

EDMA in Action

The Emergency and Disaster Management Act:

B.C.'s Legislative Framework for Emergency Management

EDMA in Action Study Session

UBCM Convention | September 16, 2024



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

Pathway to the EDMA

2018

- Abbott-Chapman Report delivered
- B.C. adopts the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

2019

- Discussion paper released; regional engagement sessions held, including meetings with First Nations and local governments

2020

- “What We Heard” report released
- Solicited input from all partners on initial COVID-19 experiences

2020-2023

- Legislative drafting, collaborative development with First Nations partners
- Engagement through the UBCM/EMCR Flood and Wildfire Advisory Committee; consultation draft shared with UBCM President’s Committee
- Bill 31 introduced and passed in the fall 2023 legislative session

2024 and beyond

- Phased implementation and development of supporting regulations



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

Legislative principles

- Acknowledging and respecting multiple decision-makers
- Working towards harmonization and coordination, and collaborative approaches
- Practicing disaster risk reduction
- Investing in measures to reduce risk and enhance resilience
- Recognizing the relationship between climate change and emergencies
- Promoting cultural safety
- Recognizing Indigenous rights in relation to emergency management
- Recognizing the importance of Indigenous advice, input, and stewardship



Local Authorities Under the EDMA

Key function	Resources
Risk assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To come (when duty takes effect)
4-phase emergency management plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To come (when duty takes effect)
Business continuity plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To come (when duty takes effect)
Response and recovery powers (SOLEs and recovery periods)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Response and Recovery Powers (guidance document)• Definition of Emergency (factsheet)• State of Local Emergency (guidance document and templates)• Local Recovery Period (guidance document and templates)• Post-Event Reporting (guidance document and templates)
Consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Indigenous Engagement Requirements (IER) Summary (factsheet)• IER Interim Guidance (guidance document)• IER Funding Program (financial support)• Response and Recovery Powers (guidance document)• State of Local Emergency (guidance document and templates)• Local Recovery Period (guidance document and templates)• Post-Event Reporting (guidance document and templates)



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

What's in effect



gov.bc.ca/EmergencyManagementAct

- Definition of emergency
- Increased length of SOPE/SOLE
- Ability to declare a recovery period
- General, response and recovery powers
- Requirements for post-emergency reporting
- Requirements for local authorities to begin work to reach agreement with Indigenous governing bodies on areas for consultation and cooperation during the response and recovery phases
- Ability to create or join a multijurisdictional emergency management organization (MJEMO)
- Liability protections for local authorities, volunteers, and others
- Requirements for government ministries to prepare risk assessments, emergency management plans, and business continuity plans



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness

Phased implementation

- Regulations required to implement:
 - Risk assessment and planning requirements for
 - Local authorities
 - Critical infrastructure owners
 - Public sector agencies
 - EDMA-specific framework for compensation and post-emergency financial assistance
 - Aspects of the EDMA compliance and enforcement scheme



Ministry of
Emergency Management
and Climate Readiness



**RIDE
THE
WAVE**
UBCM 2024



Local Government Advisory Committee on EDMA Regulations (LGAC)



Background

- UBCM Executive request to form a joint advisory committee.
- Ten local government representatives appointed to the Local Government Advisory Committee on EDMA Regulations (LGAC).
 - Chaired by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and UBCM
- Meetings began in July, to continue through 2025.

Purpose and Workplan

- Engagement and consultation with local governments regarding the development of regulations associated with the EDMA
 - Share local government perspectives, including experiences and knowledge.
 - Bring forward matters of interest or concern related to the process.
- Focus on new and enhanced responsibilities for local governments.

Local Input: Initial Themes & Challenges

Funding

Capacity

Scope

Guidance &
Resources

Next Steps

- Update coming soon in *The Compass*.
- Advisory Committee will re-convene after the provincial election.
 - Further engagement to take place throughout 2025.



**RIDE
THE
WAVE**
UBCM 2024



Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako EDMA in Action

Mark Parker
Chair

September 16, 2024

Presentation Overview

RDBN Wildfire History

- 10 Year Summary

2023 Wildfire

- Scope of Response
- Response Costs
- Collaboration

2024 Wildfire Season

- Response to Date
- Collaboration

Advisory Committee

- Goals

10 Year RDBN Wildfire Summary

Total RDBN Area

73,000 square kilometers

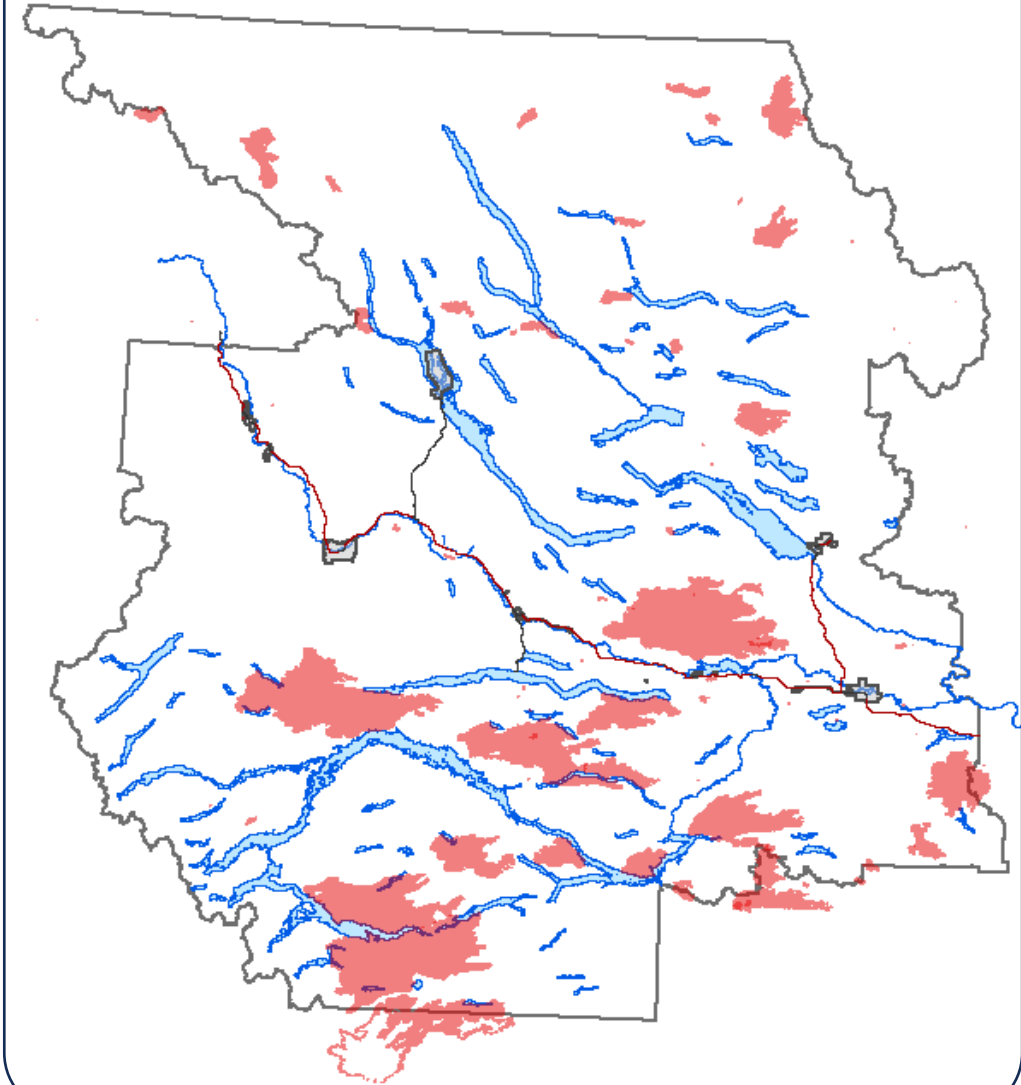
Area Burned 2013-2023

1.2 million hectares

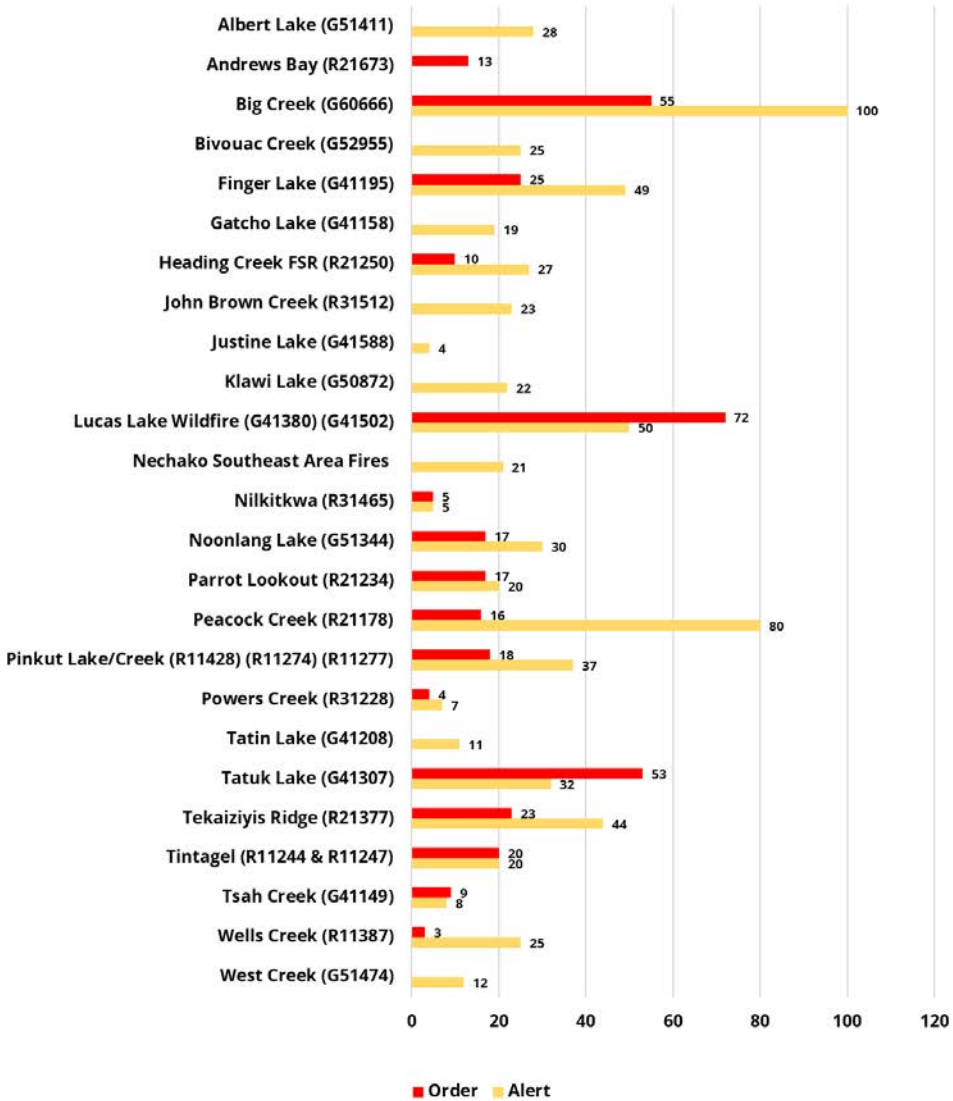
Percentage of Total Area Burned

15%

RDBN Area Burned 2010 - 2023



**Number of Days
Under Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order
By Fire**



2023 Wildfire Scope of Response

Response Type	2018	2023
Fires Responded To:	15	25
Days with Active EOC:	72	113
Days Under State of Local Emergency:	51	82
Evacuation Alerts and Orders Issued:	64	89
Dwellings Under Evacuation Order:	1,544	673
~Number of People Displaced:	3,475	1,548

Response Costs

2023 RDBN Wildfire Response Costs


EOC Wage Expenses	Hours	Total Cost
Unrecoverable Staff Time	4,012	\$222,033
Recoverable Overtime	2,233	\$160,390
Recoverable On Call Time	4,019	\$54,502
Total	10,268	\$436,110
EOC Other Expenses		
Unrecoverable Expenses		\$1,315
Recoverable Expenses		\$404,166
Total		\$405,481

Response Costs Continued...

RDBN Department	Hours Worked/On Call
Administration	1,511
Economic Development	1,288
Environmental Services	302
Finance	1,113
Planning	1,586
Protective Services	3,400
Summer Students	986

Collaboration

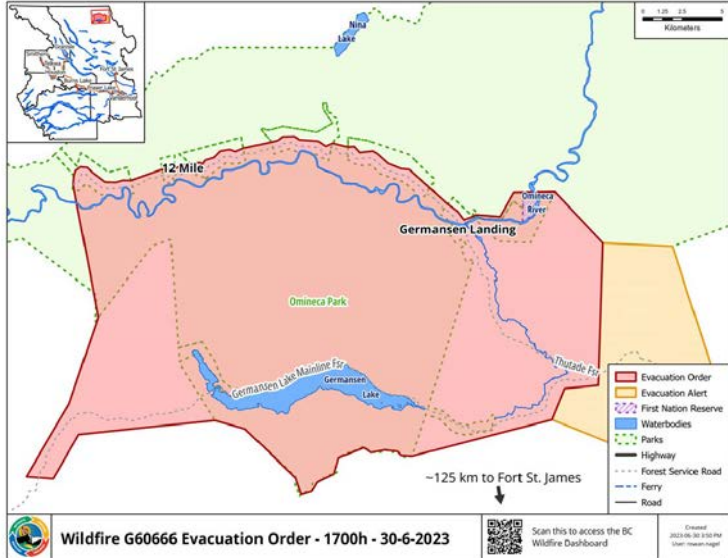
Partner	Alerts	Orders
Indigenous Communities	25	21
Provincial Government Departments	10	11
Other Local Governments	4	2




EVACUATION ORDER ISSUED
Big Creek Wildfire
June 30, 2023, at 1700 hours

For media inquiry, please contact:
 Chair: Mark Parker Phone: [REDACTED]
 Takla First Nation: Jeremiah Louis, Fire Chief: [REDACTED]

For public inquiry, please contact:
 RDBN at www.rdbn.bc.ca or call 250-692-1553
 Takla First Nation Jeremiah Louis, Fire Chief: [REDACTED]






Wildfire G60666 Evacuation Order - 1700h - 30-6-2023

Scan this to access the BC Wildfire Dashboard


Created: 2023-06-30 15:01:04
 User: markp@rdbn

Big Creek Wildfire – EO #1

Page | 2



EVACUATION ORDER



Big Creek Wildfire #G60666
EVACUATION ORDER ISSUED
June 30, 2023, at 1700 hours

An Evacuation Order has been issued by Takla First Nation, BC Parks, and the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako effective June 30, 2023, at 1700 hours due to the Big Creek Wildfire.

Because of the **danger to life and health** the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako, has issued an Evacuation Order for **all residents and lands in the Germansen Landing and 12 Mile area, accessed off Thutade Forest Service Road (FSR), including the North Takla Lake 12 Reserve. Additionally, lands accessed by the Germansen Lake Mainline FSR, including areas of the Omineca Provincial Park and private resource operations west of Germansen Lake.**

YOU MUST LEAVE THE AREA IMMEDIATELY AND REGISTER AT THE RECEPTION CENTRE

Persons who disregard this Evacuation Order and remain in the Evacuation Order area do so at their own risk. The Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako may be unable to assist anyone who remains in the Evacuation Order area.

- If you need transportation assistance from the area, please advise the individual providing this notice or call the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at 250-692-1553.
- Close all windows and doors.
- Shut off all gas and electrical appliances, other than refrigerators and freezers.
- Close gates (latch) but do not lock.
- Gather your family: take a neighbour or someone who needs help.
- Take critical items (medicine, purse, wallet, and keys) only if they are immediately available. Take pets in pet kennels or on a leash.
- Do not use more vehicles than you must.
- If you require assistance for livestock, please call the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako at 250-692-1553.

Evacuees:

- Register at the Reception Centre located at the **Vanderhoof Municipal Arena** at 340 Columbia St. East or contact the Emergency Support Services Director at [REDACTED]
- Emergency Support Services can provide assistance for food, accommodation, hotel or staying with friends and family, clothing, emotional support, and family reunification.

 Mark Parker
 Chair, RDBN

 John French
 Chief, Takla First Nation

Big Creek Wildfire – EO #1

Page | 1

2024 Wildfire Season Summary (to date)

Initial Fire

- April 21

Alerts Issued

- 8 (2 in partnership with Indigenous communities)

Orders Issued

- 2

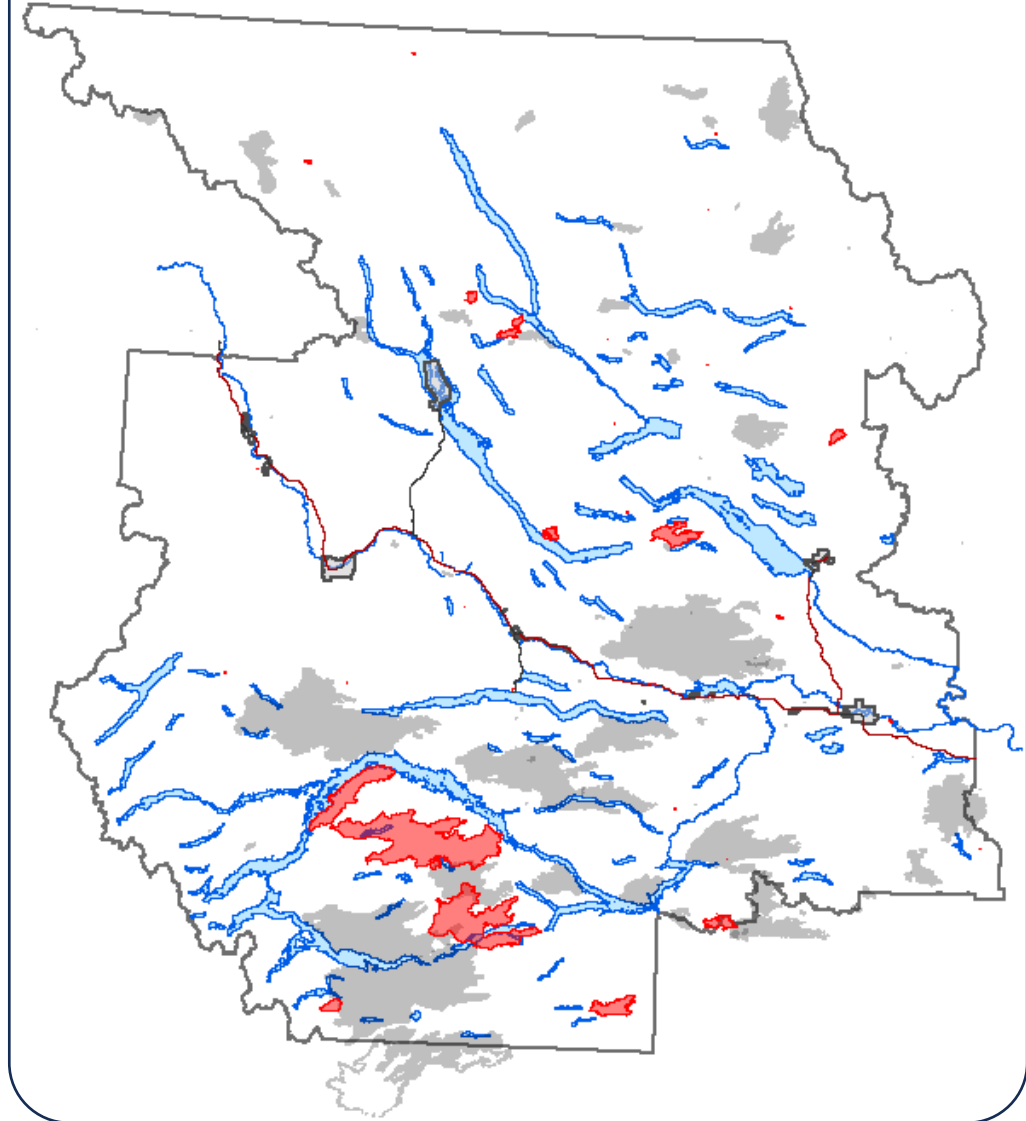
Total Days of Response

- 42

Area Burned

- 120,000+ Ha

RDBN Area Burned 2024 (to date)



Ongoing Initiatives

Community Initiatives

- Joint Evacuation Orders and Alerts
- Community liaisons
- Clean Air Facilities

Upcoming Projects

- Inviting Liaison from impacted municipalities and First Nations into the EOC
- Incorporating First Nation knowledge and cultural safety into emergency management plans



Ongoing Initiatives Continued...

Advisory Committee

- Ensuring EDMA regulations are within local government capacity and meet community needs

Business Continuity

- Capacity
- Sustainability

Risk Management

- Capacity
- Jurisdiction

Questions?



**RIDE
THE
WAVE**
UBCM 2024



First Nations'
Emergency Services Society
O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

Emergency Management 2024 Wildfire Support

UBCM Convention
September 16, 2024
Vancouver Convention Center

Supporting BC First Nation Communities Since 1986



First Nations'
Emergency Services Society
O F B R I T I S H C O L U M B I A

First Nations' Emergency Services Society (FNESS) is a charitable, non-profit organization incorporated under the Society Act of British Columbia.

Our Vision and Our Mission



OUR VISION

Safe and Healthy First Nation Communities

OUR MISSION

FNESS serves First Nations in developing and sustaining safer and healthier communities through:

- Emergency Planning, Training, Response and Recovery
- Fire Training, Education and Prevention
- Forest Fuel and Wildfire Management
- Leadership and Collaborative Relationships

Four Pillar Approach



FNESS uses the Four Pillars of Emergency Management to help First Nation Communities before, during, and after a crisis.



Wildfire Situation – Internal Updates



FNESS is tracking wildfires within 2, 5 and 10 km from First Nation (FN) communities almost daily* throughout the wildfire season.

All activities are based on fire behaviour and fire spread.

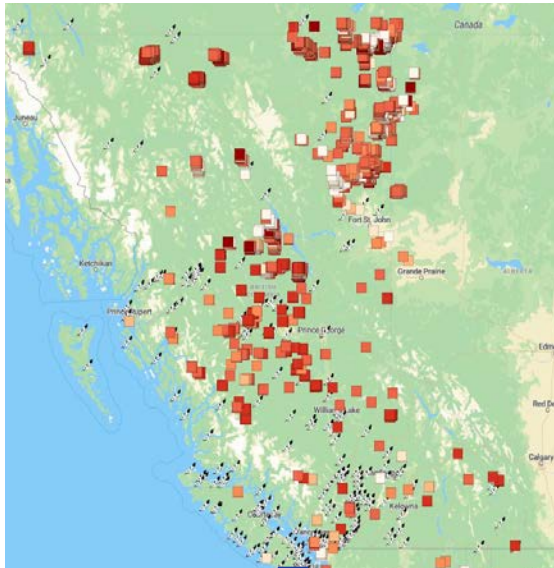
- **10 km:** Fire behaviour monitoring and basic mapping reviewed. Real-time mapping available to community.
- **5 km:** Outreach to community as required, more detailed maps and community infrastructure review, structure defense planning begins, community/BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) request for a FNESS Team Leader site visit, structure protection unit's (SPUs) staged as required. Trigger points set, based on fire behaviour and direction, dictates response level and structure protection activation.
- **2 km:** FNESS crews on site as requested, detailed structure defense plan built, structure protection started.

**Tracked daily during FNESS Emergency Support Centre (ESC) activation.*

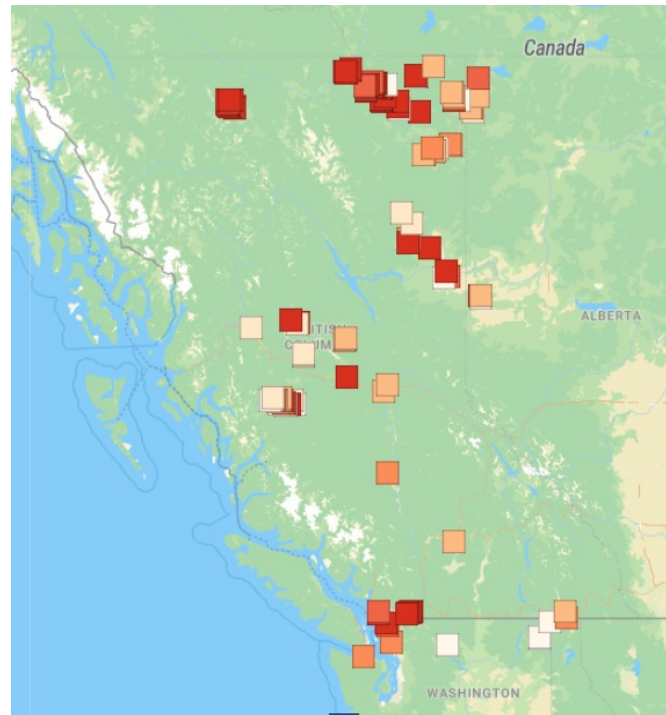
Situation Report - September 2024



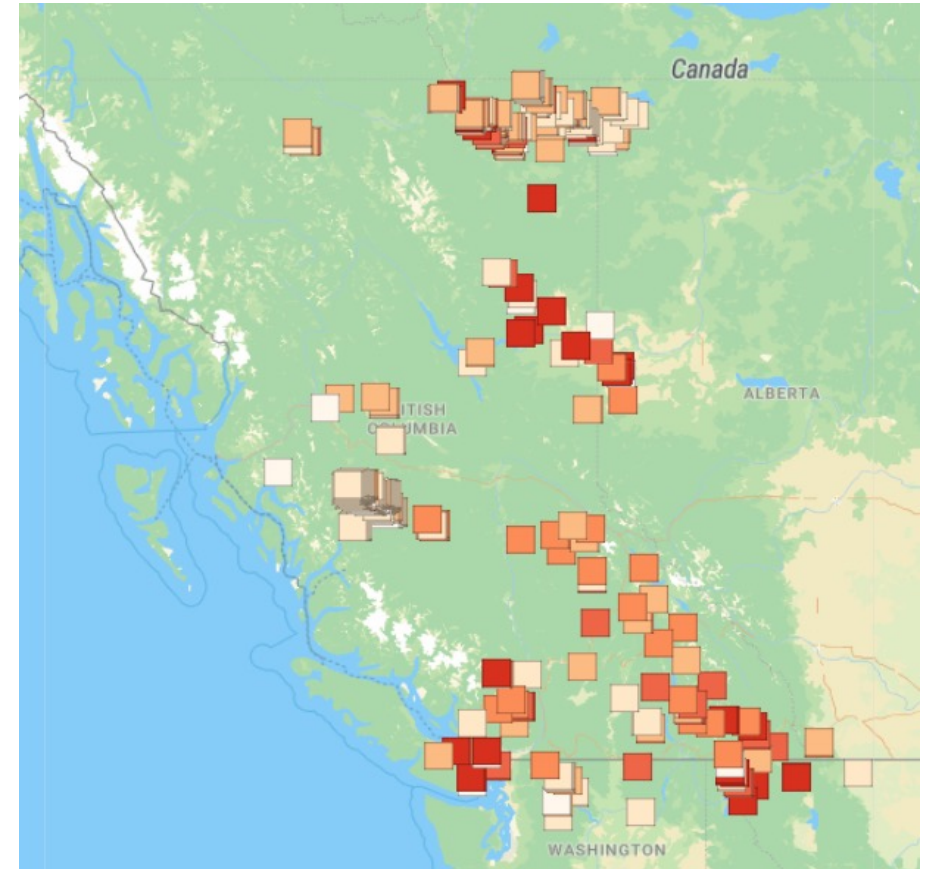
June 4, 2024
Satellite Hotspots



August 29, 2024
Satellite Hotspots



September 11, 2024
Satellite Hotspots



Community Support



- FNESS staff reach out to communities at risk to see what supports they may need including developing or updating their evacuation plans.
- FNESS has the following resources available for deployment:
 - 6 Fuel Mitigation Trailers, large chipper and dump trailers
 - 7 Type 2 SPU Trailers, and an SPU Support Unit
 - 6 Tiger Dam Trailers (can be deployed for temporary water storage for fire protection)
 - 1 Large Volume Water Moving System
 - Drone program up and running



2024 Wildfire Response



- Supported PREOC's across BC
- Supported 6 communities with ESS, Recovery and Re-entry planning
- Structure Protection Unit (SPU) Trailers
 - Protected over 250 critical First Nations infrastructure and values
 - Worked alongside community members in Fort Nelson FN, Doig River FN, Cook's Ferry IB, Oregon Jack Creek, Splatsin and Witset FN
 - Trailers staged in Northern BC throughout the summer
- **Capacity Building Success Story:**
 - Nadleh Whut'en completed the FNESS structure protection training earlier this year and was later deployed to support Cook's Ferry IB.
 - Ditidaht First Nation – [Video: Structure Protection Training](#)

2024 Structure Protection Training



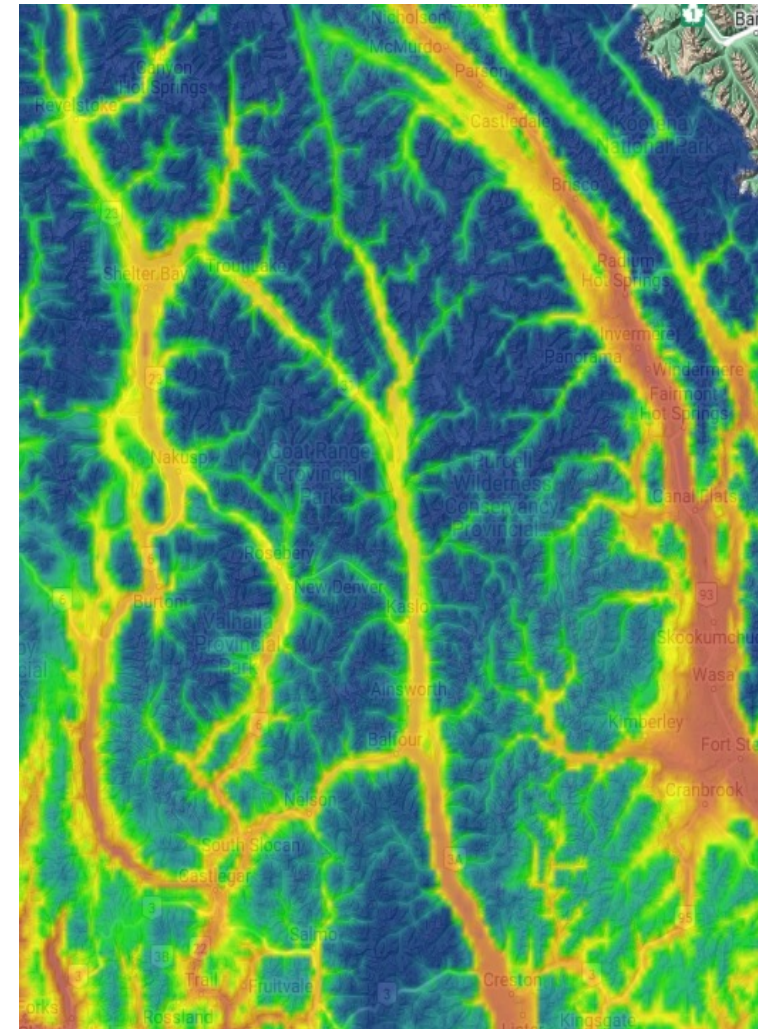
- 30 FN communities with estimated 350+ members trained in structure protection.
- Community mentoring program started.
- Several Structure Defense Plans have been developed with communities.
- UAV Team 10 communities mapped - > 5,300 football fields area covered (2,820 Ha's)
- FN community resource support list started.

Struc		
Communités	# of students	Date
Adama Lake	15	May 4 & 5
Alkali Lake	8	April 10 & 11
Boothroyd	16	April 6 & 7
Ditidaht	7	Jan 23 24
Halfway River	10	May 10 & 11
Iskut	Cancel	May 6 & 7
Ladysmith	14	Mar 23 & 24
Lillooet Tribal Council	12	May 2 & 3
Nooaitch	12	April 29 & 30
Osoyoos IB	8	Mar 18 & 19
Simpco		June 11 & 12
Skeetchestn	17	Apr 16 & 17
Lower Nicola IB		May 25 & 26
Invermere		May 30 & 31
Skeetchestn	17	Apr 16 & 17
Fraser Lake	21	Mar 23 & 24
Gitanyow	2	
Lower Post	11	
Shuswap Nation TC		May 30 & 31
Total	170	

Special Projects



- Community Capacity in EM Program – 5 Million for EPC
 - 56 First Nations Emergency Program Coordinators (EPC)
- Disaster Risk Funding Application Support – 800k Grant
 - Prior to FNES Support - \$ 2,670,000 (3%)
 - After FNESS Support - \$ 41,830,000 (47%)
- BC Generator Project Support with Paula – 2 million+ for back-up generators and transfer switches.
- ISC Special Projects support with Casey – 1.6m for approximately 20 Emergency Preparedness projects
- Climate Change Capacity Project – 1 Million for Regional Climate Change Coordinators (RCCC). This Project will build of Disaster Risk Funding Project best practices and lessons learned.



Wildfire Training



- Fiscal Year 2024/2025
 - 51 Training Sessions
 - Over 700 Fire Fighters Trained
- Fiscal Year 2023/2024
 - 512 Fire Fighters Trained
 - 46 Training Sessions
- Fully customizable training (2-9 days)
- Nationally Recognized - Type 2 Training Standard
- Training provided by FNESS, Contractors, and Community Members across B.C.





Community Support Department

- Preparedness Division – preparedness@fnss.bc.ca
- Recovery and ESS Division – ess@fnss.bc.ca
- Response Division – response@fnss.bc.ca

Decision Support Department – decisionsupport@fnss.bc.ca

Fire Services Department – fireservices@fnss.bc.ca

Mitigation Department – mitigation@fnss.bc.ca

- Cultural and Prescribed Fire Division - CulturalFire@fnss.bc.ca
- FireSmart Division - FireSmart@fnss.bc.ca
- Forest Fuel Management Division - Fuels@fnss.bc.ca
- Wildfire Division - Wildfire@fnss.bc.ca

Special Projects Department – bmills@fnss.bc.ca

After Hours Assistance: 1-888-822-3388



**RIDE
THE
WAVE**
UBCM 2024





MAJA TAIT
MAYOR, DISTRICT OF SOOKE

MTAIT@SOOKE.CA



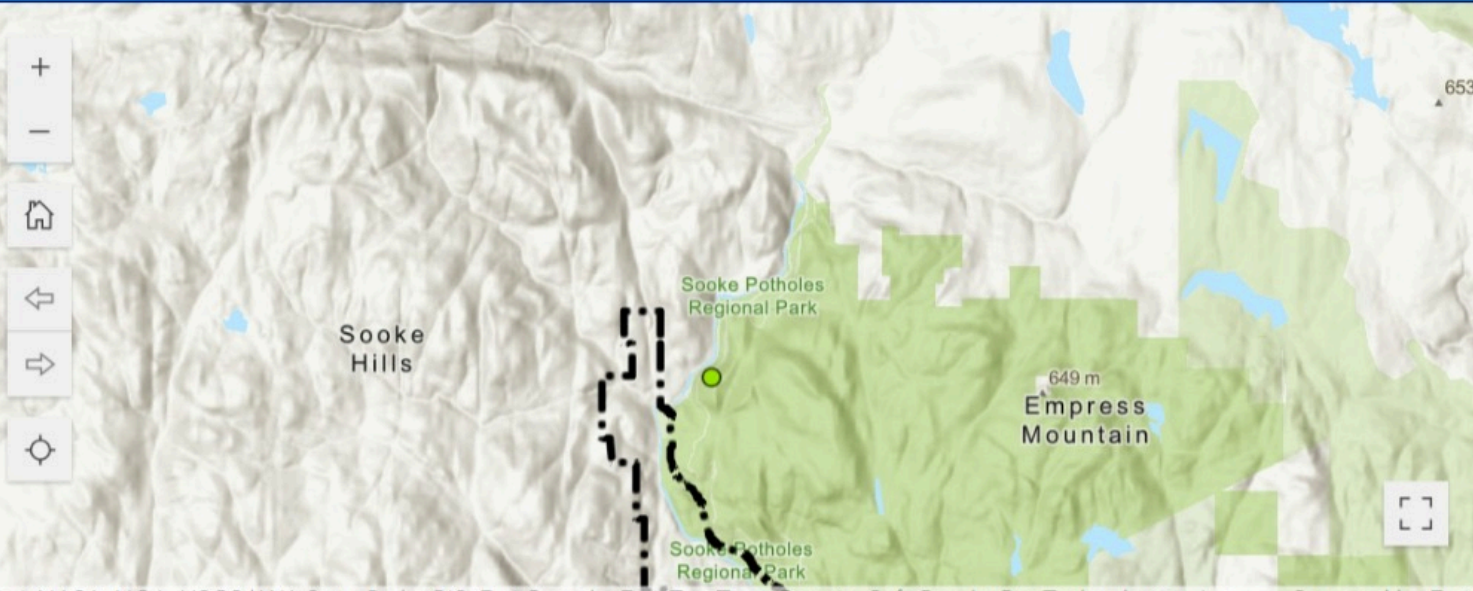












Old Man Lake Wildfire (V61401)

- Fire Status

- Fire of Note
- New
- Out of Control
- Being Held
- Under Control
- Out

Municipal

Wildfire Information:

Populated directly from the BC Wildfire Service

- **Wildfire Name:** Old Man Lake
- **Wildfire Number:** V61401
- **Current Estimated Size:** 230 ha

Helpful Resources:

- [District of Sooke Public Alert Notification System \(Alertable\)](#)
- [BC Wildfire Service Map](#)
- [CRD Service Alert: Trail Closures due to Old Man Lake Wildfire](#)
- [Island Health Wildfire Resources](#)
- [Air Quality Health Index](#)
- [Wildfire Smoke Forecast Map](#)
- [FireSmart BC Home Assessment](#)

District of Sooke Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) Information:

- **Email:** eocinfo@sooke.ca

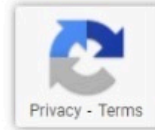
QUICK NAVIGATION

- [Municipal Hall](#)
- [Mayor & Council](#)
- [Local Government](#)

DISTRICT NEWS, NEWS

Old Man Lake Wildfire Information Feed

QUICK LINKS:



Summary of Sooke's Fire Rescue and Emergency Program Services

- 11 Career staff (1 Fire Chief, 1 Deputy Fire Chief, 2 Captains, 4 Fire fighters, 1 Emergency Program Manager, 1 Fire Services/Emergency Program assistant, 1 Fire Smart Coordinator (Temporary funded through UBCM Grant), Approximately 20 trained, 'paid on call' fire fighters, Approximately 25 Emergency Support Services (ESS) volunteers and 5 Sooke Emergency Radio Group volunteers, 1 Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activation – tsunami monitoring
- Wildfire preparations
- 2023: Expanded Fire Smart Program – Free Home Assessments and community awareness/education
- 2022: Fire Services Master Plan adopted by Council, ongoing training for wildfire as well as municipal growth (multi-story, high-occupancy structures, cranes etc.)
- 2021: Fire Smart Commences, development of Fire Services Master Plan
- 2020: Pandemic year, implement paid on call, expand neighbourhood emergency preparedness program, community education on FireSmart principles
- 2019: Wild fire simulation training, Sooke public alert launched, implement paid on call program, wildland fire fighting training, received grants for emergency supplies and equipment.

Source (District of Sooke Annual Reports)

2024 Learning Outcomes

1. New Legislation and Funding Challenges:
2. Challenges in Interpretation and Indigenous Engagement
3. Cultural Shift in Emergency Management:
4. Key Legal requirements for Local Authorities under EDMA:
5. Sooke's Experience with EDMA and EOC Operations:
6. Combatting Mis-information and Dis-Information:
7. Ensuring Reliable Communication Systems
8. Opportunities for Growth

“Alone we can do so little; together we can
do so much” *Helen Keller*

mtait@sooke.ca

250 514 6466



**RIDE
THE
WAVE**
UBCM 2024





EDMA Friend or Foe?

Chad Pacholik



A pair of black-rimmed glasses is centered in the frame. The word "Context" is written in a white, sans-serif font across the bridge and right lens. The background is a light gray surface covered with various letters (S, K, C, O, L, U, M, V, M, 3, Y) scattered in a non-uniform pattern. The letters are slightly blurred, creating a sense of depth and focus on the glasses and the text.

Context



How many **Natural Disasters** have there been in the last 12 months?

- a) 0
- b) 1-10
- c) 11-20
- d) 21-30
- e) 30+



Natural Disasters

There is no such thing as a natural disaster, but disasters often follow natural hazards

UNDRR

O'Keefe et al., 1976

Disasters are a Result

Despite commitments to build resilience, tackle climate change and create sustainable development pathways, current societal, political and economic choices are doing the reverse.

(GAR, 2022)

History of Emergency Management

What is Disaster Risk?

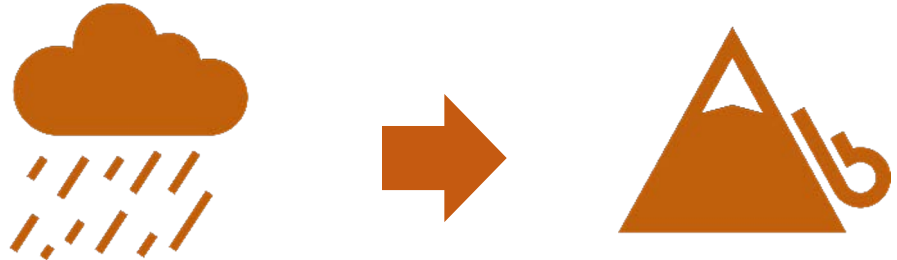
The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of hazard, exposure, vulnerability and capacity.

UNDRR

$$\mathbf{Hazard} * \left(\frac{\mathbf{Vulnerability} * \mathbf{Exposure}}{\mathbf{Capacity}} \right)$$

Interconnected Hazards

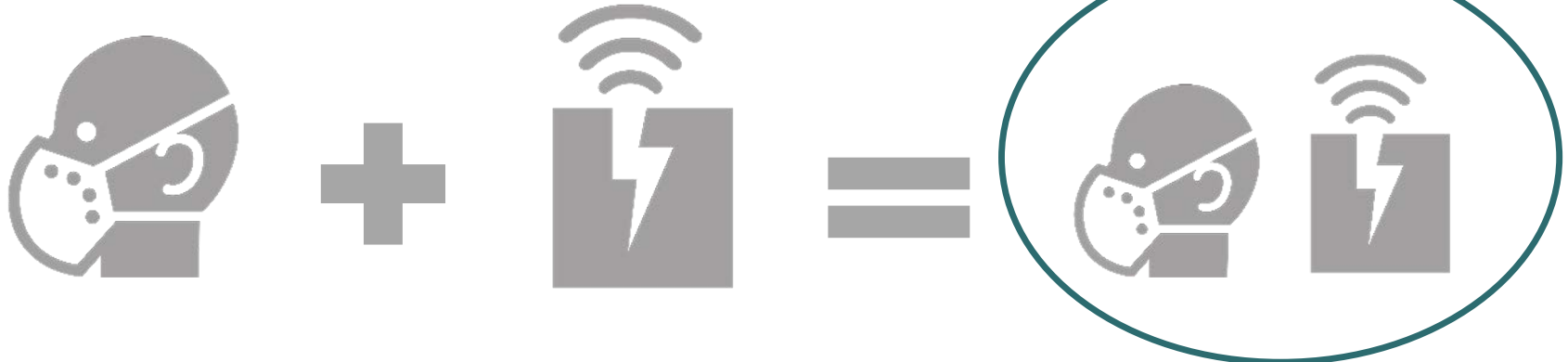
Triggered or
Cascading



Amplified



Compounding



Systemic Risks

The background of the slide is a dark blue gradient filled with numerous out-of-focus circular light spots (bokeh) in various shades of blue and cyan. A prominent feature is a horizontal trail of bright, semi-transparent blue particles that starts on the left side and extends towards the center, creating a sense of motion and depth.

Uncertainty



Disaster Risk Reduction

1. Avoid Creating New Risk
2. Reduce Existing Risk
3. Manage Residual Risk

Doing more of the same will not be enough.



Intersectionality



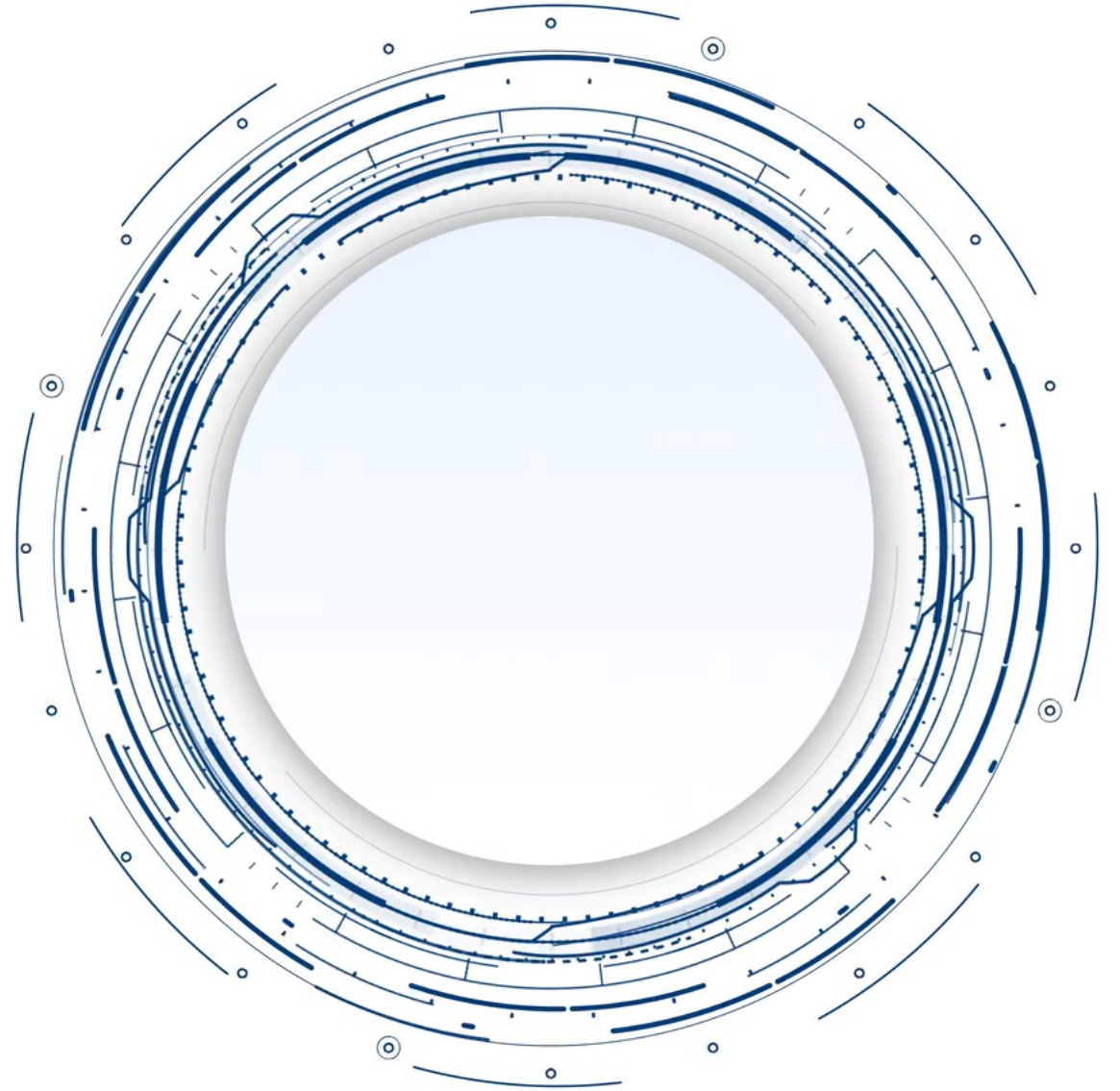
EDMA the Enabler



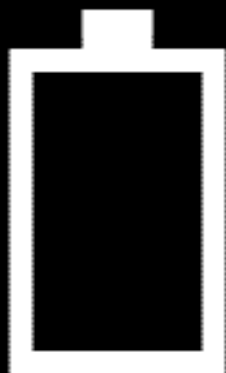
EDMA the Iceberg

Positionality

Where does
emergency
management reside
in your organization?



Capacity

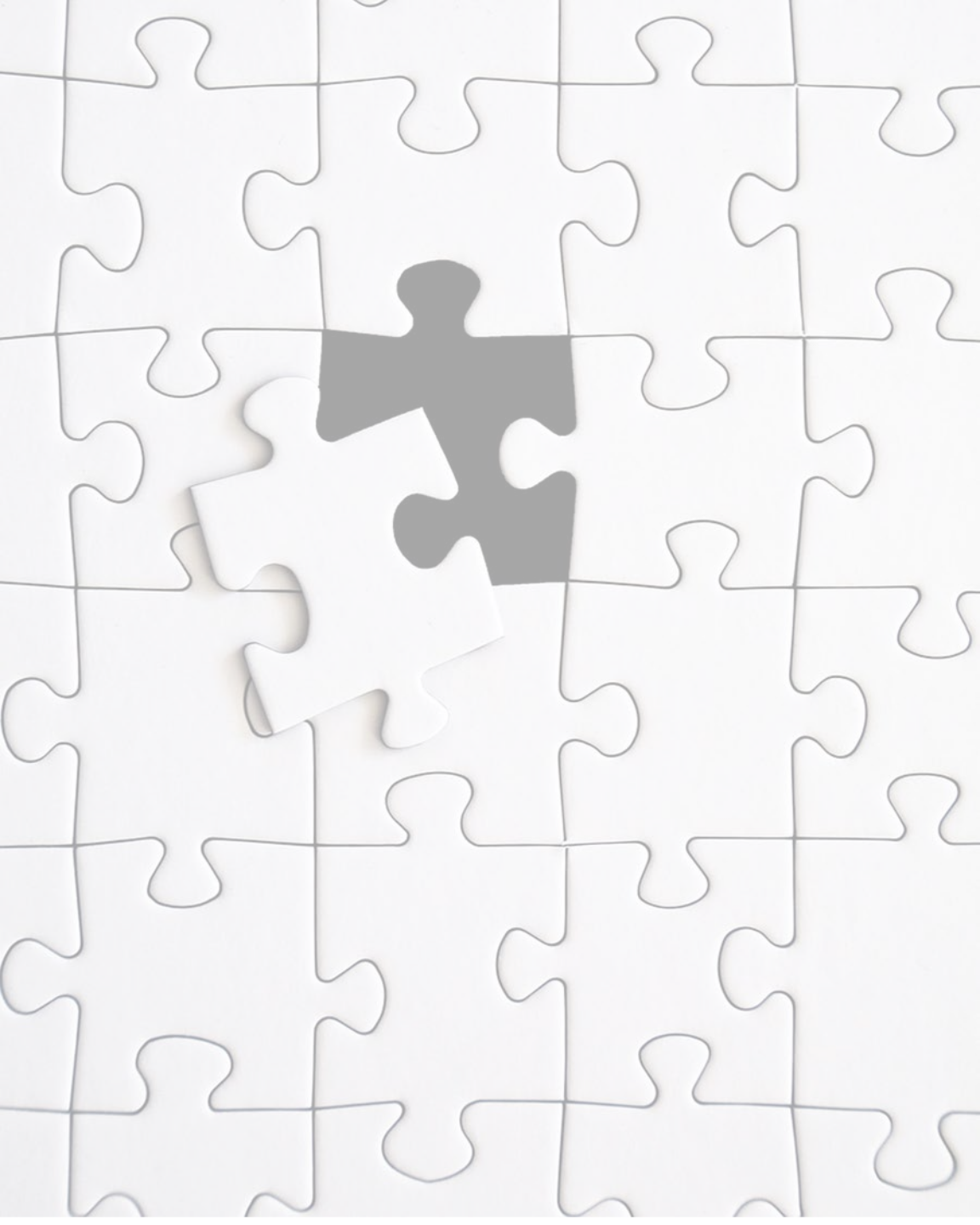


Who helps the
Helpers?





EDMA Friend or Foe?



Recap

- Disasters are not natural they are a result
- We are facing non-linear risks
- DRR is not a solitary endeavor
- New problems require new thinking
- Consider your organization's
Capacity & Positionality

Inception

- What aspect of the risk formula is this addressing?
- How is my organization structured to address this?
Is it appropriate for our current problems?
- What is my role?
- What is preventing change?



Thank you



LOGIC LEAGUE
CONSULTING LTD.

Kootenay Family Place

In appreciation of our speakers today and with thanks for your contribution, UBCM has made a donation to the Kootenay Family Place. Kootenay Family Place is passionate about serving the needs of children, youth and families throughout the West Kootenay Boundary region through its services of early intervention, childcare, and providing a safe gathering place.