

Annex E – Volunteers and Agencies

Coordination with volunteer and private agencies should be established at the local government level. The Highlands EOC will generally be a focal point for coordination of response activities with many non-governmental agencies. The EOC should establish coordination with private and volunteer agencies providing services within the municipality.

Agencies that play key roles in the response should have representatives at the EOC. If an agency supports several functions and has only one representative at the EOC, the agency representative should be located at the liaison area. If an agency is supporting one function only, its representative may be located with that functional element. Some agencies may have several personnel participating in functional elements in the EOC. For example, in some cities, Canadian Red Cross personnel may be part of the staffing for the ESS Branch.

It may not be feasible for some agencies that have a region-wide response role to provide representatives to all municipal EOCs. Such agencies should be represented at the operational area level, most often through the PREOC.

Coordination with volunteer and private agencies that do not have representatives at the EOC may be accomplished through telecommunications, liaison with community councils that represent several agencies, or involvement of agencies in special multi-agency groups on specific issues

The Government of British Columbia provides support to municipalities at times of emergency or disaster. To meet this obligation, each ministry, board, commission and Crown agency will contribute personnel and resources wherever they are needed.

The Government of British Columbia believes that the responsibility for meeting emergency situations rests with the level of government most directly affected. As long as the capacity to deal with an emergency situation exists, the operational responsibility will remain at the lowest level of government. When the capacity to do so is inadequate and governmental action is appropriate, the sequence of responsibility will start at the local level and, as required, move to the other levels of government.

For each identified hazard, one ministry is named the "key ministry" with primary responsibility for conducting provincial response operations. Other ministries who assist are termed "supporting ministries".

The ministries are coordinated through one of six Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOCs) if their services are required during a regional emergency. The PREOC serving the Highlands area is located at PEP Headquarters in Victoria. In a provincial emergency, the BC ministries are coordinated through the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC), also at PEP Headquarters in Victoria.

Requests for assistance can be made through PEP at 1-800-663-3456.

E.1 Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Fisheries

Key ministry for contagious plant and animal diseases:

1. Advise farmers and fishers on the protection of crops, livestock and fish stocks in emergency situations.
2. Coordinate the emergency evacuation and care of livestock and/or poultry.
3. Arrange for the provision of food and potable water supplies.

E.2 Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

Key ministry for coordinating emergency response by provincial agencies, including:

- Public order emergencies (Policing)
 - Aircraft crashes (Policing)
 - Earthquakes (Provincial Emergency Program)
 - Tsunamis (Provincial Emergency Program)
 - Volcanic eruptions (Provincial Emergency Program)
 - Severe storms (Provincial Emergency Program)
 - Drought and emergency water supply (Provincial Emergency Program)
1. Advise local governments and provincial ministries/crown corporations on legal matters relating to the preparation and promulgation of emergency orders, regulations, declarations and contractual arrangements.
 2. Prepare, promulgate and implement regulations relating to law enforcement and internal security during emergencies.
 3. Provide through the RCMP force having jurisdiction:
 - Advice to local authorities respecting the maintenance of law and order.
 - Reinforcement of local RCMP services.
 - Security control of emergency areas.
 - Traffic and crowd control.
 - Search and rescue for missing persons (land and inland waters).
 4. Provide Coroner's services including the operations of temporary morgues, identification of the dead and registration of death.
 5. If required, through the Officer Commanding "Emergency" Division, RCMP, assume jurisdiction and control over all RCMP forces in the province when a provincial state of emergency has been declared under the Emergency Program Act.
 6. Through the Provincial Emergency Program (PREOC):
 - Provide 24-hour capability to direct requests from 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.
- Provide funds through the Emergency Assistance Vote to cover incremental costs incurred by local governments, ministries and Crown corporation in responding to an emergency.
- Organize and administer registered volunteers and temporary workers as requested or detailed in emergency response plans.
- Coordinate the emergency response activities of supporting ministries as requested or detailed in emergency response plans.

E.3 Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

Key ministry for:

- Marine oil spills
- Dangerous goods spills, discharges and emissions
- Landslides, mudslides and debris flows
- Dam safety and failures
- Major industrial accidents

Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks has the power under Section 5 of the Environment Management Act to declare an environmental emergency.

1. Provide professional and technical advice and direction at dangerous goods/pollution spills.
2. Ensure the proper disposal of hazardous wastes and pollutants.
3. Assess and monitor air quality.
4. Provide flood forecasts and bulletins.
5. Provide technical services to response agencies in the case of minor floods.
6. Provide flood assessment and planning staff in the case of major floods.
7. Provide conservation officers to act as special constables to reinforce the RCMP in law and order/traffic duties.
8. Provide maps, aerial photographs and survey information.
9. Provide air survey and photogrammetric services.
10. Provide dam safety and inspection services.
11. Ensure legal action and recovery of cleanup costs where appropriate.

E.4 Ministry of Finance

1. Provide risk management services in respect to possible compensation and liability claims.
2. Coordinate, in cooperation with ministries, the establishment and maintenance of Emergency Financial Response Teams throughout the province.

E.5 Ministry of Forests

Key ministry for:

- Forest fires
 - Interface fires in unorganized areas
1. When available, provide Ministry of Forests personnel, equipment, supplies and telecommunications equipment to assist in non-forestry response operations.

E.6 Ministry of Community, Aboriginal and Women's Services

Through the Office of the Fire Commissioner:

1. Order the evacuation of buildings or areas in connection with an emergency arising from a fire hazard or risk of explosion.
2. If required, assume the jurisdiction and control of all fire fighting and fire prevention services within the province when a provincial state of emergency has been declared.

E.7 Ministry of Transportation

Key ministry to direct and coordinate provincial flood-fighting operations in the case of major floods:

1. Coordinate and arrange for transportation, engineering and construction resources.