



Regional Emergency Program

2009 Council Briefing

Jason Brolund Rene Blanleil
Kelowna Fire Department

Overview

- Emergency Management Model
- BCERMS – Provincial Standard
- Emergency Operations Centre
- Elected Official Roles / Responsibilities
- Personal Preparedness
- Past and Future

In Canada, we have an emergency management model that includes everyone from individuals and families, local, regional, provincial and federal government



Emergency Management Model

At the local level, Canadians are expected to plan for and deal with everyday emergencies they may face.



**IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?**

Emergency Management Model

When the emergency is too great for an individual to handle, the municipality steps in to help.



Emergency Management Model

When municipal resources and capability are overwhelmed, the province provides the necessary resources to support the emergency or disaster.



Emergency Management Model

When provincial resources are exhausted, the province may call on the federal government for help. The federal government may contribute its own supplies, those of other provinces, or the international community.



British Columbia Emergency Response Management System

- Ensures a coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to any and all emergency events
- Standardize the process for the delivery of a multi-ministry, multi-agency coordinated response to all emergencies
- clarify the functions of various supporting local, provincial and federal agencies during a response

BCERMS Goals

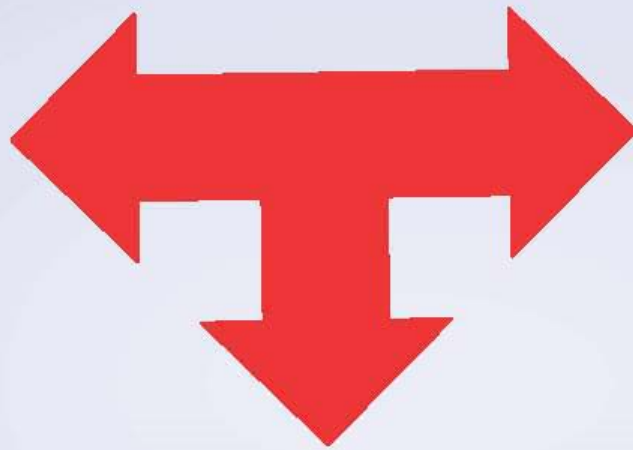
The top of the slide features a banner with the British Columbia flag on the left and a scenic view of a coastline with mountains and water on the right.

- 1) Provide for Safety & Health of all Responders
- 2) Save Lives
- 3) Reduce Suffering
- 4) Protect Public Health
- 5) Protect Government Infrastructure
- 6) Protect Property
- 7) Protect the Environment
- 8) Reduce Economic & Social Losses

Disasters in BC

Natural

- Earthquake
- Flood
- Forest Fire
- Landslide
- Severe Weather
- Tsunami



Social / Political

- Bomb Threat
- Civil Unrest
- Terrorism
- Health/Pandemic

Industrial

- Urban Fire
- Hazardous Materials
- Explosion
- Structural Collapse
- Transportation

Regional Emergency Program

- Province mandates an Emergency Plan
- Affiliated with Provincial Emergency Program
- Regional Program administered by KFD
- Funded by all member municipalities



District of
West
Kelowna



Local Authority Emergency Program



- Establish an emergency management structure
- Conduct HRVA & develop appropriate emergency plan(s)
- Identify emergency resources (both internal & external)
- Organize volunteer support programs (e.g., ESS, SAR, Emergency Radio)
- Develop & conduct public education materials & programs
- Provide training for staff & volunteers
- Develop & conduct training exercises
- Coordinate emergency response & recovery operations

Emergency Operations Centre



Site Support Level Local Authority EOC



- Larger and more complex incidents may require:
 - Policy direction
 - Additional authority (e.g., for evacuation)
 - Agency coordination
 - Resource support
 - Information management (e.g., public info, media)
- Local Authority &/or Regional District EOC's are activated to coordinate these additional requirements

BCERMS Response Levels



Emergency Operations Centre responsibilities include:

- policy direction and support,
- information collection, evaluation and display,
- coordination of agencies and operations,
- establishment of priorities,
- resource management,
- communications, and
- public information and warning.

EOC Activations

- Forest Fires, Floods, Major Hazmat, Landslides, ESS, Extreme Weather, ???
- Can be requested by any member of the plan
- Can be requested by PEP
- Requests to be directed immediately to on-duty EPC who will authorize EOC activation
- EOC / Alternate EOC Location

■ June 2005 – Westside Road collapse



■ August 2005 – Rose Valley Fire



Other Recent Activations

- 2008 BC Summer Games
- Nov 2008: Highway 97 Closure
- Dec 2008: North Westside Power Outage
- Jan/Feb 2009: Winter Storm – PEP Support
- Pandemic Alert Phase
- 2009 Spring Freshet Preparations



Pandemic Planning

- Tabletop Exercise – 2003
- Interior Health Workshop
– November 2007
- Information gathering and
sharing
- Ongoing monitoring



Elected Officials – Roles and Responsibilities

- Legislated Responsibilities – Emergency Planning
- Policy Direction
- Corporate Support of Emergency Plan
- Publicly Support Emergency Preparedness
- Be available – Emergency Contact Lists
- During Emergency – within EOC

EOC Policy Group

- When the EOC is activated, local authorities may establish a policy group comprised of the head of the local authority (e.g. Mayor) and other elected officials in order to provide the EOC Director with policy direction.
- An example of this level of policy direction is the declaration of a “state of local emergency”.

Declaring a Local State of Emergency

- Section 12 of the BC Emergency Program Act allows Local Authority, or head of a Local Authority (Municipal Council or Mayor; or Regional District Board or Chair) to declare a State of Local Emergency if extraordinary powers are required to deal with the effects of an emergency or disaster.

Declaring a Local State of Emergency

Declarations can be made in two ways:

- by bylaw or resolution if made by a Local Authority,
- by order, if made by the head of the Local Authority. Before issuing a Declaration by order, the Mayor or Chair must use their best efforts to obtain the consent of the other members of Council or Board to the Declaration.

As soon as practical after issuing a Declaration order, the Mayor or Regional District Chair must convene a meeting of Council and/or Board to assist in directing response to the emergency.



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Have you ever thought about how to prepare for an emergency?

How would you:

- Cope without power or tap water?
- Contact your family?
- Get medication if pharmacies are closed?
- Get information from authorities after a major emergency?





IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Fast Fact:

Although the majority of Canadians believe that having an emergency plan and emergency kit are important, *only a small number* of Canadians have actually created them.





IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Learn the three steps to getting prepared:



Know the risks



Make a plan



Prepare a kit





IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

Common misconceptions:

- Most forms of emergencies are short-lived.
- I won't ever have to deal with an emergency where I live.
- There are a lot of emergencies I just can't prepare for.





IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

STEP

1



Know the risks
Know your region.

Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks in your region can help you better prepare.

Find out about risks in your region:
www.GetPrepared.ca
1 800 O-Canada





IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

STEP

2



Make a plan.

Every Canadian household needs an emergency plan.
It will help you and your family know what to do in an emergency.

- Use your Emergency Preparedness Guide as an outline for your plan
- Keep your plan in an easy-to-find, easy-to-remember place
- Photocopy and distribute your plan in several areas
(for example: briefcase, emergency kit, desk)



IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?

STEP

3



Prepare a kit

If you needed to survive for a
minimum of 72 hours,
what would you put in your kit?



STEP

3



Prepare a kit

IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?





IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?

Pre-packaged kits:



St. John Ambulance and Salvation Army kits are available for purchase at www.sja.ca.

Canadian Red Cross kits are available at www.redcross.ca.



"Preparing for an emergency is a responsibility we all share. Having a plan and an emergency kit to cope with the first 72 hours of an emergency can make a world of difference in keeping a family safe and comfortable, and helps first responders to focus their resources on those in urgent need."



**IS YOUR FAMILY
PREPARED?**