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Emergency Management in BC

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EMBC



Emergency
ManagementBC

Outline

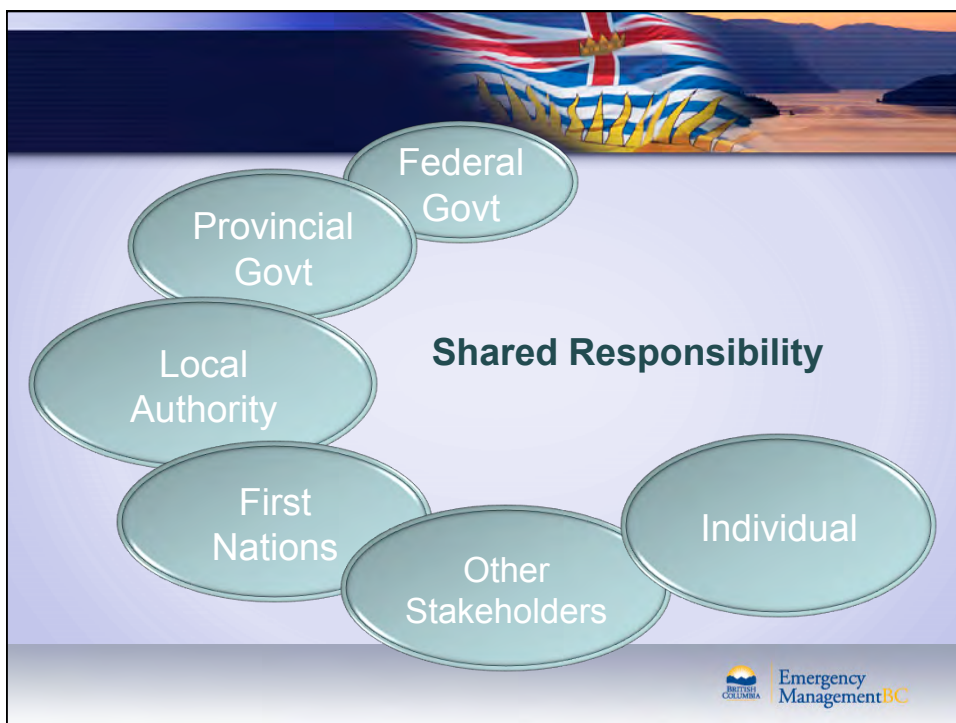
- Emergency Management in BC
- Rural Emergency Management
- Fire Services Training



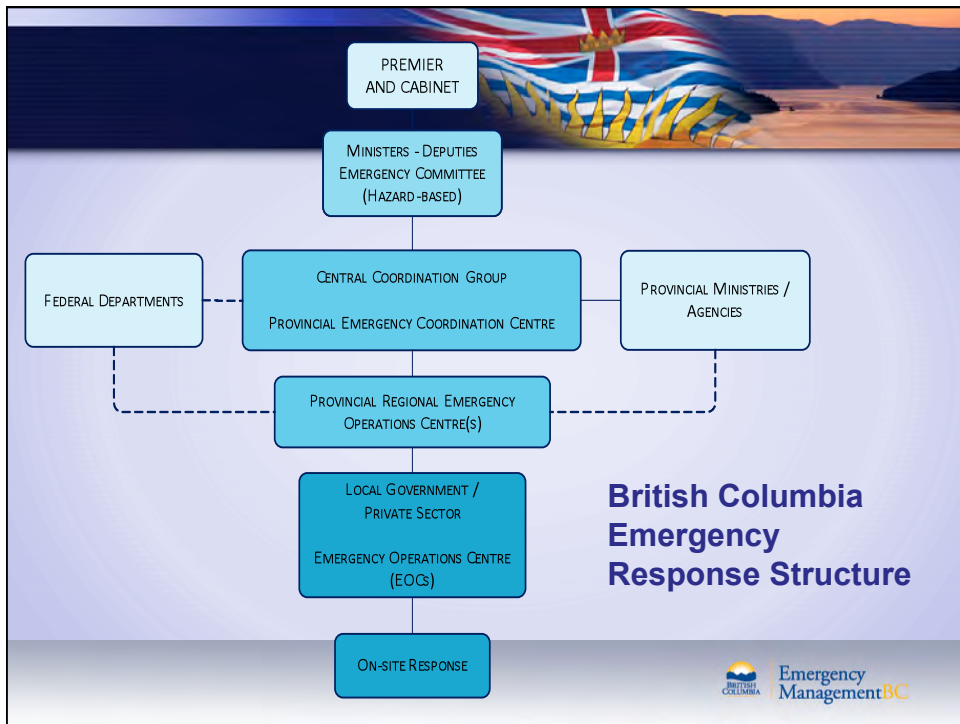
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Context

- Before 1990, only 3 disasters in Canadian history exceeded \$500M in damages
- Since 1996, 12 disasters have exceeded \$500M – combining to cost Canada \$1.1B per year
- From 1996-2011: 376 disasters in Canada
- Small towns of less than 25,000 citizens are 2.5 times more disaster prone than a large city



Response Levels



Emergency Management Cycle



Mitigation & Prevention

Activities and programs intended to reduce the severity of an emergency or potential emergency, before, during, or after the emergency

Mitigation & Prevention

Preparedness

Measures taken in advance of an emergency to ensure an effective response and recovery

Preparedness

Preparedness: Public Education



- The Great BC ShakeOut
- Interface Fire Management Programs (e.g. Landscape Management and FireSmart)
- Mountain Snowmobiling Avalanche Incident Prevention Project
- Snowmobile Recreation Area Avalanche Terrain Mapping

Preparedness: Training

Elected Officials Training

Training for Local Authorities and Volunteers

- Emergency Management
- Emergency Social Services
- Search and Rescue

Response

Immediate actions needed to save lives and protect property

Response

Response Provincial Support



- Activate PREOCs and PECC
- Emergency Coordination Center
- TEAMS
- Eligible Response Costs
- Public Safety Lifeline Volunteers (PSLV)

Recovery



Activities and programs designed to return a situation to an acceptable condition



Recovery Activities

Provincial Activities

- Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA)
- Restoring provincial infrastructure
- Integrated Disaster Council of BC (IDCBC)

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



Multi-ministry involvement includes ministries and agencies such as:

- EMBC (Ministry of Justice)
- Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways
- Ministry of Environment
- Supporting: Ministry of Health; Ministry of Agriculture; Ministry of Community Sport and Cultural Development; and, Ministry of Energy Mines and Natural Gas

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



EMBC functions include:

- Seasonal flood readiness sessions
- Develop and Update BC Flood Plan
- Lead an Advanced Planning Unit
- Flood Protection Program
- Assist with public information

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



EMBC functions include (continued):

- Operate CCG/PECC/PREOC emergency coordination structures in support of local authorities
- Provide access to resources such as sandbags and gabions
- Assist with assessing DFA needs, and process DFA applications

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) functions include:

- Assist in development of regional flood response plans
- Resource CCG/PECC/PREOCs as required
- Identify and deploy resources such as equipment and rip rap
- Clear culverts and conduct inspection patrols for MOTI roads
- Undertake infrastructure repair work on MOTI roads

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) functions include:

- Flood forecasts and bulletins
- Monitor river levels
- Resource CCG/PECC/PREOCs as required
- Dam and dike owner oversight

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) functions include (continued):

- May provide subject matter experts and training
- Assist with site hazard assessment
- Supply fire crews, logistics and communications support (Wildfire Management Branch) at the request of a PREOC

Flooding: Provincial EM Aspects



Ministry of Environment functions include:

- Resource CCG/PECC/PREOCs as required
- Provide technical expertise regarding environmental risk (e.g. Waste management and debris issues resulting from flooding)
- Coordinate snow survey program
- May provide trained flood observers and flood assessors at the request of a PREOC

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Rural Areas Emergency Management



Current Framework:

- Local governments are legislated to plan for and respond to emergencies.
- Legislation, regulation and program structure are aligned to support LG's in their mandate.
- BCERMS' success is based on local authorities providing site response and site support, and the province providing support to local authorities.

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Current Framework (continued):

- Local authorities have critical local knowledge and expertise required for such efforts to be effective.
- Overall, this approach has proven successful
- However, rural areas (e.g. Regional Districts and small municipalities) have unique characteristics which can prove to be challenging under this model.

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Local Authorities in rural areas can encounter a variety of emergency management service delivery challenges:

- Smaller and/or inflexible tax bases to support local government infrastructure and services
- Lack of clarity regarding EM roles and responsibilities in some cases
- Constrained powers and authorities for local authorities

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Challenges continued:

- Smaller populations and smaller staff complements
- Larger geographic footprint
- Fewer subject matter experts available locally
- Competition for resources such as volunteers and EM staff
- Fewer provincial government subject matter experts in regions
- Reduced frequency of travel by provincial emergency management representatives to local communities

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Challenges continued:

- Distant head offices and representatives for private infrastructure
- Elimination of federal JEPP funding program
- Climate change and weather variability = more frequent events (impacts local authorities in all areas)

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Challenges Summary:

- Rural areas can be overwhelmed by emergency events.
- Current expectations of rural local authorities to perform emergency management activities may not match local capacities in many cases.
- Current model may not adequately account for these challenges.
- New tools and model adjustments may be required.

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Developing Solutions:

- Collaboration/Partnership approach
- Provincial project coordination
 - Potentially through a project lead seconded from a local authority
- Consultation and collaboration with local authorities:
 - Scoping current challenges
 - Solutions development , documentation, and approval
- Objective: Identify solutions to enhancing local authority EM capacity

Rural Areas Emergency Management



Next Steps:

- Collect initial input (at provincial and local authority level)
 - Electoral Area Directors' input was sought on February 20
- Identify a project lead
- Determine optimal engagement model
- Move quickly to develop and implement solutions



Fire Services Training



Fire Services Training

Provincial Standard

- OFC directly delivers very little training. But the OFC does set standards.
- Fire Services Act authorizes the OFC to set standards for the training of fire services personnel
- Since 2003, the training standards have been those of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

Fire Services Training



Provincial Standard (continued)

- Local authorities are free to determine locally required services
- The OFC recommends adoption of NFPA standards appropriate to the services being delivered.

Fire Services Training



Training Role of the OFC: Consultation, Coordination and Leadership

Several initiatives underway with relevance to fire services training:

- Fire Services Advisory Committee (FSAC)
- JIBC training planning
- LGMA's Capacity Building for Fire Departments program development
- Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)

Fire Services Training



Fire Services Advisory Committee(s)

- A recommendation of the FSLG Report Leadership Group
- Will provide advice to the Fire Commissioner
- Flexible membership: Initial invitees include fire services associations and local government representatives
- Initial task: Advise on/undertake multi-stakeholder consultation and coordination on fire services training
- First meeting to take place prior to March 31, 2013.

Fire Services Training



Justice Institute of BC Initiative

- Province provides approximately \$1.1 million/yr to JIBC for fire services training
- Goal: Ensure that JIBC has the information it requires to deliver training to meet the future needs of the fire service
- Work is based on significant input from the FSLG Leadership Group, and the province-wide consultation of the Fire Services Training Access Review Report (2009).
- FSAC will provide additional input.

Fire Services Training



Local Government Management Association

- OFC and other key stakeholders are supporting LGMA in development of a program to build capacity for fire departments
- Such a program would promote efficient operation of fire services (including selection of services to be provided and training required to deliver those services)
- Topics will range from governance to HR issues, but training will be a key component
- LGMA is targeting initial delivery in late 2013 or early 2014

Fire Services Training



Fire Inspection and Prevention Initiative (FIPI)

- Partnership between Province and WorkSafe
- Address fire inspection and prevention for high hazard occupancies (e.g. Sawmills)
- Will involve enhanced education and training for Local Assistants to the Fire Commissioner, employers and workers
- Targeting mid-late 2013 for initial training



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Thank you

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