Extreme Disruptive Events: How can industry be part of the solution?

EPICC Conference 2019
Madeline Maley
Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC
Presentation Overview

• What’s New at EMBC
• Emergency Management Change Context
• Key EMBC Initiatives
What’s New at EMBC
Emergency Management Change Context
## Seasonal Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2017 Fire Season</th>
<th>2018 Fire Season</th>
<th>2019 Fire Season</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total fires</td>
<td>1,353</td>
<td>2,087</td>
<td>782</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lightning-caused fires</td>
<td>784 (about 58%)</td>
<td>1,565 (about 75%)</td>
<td>344 (about 44%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human-caused wildfires</td>
<td>569 (about 42%)</td>
<td>522 (about 25%)</td>
<td>438 (about 56%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area burned</td>
<td>1,216,053 ha</td>
<td>1,349,603 ha</td>
<td>21,154 ha</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fires of Note</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Orders</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evacuation Alerts</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>124</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Suppression Costs</td>
<td>~ $649.6 million</td>
<td>~ $554.5 million</td>
<td>~ $117.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Days on Provincial State of Emergency</td>
<td>71 days (Jul 7 to Sep 15)</td>
<td>24 days (Aug 15 to Sep 7)</td>
<td>0 days</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Climate Change

Significant decline in North American glaciers since 2000: UNBC study

The glaciers are important to the ecosystem because they feed downstream waterways after the snowpack melts.

SUSAN LAZARUK  Updated: January 2, 2019

B.C. heat wave sets 15 temperature records Thursday; more set to fall

Strong ridge of high pressure responsible for unseasonable heat, according to Environment Canada

The Canadian Press - Posted: May 10, 2019 9:02 AM PT  |  Last Updated: May 10
After Action Reviews
Abbott/Chapman Report

- Released April 2018.
- Speaks to the impacts of the 2017 floods and wildfires.
- 108 Recommendations, primarily for the Province.
- Includes significant focus on the needs of First Nations communities.
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

- United Nations Publication – Adopted by the UN May 2015
- Adopted by Canada and British Columbia

Contents
- Disaster Risk Reduction rather than Disaster Management
- A Whole-of-Society Approach
- Four Priorities for Action

The “Emergency Management Strategy for Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030” was approved and released in 2019.

The Strategy is a collaborative, whole-of-society roadmap to strengthening Canada’s ability to assess risks and prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to, and recovery from disasters.
Emergency Program Act
Modernization
## Emergency Program Act (EPA) Modernization

### Current EPA
- Dates from 1993
- Focuses on:
  - Preparing/Implementing Plans
  - States of Emergency
  - Financial Matters
  - Province/Local Authorities

### Government Direction
- Consultation and Engagement
- Broad scope
- “Repeal and Replace”
- Key Drivers Reflected:
  - Sendai Framework
  - UNDRIP
  - 2017/18 Events
  - Interim Disaster Recovery Framework
Key Themes for Modernized EPA

• All-of-society approach to emergency management includes industry and business
• Tools for all four pillars: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery
• First Nations are recognized as partners
• Better support for those disproportionately impacted by emergencies
Timeline and Next Steps

- Oct/Nov release of discussion paper online at engage.gov.bc.ca
- Three-month public engagement period
- Introduced in the Legislature in Fall 2020, followed by regulations
- Phased implementation beginning Spring 2021
Emergency Management Improvements & Activities
Themes for continued improvement

- Focus on partnerships and collaboration between the Province, First Nations and local governments
- Government-to-government relationship with indigenous nations
- Funding for community preparedness
- Emergency Support Services Modernization
- Ground Search and Rescue investments
- Investments in fire fighting and road rescue through the Office of the Fire Commissioner
### Interim Disaster Recovery Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before</th>
<th>After</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No overall provincial or federal direction on disaster recovery</td>
<td>Provides overall direction and common terminology to guide recovery operations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funding and resource gaps with existing programs and grants</td>
<td>Facilitates and enables strategic approach to funding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current focus of legislation is on response; lacks authorities to address recovery</td>
<td>Provides recommendations to inform modernization of the Emergency Program Act</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited recovery coordination at local, regional, or provincial levels</td>
<td>Identifies EMBC as the lead coordinating body for recovery and organizes cross-agency recovery into four sectors</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Tourism is being integrated into emergency management to:

- Safeguard visitors
- Support tourism business resiliency
- Maintain BC’s reputation as a safe destination

The Province is working closely with the tourism industry, and municipalities are encouraged to engage local tourism organizations in emergency management.
**Exercise Coastal Response 2022**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spring Tabletop Exercise</td>
<td>Spring EOC Exercise</td>
<td>Winter Full Scale Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Planning Committees</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Locally and Provincially Sponsored Training</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local Authorities</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Local Agencies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>First Nations</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Prov. Ministries</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Federal Partners</strong></td>
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An opportunity to practice an integrated whole of government and partners response to a catastrophic earthquake in BC
New Products Available Now

Quick Reference Guide: Emergency Management in BC

Interim Provincial Disaster Recovery Framework

Managing Access to Areas Under Evacuation Order

Emergency Management Planning Guide

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Communications Toolkit

Evacuation Operational Guide
Questions?

Thank you for attending.