## Emergency Management – Elected Officials Primer

Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities

April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022





#### Heat Dome/Heat Wave

HEAT DOME



## "...unprecedented times."

(photo credits clockwise: CBC, Global, CTV, American Libraries Magazine)



## Emergency Management in BC

What is Emergency Management?

Phases of Emergency Management

Supports



# A note on acronyms and emergency management

\*4, 362 Acronyms to Describe Emergency Management (ADEMs)

ICS – Incident Command System

BCEMS – British Columbia Emergency Management System

EOC – Emergency Operations Centre

EPC – Emergency Program Coordinator





# Shared Responsibility

Each group/agency has a role in all four pillars of Emergency Management



. . . .



What is Emergency Management

The Emergency Management Cycle



## Emergency Management Structure in BC







Emergency Management Cycle





#### ICS and BCEMS

- The Incident Command System (ICS)
- British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS)



ICS	BCEMS
Based on response to wildfires in California	Encompasses ICS to British Columbia content
Site level	Four levels- ICP/EOC/PREOC/PECC
Command staff	Management staff
Directed by single command or unified command	Manages the local multiple- agency support to site level
Overall direction and coordination of activities at the incident site	In addition to site activities, includes off site human consequence management and site support

### **BCEMS** Response Goals

- 1. Ensure the Health and Safety of Responders
- 2. Save Lives
- 3. Reduce Suffering
- 4. Protect Public Health
- 5. Protect Infrastructure
- 6. Protect Property
- 7. Protect the Environment
- 8. Reduce Economic and Social Losses





# **Emergency Operations Center Structure**





## Policy Group = Board / Council

#### Community Leadership

Provide policy direction to the EOC

Approve higher level requests for assistance

Provides direction on public information

• May act as official spokesperson

Appoint an Emergency Program Coordinator



# How does the Policy Group Support?

Policy group is strategic

Other functions in the EOC work on the tactical response as they are trained for



Issue Declaration of State of Local Emergency

Approve and sign mutual aid agreements

**†** Considers the four pillars of Emergency Management in strategic community planning

Creates policy as needed to enforce response activities in community



## What is Mitigation?

- Steps and activities that can be taken to prevent or avoid an emergency or disaster
- If unpreventable, actions to support reduction of impacts.
  - Minimize impacts public and private economic losses





#### What is Preparedness?

- Emergency planning
  - Role of leadership
  - Roles and Responsibilities
  - Financial Planning
  - Recovery Planning
- Education for the community on risk and how to be ready
- Mutual aid agreements
- Exercises
- Alerting systems & practice



## What is Response?

- Addresses direct impacts of an emergency event
- Uses BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS)
  - Based on the Incident Command System (ICS)
  - Bringing everyone together in a coordinated system
  - Helps efficiency
  - Sets out roles and responsibility
  - Brings everyone on the same page with a shared objective







## What is Recovery?

- Repair communities affected by a disaster
- Restore conditions to an acceptable level or, when feasible, improve them
- Restore self-sufficiency and increase resilience in individuals, families, organizations, and communities



## Recovery: Cross-Government Approach

#### **Coordinating Ministry: Health**

Considerations:

- Physical, mental, and social wellbeing
- Health and safety
- Mental health
- Community psychosocial, emotional, cultural, and spiritual, wellbeing
- Interim housing

#### <u>Coordinating Ministry: Forests, Lands,</u> <u>Natural Resource Operations & Rural</u> Development

Considerations:

- · Land degradation and contamination
- Biodiversity and ecosystem impacts
- Natural resource damage and loss



#### Coordinating Ministry: Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development

Considerations:

- Small, medium, and large enterprises
- Tourism
- Cultural livelihood
- Agriculture
- Broader economy

#### Coordinating Ministry: Transportation & Infrastructure

Considerations:

- Private and public physical infrastructure
- Critical infrastructure such as utilities, communication networks, roads, bridges, and transportation
- Residential and commercial buildings
- Infrastructure planning

## EMBC Regional Managers



Regional Manager (RM) is a conduit into EMBC, they can approve Expense Authorization Forms or Resource Requests, as well as advocate for a community with regards to needs



The RM should always be the first point of contact with EMBC to ensure requests are actioned properly and in alignment to policy.



RM's are the public face of EMBC in community. The RMs host coordination calls for emergency events and maintain a 24/7 availability through the Emergency Coordination Centre at 1-800-663-3456 with a Regional Duty Manger.



#### Support from the Province during a Response

- Activation of Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centers (PREOC) and Provincial Emergency Coordination Center (PECC) as required
- PREOC provides expertise and resource support as requested
- Reimbursement of eligible response costs under a Task number
- Support messaging/information through the Emergency Info BC website, Facebook page and Twitter account



## Questions?





#### Ryan Wainwright, Sr. Regional Manager, EMBC Vancouver Island Coastal Region



ryan.wainwright@gov.bc.ca / (250) 883-6793

