Emergency Management Collaboration with the Public Post-Secondary Education Sector

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Overview

Evolving Role of AEST and the Sector
• 2017 Wildfire Crisis
• Role of Public Post-secondary Institutions
• Lessons Learned

Strengthening Resilience
• Emergency Management Planning Resources
• Business Continuity
• Resource Sharing Examples
• Exercise Coastal Response 2022
Evolving Role of AEST and the Sector

The Ministry’s role in the B.C. Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (p. 43)

Provide:

• A Post-secondary Institution (PSI) Liaison
• Expertise and/or policy direction
• Support to PSIs to meet immediate needs
• Impact assessments of PSI facilities
• Co-ordination and access to PSI facilities and resources
Evolving Role of AEST and the Sector

Immediate Response Phase
Ministry of Advanced Education, Skills and Training (AEST)
0 – 7 days following catastrophe

Communications among parties by satellite phone

Coastal PSI Public Information Officers (PIOs)

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NOTES
1. AEST MOC Director relays info from PIOs to Ministry of Finance on building and asset status.
2. PIOs relay info to AEST MOC Director on fatalities, injuries and building/asset assessments.

Last updated: June 2, 2017
2017 Trial by Fire!

- No Manuals --- No SOPs!
- July 7th – Provincial State of Emergency announced
- July 10th – Weekly cross-government calls with EMBC Government Services Branch begin
- July 11th – Branch begins daily email briefings to ministry executive

Slide adapted from Oct 4, 2017 BCPSEP meeting
Prince George Campus – used for group lodging and meals
Quesnel Campus – opened but employees impacted
Quesnel River Research Centre – closed due to evacuation order

Prince George Campus – used as a Reception Centre
Quesnel Campus – opened but employees impacted
Specialized fire suppression course offered

Kamloops Campus – used as Reception Centre
(1) Ministry of Forests Lands and Natural Resource Operations contracted with UNBC to provide food, lodging, and fire suppression training for international responders.

(2) UNBC had a MOU with City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser-Fort George to provide emergency food and lodging.

(3) UNBC did not have an MOU or agreement with Health Emergency Management British Columbia.
PSI Experience (UNBC)

Group Lodging Preparations
PSI Experience (UNBC)

Post-wildfire Restoration – Northern Sports Centre
Lessons Learned

- Daily/weekly telephone meetings and cross-government supports from EMBC Government Services Branch.
- Daily report designed by EMBC and used by AEST to update Executive and EMBC on campus-specific situations / needs.
- AEST-organized weekly conference calls to bring together:
  - City of Prince George
  - UNBC and CNC
  - PREOC
  - HEMBC
  - Interior and Northern Health Authorities to trouble-shoot issues on the ground at UNBC and CNC
- Incredible dedication, good will and service to each other.
Lessons Learned

The wildfire crisis exemplified how public post-secondary institutions provided invaluable community assistance ... and showed that there were still opportunities for improvement:

- Between the ministry and EMBC
- Between HEMBC and health authorities
- Among local governments and PSIs
- Among HEMBC/health authorities and PSIs
- Others?

Slide adapted from Oct 4, 2017 BCPSEP meeting
K-12 Planning Resources

- Existing Plans & Guides for the K-12 Sector
- Joint effort between Ministry of Education and K-12 Schools
Could a similar Emergency Planning Guide and Integrated Response Plan benefit the post-secondary Sector?
## BCPSEP Working Groups

### WG1 - Integrated Response Plan
- Structure of Emergency Response in BC
- Preparing the Post-Secondary Education Sector for a Catastrophic Earthquake

### WG2 - Response & Recovery Guide
- Roles & Responsibilities
- 10 Steps to Developing a PSI Emergency Management Plan
- Persons with Special Needs
- 5 All-Hazard Emergency Responses
**Business Continuity**

- **Definition**: The capability of the organization to continue delivery of products or services at acceptable redefined levels following a disruptive incident. (ISO 22301:2012)

- Hazards and threats vary in size and complexity
- Legislation and Regulations
- Previous EMBC reports and audits have identified a number of concerns relating to Business Continuity across Government
Business Continuity

Vulnerabilities from Big Bang and Slow Burn

Say nothing, do nothing, and hope it blows over before our next meeting

Training and Exercising Schedule

Business Impact Analysis (BIA)

MOC Binder
Business Continuity

- Business Continuity Management System
- Clear accountabilities
- AEST and staff resilience
- EMBC Compliance
Transition and Status Update

Socialize an Overall Culture of Resiliency

BCPSEP Meeting
EMBC Annual BCP Report Card
Ongoing AEST BCP Program Development
EMBC Training and Exercise Working Group
Get WG1 Document Published
Get WG2 Document Published
Ministry BCP Advisor’s Meeting
AEST BCP Exercise
Joint Occupational Health & Safety Program
Coastal Response Exercise
EMBC Integrated Exercise Working Group
St. Ann’s LUSAR Lead

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Resource Sharing Examples

Post-Secondary Institution Alert Notification Systems

Coastal Response 2022 Exercise

Explosives Management Group

- Quarterly newsletter
- November 5-7 Training (Vancouver)

- Weekly email summary
- Monthly webinars
- Professional Development
Exercise Coastal Response 2022

• **Aim** is an integrated whole-of-government and partners response to a catastrophic BC earthquake event

• **Scope** is the Lower Mainland of B.C.

• **Scenario** is a sub-crustal earthquake with significant damage to Vancouver/Lower Mainland

• This exercise presents a significant opportunity for PSIs and program areas to participate

Slide adapted from Aug 22, 2019 EMBC meeting
Questions and Discussion

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