Volunteer Support:

Number of PREOC/PECC Multi-Ministry/Agency TEAMS members deployed: 126

Number of Mobile Support Team members deployed: 32

Number of Ground Search & Rescue Groups: 80

Number of Road Rescue Service Providers:

- Search and Rescue Groups: 5

- Road Rescue Societies: 8

- Fire Departments: 119

Emergency Response Activity:

Number of ESS Task Events/People assisted by ESS: 5,256

Number of Ground Search and Rescue Task Events: 1,352

Number of PEP Air/Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA) Task Events: 25

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA):

Number of provincial disasters for which DFA was authorized: 7

Disaster recovery funding provided to: 23 Local Governments; 2 First Nations; 223 residents

Number of Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA) claims for provincial disasters from prior years: 3, with an expected result in federal funding to B.C. of \$43.4M

Training:

Number of Participants completed Emergency Management Training: 2,048

Number of Participants completed Emergency Social Services Training: 2,227

Number of Participants completed Search and Rescue Training: 682

OFC: for further source data, please refer to OFC website at

<http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc/fire-reporting/stats/index.htm>

Number of Fire Departments: 415

Number of Fires Reported: 5827

Cost of Losses: \$243,102,402

Number of Injuries: 176

Number of Fatalities: 17

BCCS: for further source data, please refer to BCCS website at

<http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners/reports/index.htm>

Number of deaths reported to Coroners: 8, 276

Number of Coroners investigations: 3,954

Number of fatalities from Natural Disease: 4,322

Number of Coroners Reports issued: 3,773

Number of Inquests: 11 were held into 12 deaths, resulting in 131 recommendations to various agencies and ministries.

Appendix A: 2014-2017 EMBC Strategic Plan

http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em/Emerg_Mgmt_BC/EMBC-Strategic-Plan.pdf

Appendix B: Emergency Event Statistical Summary



Statistical
Summary FY 14 ...



Total Incidents FY
14 15.pdf

Appendix C: Contact Information and Hyperlinks

Emergency Management BC: 250-952-4913

Emergency Management BC

- Emergency Management: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em
- Office of the Fire Commissioner: www.embc.gov.bc.ca/ofc
- BC Coroners Service: www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/coroners