



Rural Disaster Resilience Project Resources

Information Guide: British Columbia

General Information

The Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)

PEP is part of Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and its website has all kinds of valuable information about hazards. But PEP also has Regional Managers and staff throughout the province who are able to take calls and do their best to answer any questions about hazards that you may have.

South West Region Tel: (604) 586-4390 Fax: (604) 586-4334 Mailing Address: 14275 - 96th Avenue, Surrey, British Columbia V3V 7Z2	Central Region Tel: (250) 371-5240 Fax: (250) 371-5246 Mailing Address: 1255-D Dalhousie Drive, Kamloops, British Columbia, V2C 5Z5
South East Region Tel: (250) 354-5904 Fax: (250) 354-6561 Mailing Address: 403 Vernon Street Nelson, British Columbia V1L 4E6	North East Region Tel: (250) 612-4172 Fax: (250) 612-4171 Mailing Address: 3235 Westwood Drive Prince George, British Columbia V2N 1S4
North West Region Tel: (250) 615-4800 Fax: (250) 615-4817 Mailing Address: Suite 1B - 3215 Eby Street Terrace, British Columbia V8G 2X8	Vancouver Island Region Tel: (250) 952-5848 Fax: (250) 952-4304 Mailing Address: Block A - Suite 200 2261 Keating Cross Road Saanichton British Columbia V8M 2A5
Central Kootenay Regional District Alanna Garrett Emergency Coordinator (Creston) Tel: (250) 352-6665 Fax: (250) 250-352-9300 Mailing Address: Box 590, 202 Lakeside Drive, Nelson, BC V1L 5R4 Email: info@rdck.bc.ca	



www.pep.bc.ca

British Columbia Regional Offices

Each of the 12 municipalities within the Province of British Columbia listed below has an Emergency Preparedness website. The websites below will either provide you with a direct EMC contact or jurisdictional contact information in order to begin your search for more information regarding disaster plans and emergency response in your area.

Central Kootenay Regional District:

http://www.rdck.bc.ca/community/emergency/prepared_for_disaster.html

City of Richmond:

<http://www.richmond.ca/safety/prepare/about.htm>

District of Maple Ridge:

http://www.mapleridge.ca/EN/main/emergency/municipal_emergency.html

Regional District of Nanaimo:

<http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=141>

Central Okanagan Regional District:

http://www.regionaldistrict.com/departments/crime/crime_rep.aspx

North Shore Emergency Management Operations:

<http://www.nsemo.org/>

City of Victoria:

<http://www.victoria.ca/EN/main/departments/emergency-management.html>

North Okanagan Emergency Management (Vernon):

<http://www.vernon.ca/em/index.html>

City of Coquitlam:

<http://www.coquitlam.ca/public-safety/emergency-preparedness/overview.aspx>

Regional District Okanagan-Similkameen:

<http://www.rdos.bc.ca/index.php?id=399>

Shuswap Regional District:

<http://www.csrd.bc.ca/siteengine/activepage.asp?PageID=236>

District of Saanich Emergency Program:

<http://www.saanich.ca/sep/index.html>

The PEP Weekly Incident Reports provide detailed information as to all Search and Rescue (SAR) operations and Emergency Social Services (ESS) calls that have taken place.

As well as providing either direct information or links to alerts and warnings, the PEP website provides hazards information on:

Avalanches	Landslides
Disease Outbreaks	Tsunamis
Drought	Volcanoes
Earthquakes	Weather Events
Flooding	Wildland Fires
Hazardous Material Spills	Wildlife Interface

Local District Contacts

The website below provides a starting point for identifying local district contacts for your community.

In British Columbia contact information for regional districts is available at <http://www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/lgd/pathfinder-rd.htm>

Areas and Districts

School Districts

For School Districts in British Columbia to <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/schools/bcmap.htm>

Electoral Boundaries and Districts

British Columbia Statistics has a “Mapping and Geography” section which may be helpful <http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp>

Territorial Policing

Please note that you might still have to find out exactly where the boundaries are, but the website gives you contact information.

You can locate RCMP Detachments in British Columbia at <http://bc.rcmp.ca/ViewPage.action?siteNodeId=523&languageId=1&contentId=7337>

Fire Protection Areas

Please note that you might still have to find out exactly where the boundaries are, but the website gives you contact information.

British Columbia Fire Departments can be contacted for fire protection area information at http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/firecom/pdf/fire_dept_listing.pdf

Territorial Geological Organization

In British Columbia see GeoBC

<http://archive.ilmb.gov.bc.ca/geobc/index.html>

Geography - General

BC Statistics has a "Mapping and Geography" section which may be helpful

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/data/pop/georef/geopage.asp>

Civil Emergency Measures Act

British Columbia: The Emergency Program Act

The legislation which covers disasters in British Columbia is called the Emergency Program Act.

http://www.bclaws.ca/EPLibraries/bclaws_new/document/ID/freeside/00_96111_01

There are a few definitions and legal requirements under the Act which are important to understand (note that this list is selected from a larger list and the text has, in some cases, been edited for length).

"declaration of a state of local emergency" means a declaration of a local authority or the head of a local authority

"disaster" means a calamity that

- (a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion or technical failure or by the forces of nature, and
- (b) has resulted in serious harm to the health, safety or welfare of people, or in widespread damage to property

"emergency" means a present or imminent event or circumstance that

- (a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or the forces of nature, and
- (b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property

"head of a local authority" means

- (a) for a municipality, the mayor or a person designated by the municipal council to act in the capacity of mayor in the mayor's absence, and
- (b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the chair of the board of the regional district, or, in the chair's absence, a vice chair

"local authority" means

- (a) for a municipality, the municipal council
- (b) for an electoral area in a regional district, the board of the regional district, or
- (c) for a national park, the park superintendent or the park superintendent's delegate if an agreement has been entered into with the government of Canada

"local emergency plan" means an emergency plan prepared under section 6(2)

"volunteer" means a volunteer registered by a local authority or the Provincial Emergency

Program for the purpose of responding to a disaster or an emergency. Thus, if you are an incorporated municipality the Mayor has the ultimate authority, while if you are unincorporated the main responsibility lies with the Regional District. Further under the legislation, whether or not you are incorporated or not, there must be an Emergency Plan that covers your community:

(2) Subject to subsection (2.1), a local authority must prepare or cause to be prepared local emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters

(2.1) For the purposes of subsection (2), a local authority that is the board of a regional district must ensure that it has one local emergency plan that applies, or 2 or more local emergency plans that in the aggregate apply, to all of the electoral areas within the regional district.

Community History

Provincial archives are a great place to search for early history on your community – it may be a bit confusing to access information at first, so take some time to get orientated to each website.

British Columbia Archives

<http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-1BEAB7F/bsearch/Library>

Community Information

The Government of British Columbia has a "GeoBC" mapping section which may be helpful

<http://geobc.gov.bc.ca/>

General Territorial Statistics

You can find statistics on the BC Stats website

<http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca/>

Vital Statistics

British Columbia

<http://www.vs.gov.bc.ca>

SuPPlemental TerRitorial Hazards Information

The PEP Weekly Incident Report

<http://www.pep.bc.ca/incidents/incidents.html>

Forest and Wild Fires

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/wldfrs-eng.aspx>

Floods

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/flds-eng.aspx>

Human Diseases, Epidemics and Pandemics

The BC Centre for Disease Control has a lot of information on diseases and their spread into BC (e.g., West Nile Disease) as well as salmonella and other communicable diseases.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/default.htm>

Tsunamis

<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/tsnms-eng.aspx>