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Supporting a Consistent Approach to Emergency Management Across British Columbia

EPBC Conference 2015
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Agenda



- Organizational Changes
- Overview of Emergency Management in BC
 - Strategic Plan and Annual Report
 - Provincial Coordination Team
- Legislated Requirements for Emergency Plans
- EMBC Initiatives Supporting Local Authorities
 - Local Government Engagement Strategy
 - Regional Partnership Support
 - Website, Tools and Public Education Products

Organizational Changes



- EMBC is now part of the **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure** reporting through the **Minister of State for Emergency Preparedness**
- Office of the Fire Commissioner remains with EMBC
- BC Coroner Service remained with Ministry of Justice

Legislated Responsibilities



– Emergency Program Act (EPA)

- Defines responsibilities of local authorities, provincial ministries and crown corporations
- Responsibility for the Province's emergency management program

– Emergency Program Act review

- Report to the Cabinet Committee on Secure Tomorrow by March 31, 2016

Legislated Responsibilities



- **Emergency Program Management Regulation**
 - Identifies Minister responsible for coordinating government response to specific hazards
- **Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation**
 - Outlines roles & responsibilities of Local Authorities
- **Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation**
 - Defines disaster financial assistance framework

Provincial Emergency Management Structure



EMBC Mission



To **lead** the management of provincial level emergencies and disasters and **support** other authorities within their areas of jurisdiction.

EMBC - Our Regions

EMBC Region
Names and
Regional Office
Locations



EMBC Strategic Plan 2014 - 2017 Goals



1. EMBC is a **learning** organization with a culture of continuous improvement.
2. EMBC is expert in **leading** the management of catastrophic disasters of provincial significance and impact.
3. EMBC is effective in **supporting** other responsible authorities in their mandate to mitigate and manage emergencies and disasters.
4. EMBC excels in the provision of the Office of the Fire Commissioner's **unique services**.
5. EMBC **empowers and strengthens** volunteer organizations.

EMBC Strategic Plan: Lines of Effort

- Organizational Capacity
- Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness
- Training and Exercising
- Partnerships (including local authorities)
- Public Education
- Business Practices and Governance



EMBC Annual Report



- New Document to assess progress against:
 - The EMBC Strategic Plan
 - EMBC Mandate and Initiatives
- Significant progress made towards:
 - Organizational capacity
 - Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP)
 - Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS)
 - Training and Exercise program
 - Public Education and Local Government Support

EMBC Organizational Capacity



- Logistics Cell
- Provincial Duty Managers
- Training and Exercise Staff

Provincial Coordination Team (PCT)



- Cross-government, multi-functional provincial program
- Activated & deployed by EMBC
- Potential tasks:
 - On the ground situational awareness, assessment and analysis
 - Reinforcing & setting conditions for integration with Local Authorities & stakeholders
 - Reinforcing regional operations centers
 - Integrating functions during catastrophic events



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Legislated Requirements for Local Authority Emergency Plans



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Legislation Translated



Legislation

EPA section 6

(2) Subject to subsection (2.1), a local authority must prepare or cause to be prepared local emergency plans respecting preparation for, response to and recovery from emergencies and disasters.

(2.1) For the purposes of subsection (2), a local authority that is the board of a regional district must ensure that it has one local emergency plan that applies, or 2 or more local emergency plans that in the aggregate apply, to all of the electoral areas within the regional district.

Concrete result

A plan must cover how to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies and disasters

Legislation Translated

Legislation

EPA

8 (1) A local authority or a person designated in the local authority's local emergency plan may, whether or not a state of local emergency has been declared under section 12 (1), cause the plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the local authority or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens in (a) the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility, or (b) any other municipality or electoral area if the local authority having responsibility for that other jurisdictional area has requested assistance.

(2) If a Provincial emergency plan has been implemented under section 7, a local emergency plan may be implemented or its implementation may be continued under subsection (1) of this section if and to the extent that the local emergency plan is not in conflict with the Provincial emergency plan.

Concrete result

It is the local authority that decides whether a local emergency plan is to be implemented

Legislation Translated

Legislation

EPA

13 (1) After a declaration of a state of local emergency is made under section 12 (1) ... the local authority may do all acts and implement all procedures that it considers necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or a disaster, including any or all of the following:

- (a) implement its local emergency plan or any local emergency measures;
- (b) subject to this section, exercise, in relation to the part of the jurisdictional area affected by the declaration, any power available to the minister under section 10 (1) (d) to (l);
- (c) subject to this section, authorize, in writing, any persons involved in the operation of a local emergency plan or program to exercise, in relation to any part of the jurisdictional area affected by a declaration, any power available to the minister under section 10 (1) (d) to (l).

Concrete result

Local authorities have significant powers to implement plans when a declaration is made

Legislation Translated



Legislation	Concrete result
<p>LAEMR 2(1) A local authority must reflect in the local emergency plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) The potential emergencies and disasters that could affect all or any part of the jurisdictional area(b) The local authorities assessment of the relative risk of occurrence and potential impact on people and property	<p>Plans must include an assessment of risk for all those emergencies and disasters that could affect the subject area of the plan</p>

Legislation Translated



Legislation	Concrete result
<p>LAEMR 2 (2) Each municipal council and each board of a regional district must reflect in its emergency plan, unless it is documented elsewhere:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) the commitment of the local authority to provide policy guidance and direction to the emergency management organization established by that local authority under section 6 (3) of the Act, and(b) the procedures by which that guidance and direction is to be provided.	<p>Local authorities must commit to policy guidance and direction for emergency management organizations and to the process for giving this advice and direction. These commitments must be documented.</p>

Legislation Translated



Legislation

(3) A local authority must, as part of the local emergency plan prepared by it under section 6 (2) of the Act,

- (a) require a periodic review and updating of the local emergency plan and establish a procedure for that review and revision,
- (b) establish and maintain for all emergency response staff to whom responsibilities are assigned in the plan,
 - (i) a program of emergency response exercises, and
 - (ii) a training program,

Concrete result

A planning cycle must be in place to update and review plans

Training and emergency response exercises for staff are mandatory

Legislation Translated



Legislation	Concrete result
LAEMR 3 (c) identify the procedures by which emergency resources, including, without limitation, personnel, equipment, facilities and financial resources, may be obtained from sources within or outside of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility, (d) establish the procedures by which the plan is to be implemented, (e) establish procedures by which those persons who may be harmed or who may suffer loss are notified of an emergency or impending disaster,	Emergency plans require: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource identification (personnel, facilities, equipment, finances)• Procedures for implementing plan• Notification procedures

Legislation Translated



Legislation	Concrete result
<p>(3) (f) coordinate the provision of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services to victims of emergencies and disasters, whether that provision is made from within or outside of the local authority,</p> <p>(g) establish the priorities for restoring essential services provided by the local authority that are interrupted during an emergency or disaster, and</p> <p>(h) recommend to service providers the priorities for restoring essential services not provided by the local authority that are interrupted during an emergency or disaster.</p>	<p>Plans must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate provision of ESS (Food, Clothing, Shelter) and Medical Services and Transportation• Outline Essential service priorities (i.e. Business Continuity)• Include a process to engage service providers

Legislation Translated



Legislation

LAEMR 4 (4) A local authority may incorporate into its local emergency plan any confirmed, potential or anticipated assistance and resources of other levels of government or other non-government bodies.

Concrete result

Mutual aid or aid from other levels of government – **Optional**



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EMBC Strategy to Advance Support for Local Authority Emergency Management Programs



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Local Government Engagement Strategy



The three-year Local Government Engagement Strategy was approved on October 14, 2015.

“Over the course of the next three years, EMBC intends to **better engage local government** through a variety of communication methods, to modernize the tools that are available, and to promote a better understanding of EMBC policies, roles and responsibilities.”

Local Government Strategy Goals



- To apply a **flexible approach to tool development** that recognizes the differences between local authority emergency programs.
- To provide EMBC staff the tools, resources and training to ensure **effective program delivery to local authorities.**
- To create more opportunities for meaningful dialogue and **communications between EMBC and local authorities.**
- To promote leadership and governance through partnership, **collaboration and shared learning.**



Local Government Strategy

- Themes for success:
 - Leadership through knowledge sharing
 - Relationship building
 - Improved external communications
 - Enhanced tools and policy
 - Supported regional staff
 - Business Practices and Governance
- Limitations / Constraints
 - Resources / Finances / Training / Time

Local Government Strategy Actions

- **Leadership Through Knowledge Sharing**
 - Promote knowledge sharing between EPCs
 - Continue annual seasonal readiness workshops
 - Host facilitated provincial discussions on:
 - Lessons learned
 - New tools and research
 - Practices to address universal challenges

Local Government Strategy Actions

- **Relationship Building**

- Events such as the EPBC Conference
- Re-invigorate the community risk profile process
- Ensure linkages between local, regional and provincial strategies
- Appoint an EMBC liaison to work with:
 - BC Association of Emergency Managers
 - LG Management Association
 - UBCM

Local Government Strategy Actions

- **Improved External Communications**
 - Update local authority-specific website content
 - Review on an ongoing basis
 - Communications protocol to ensure regional staff and EPCs are well informed of issues and policy changes
 - Ensure linkages between local, regional and provincial strategies
 - Work to develop and improve methods of engagement for EMBC staff

Local Government Strategy Actions

- **Enhanced Tools and Policy**
 - Better outline the legislated requirements for local authority emergency programs
 - Update documents such as *Financial Assistance Guide* and *A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations*
 - Local Authority Emergency Management Toolkit
 - Update the Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Tool
 - Update current EMBC policies and EOC forms

Local Government Strategy Actions

- **Supported Regional Staff**

- Training and support to regional staff for all resources developed
- Support training that will enhance capacity of staff to assist local authorities
 - Interpersonal communication
 - Facilitation and conflict resolution
 - Crisis leadership
 - First Nations cultural awareness
 - Project and strategic planning

Theme for Success	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Leadership Through Knowledge Sharing	Determine appropriate ways to promote knowledge sharing within the field of practice between Emergency Program Coordinators (EPCs). Cultivate knowledge sharing through existent or new networks.		
	Continue annual seasonal readiness workshops.		
	Host facilitated provincial discussions.		
Relationship Building	Regularly participate in events such as the Emergency Preparedness and Business Continuity Conference.		
		Re-invigorate the community risk profile process and review the current template to include mitigation considerations.	
	Ensure linkages between local government strategies, regional emergency management partnership strategies and provincial strategies to enhance information sharing, eliminate duplication of effort and foster greater collaboration.		
	Appoint an EMBC liaison to work more closely with those organizations serving local authorities and emergency programs, such as the BC Association of Emergency Managers, the Local Government Management Association, and the Union of BC Municipalities. Look for opportunities to present at meetings and AGMs.		

Theme for Success	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Improved External Communications	Update local authority-specific website content for clarity and ease-of-use.		
		Conduct ongoing reviews of local authority-specific website content to ensure it is up-to-date.	
		Establish a communication protocol for the organization to ensure that regional staff and EPCs are well-informed of all projects and policy changes.	
			With input from Government Communications and Public Engagement, develop a workshop that outlines the different methods and tools that are available for engagement within the BC Public Service for EMBC staff.

Theme for Success	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Enhanced Tools and Policy		Develop materials that outline the legislated requirements of local authority emergency programs.	
	Update: <i>Financial Assistance Guide, A Guide for BC Local Authorities and First Nations.</i>		
	Update EOC forms with the priority for the first year of this strategy being the Situation Report.		
	Create a toolkit for local authority emergency management planning.		
		Update the Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Tool.	Update the recovery toolkit
		Consider the development of mobile applications to augment existing tools.	
	Analyze current EMBC policies and related procedures to determine areas for change and work with the EMBC policy team to create and update policy as necessary.		
Supported Regional Staff	Provide training and supporting materials to regional staff for each resource developed.		
	Support training in areas that will directly impact and enhance the capacity of staff to service local authorities .		

Local Government Preparedness Support



- Training Courses
- Workshops
- Regional Office support
- Web resources
- EmergencyInfo BC
- Provincial hazard plans

www.embc.gov.bc.ca



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Regional Partnerships



- Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM)
 - A 50-50 partnership between the Province and Metro Vancouver Local Authorities
 - Created a Regional Concept of Operations
 - Completed a draft regional communications strategy
- Exploring similar relationship with the Capital Regional District



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EMBC Website and Products



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Establishing an Emergency Program

Each local authority must pass a bylaw in order to authorize and empower the development and maintenance of an emergency program by an Executive Committee. Each regional district government must pass an additional bylaw to extend the service throughout all the electoral areas of the regional district.

The implementing bylaw should specify the organization and concept of operations of the emergency program, delegate authority to an emergency program Executive Committee and outline the responsibilities of the local authority.

Bylaws/resolutions should be reviewed following each local government election to ensure that newly elected officials are aware of their responsibilities to support the emergency program as well as to ensure the provisions of bylaws are up to date.

[Sample Bylaw for Municipalities \(PDF\)](#)[Sample Bylaw for Regional Districts \(PDF\)](#)[Sample Service Bylaw for Regional Districts \(PDF\)](#)

Legislation

- [Emergency Program Act](#)
- [Emergency Program Management Regulation](#)
- [Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#)
- [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#)

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- Establishing an Emergency Program
- [Local Authority Emergency Planning](#)
- Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis
- Critical Infrastructure Assessment
- Program Self-assessment
- EOC Forms and Templates
- Guidelines

Local Authority Emergency Planning

Local authorities in B.C. range from small isolated communities with limited resources and very specific risks, to large metropolitan areas with complex risk profiles and extensive resource capabilities to meet response and coordination challenges. Emergency plans should be developed to the level required to meet the communities' needs and address the risk profile. Plans should be practical, feasible and easily understood by the staff and volunteers responsible for conducting emergency operations in the community.

The planning process should include representatives of local organizations and local government departments with identified roles in response and recovery. Members of the community that will be affected by an emergency should also be consulted.

Plans are living documents that should be updated regularly based on changes in risk environments, personnel, technology, jurisdictional responsibility, or regulations.

The following should be considered when local authorities are developing emergency plans:

- Plans must meet legislated requirements;
- Plans must be based on [risk profiles](#);
- Plans should be flexible and scalable to meet the needs arising from the emergency regardless of the hazard or size of the event;
- Plans should focus on actions and procedures;

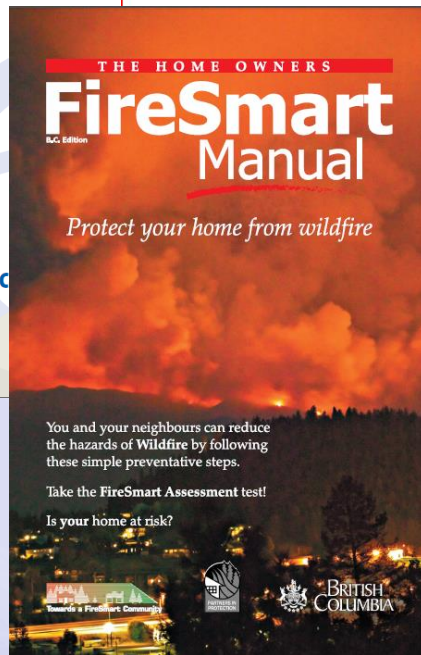
Legislation

- [Emergency Program Act](#)
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- [Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#)
- [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#)

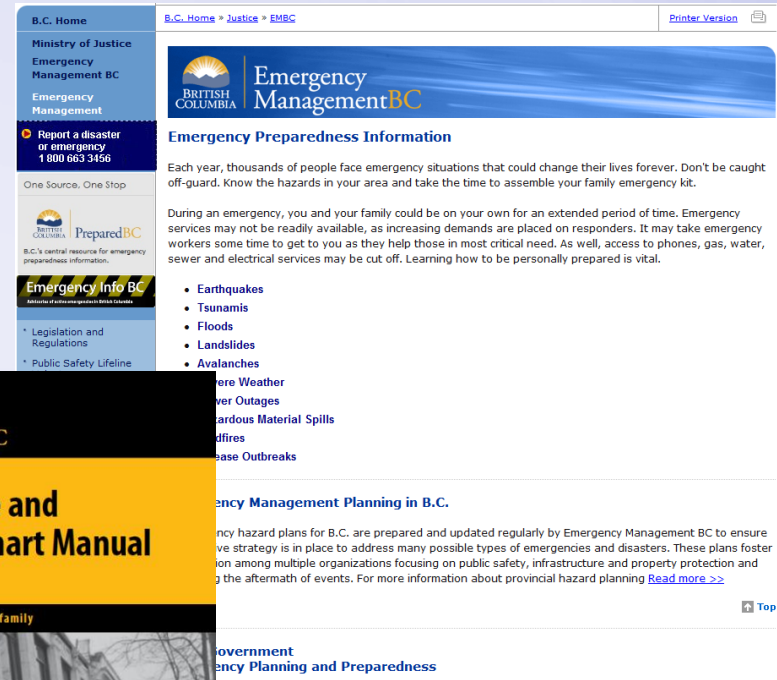
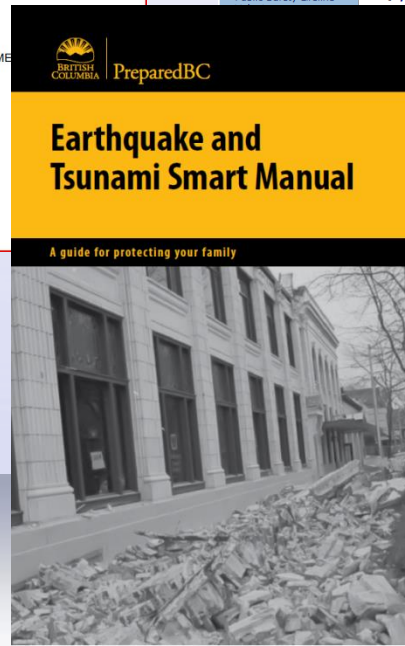
Accessibility 2024

One of the building blocks of the Accessibility 2024 strategy is Emergency Preparedness. The Emergency Preparedness building block is about how B.C. communities incorporate the needs

Reference Materials

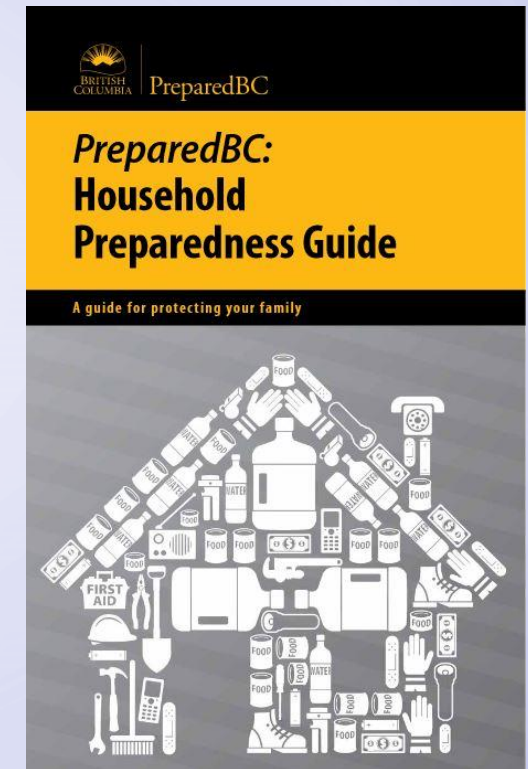


ND YOUR FAMILY
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NG YOUR HOME



Public Education

- Developed in consultation with Local Authorities
- New public education materials:
 - Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual
 - Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide
 - Household Preparedness Guide
 - DIY Emergency Plan
 - Emergency Kit Card





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BASIC EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT

gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC



First Aid kit and medications



Cell phone with chargers, inverter or solar charger



Garbage bags, moist towelettes and plastic ties for personal sanitation



Battery-powered or hand crank radio tuned to Environment Canada weather



Local maps (identify a family meeting place) and some cash in small bills



Water, four litres per person per day for at least three days, for drinking and sanitation



Battery-powered or hand crank flashlight with extra batteries



At least a three-day supply of non-perishable food. Manual can opener for cans



Dust mask to help filter contaminated air



Whistle to signal for help



Seasonal clothing and footwear



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Emergency Phone Numbers *(9-1-1 where available)*

Fire:

Police:

Ambulance:

Out-of-area Emergency Contact:

Non-emergency Phone Numbers

Doctor:

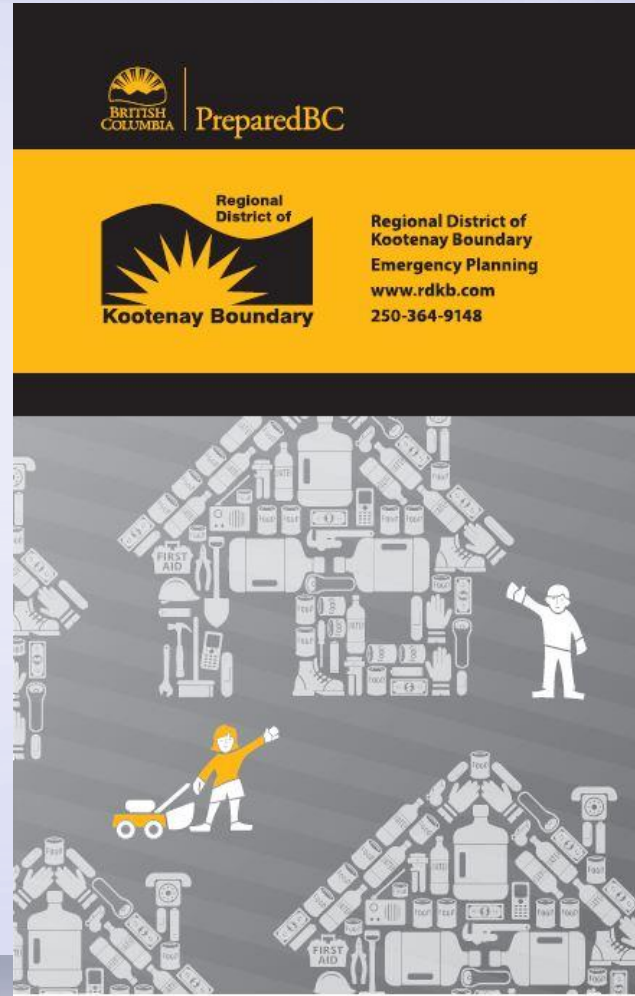
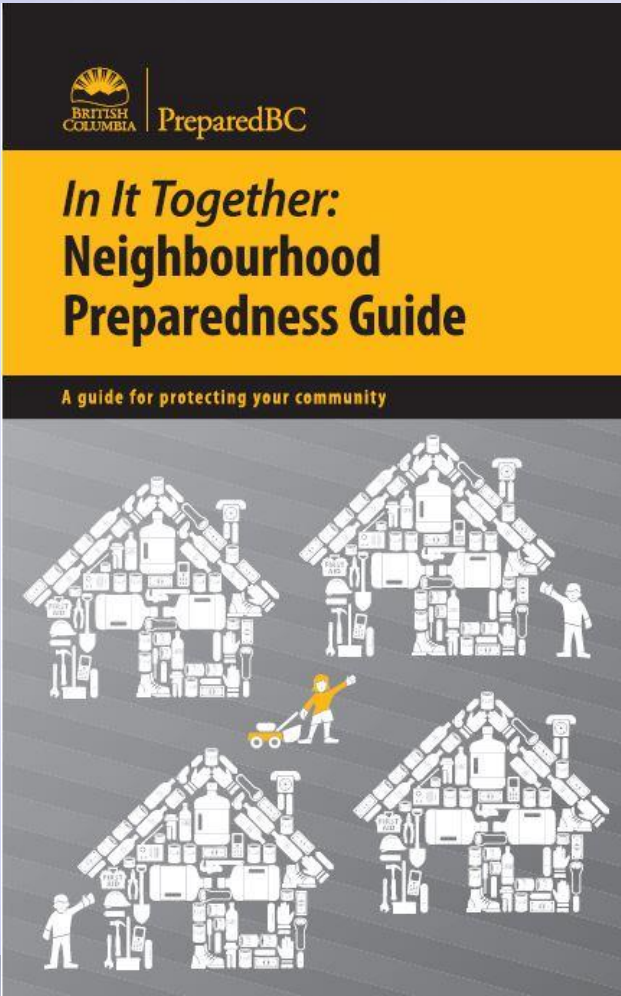
Health Authority:

Insurance Provider:

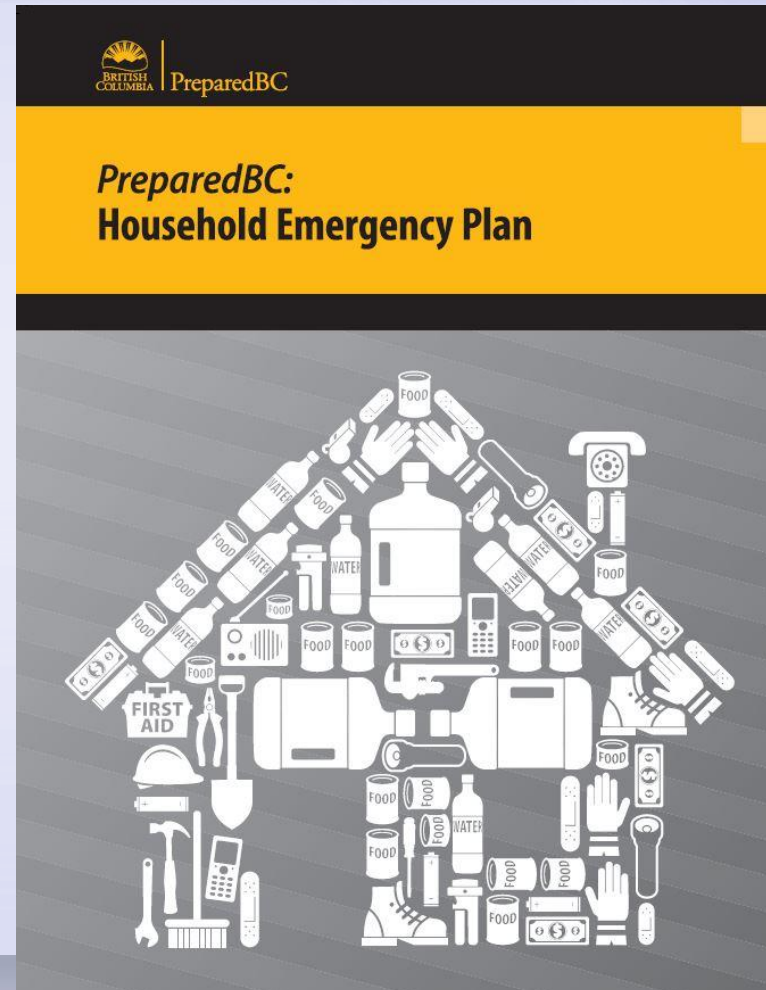
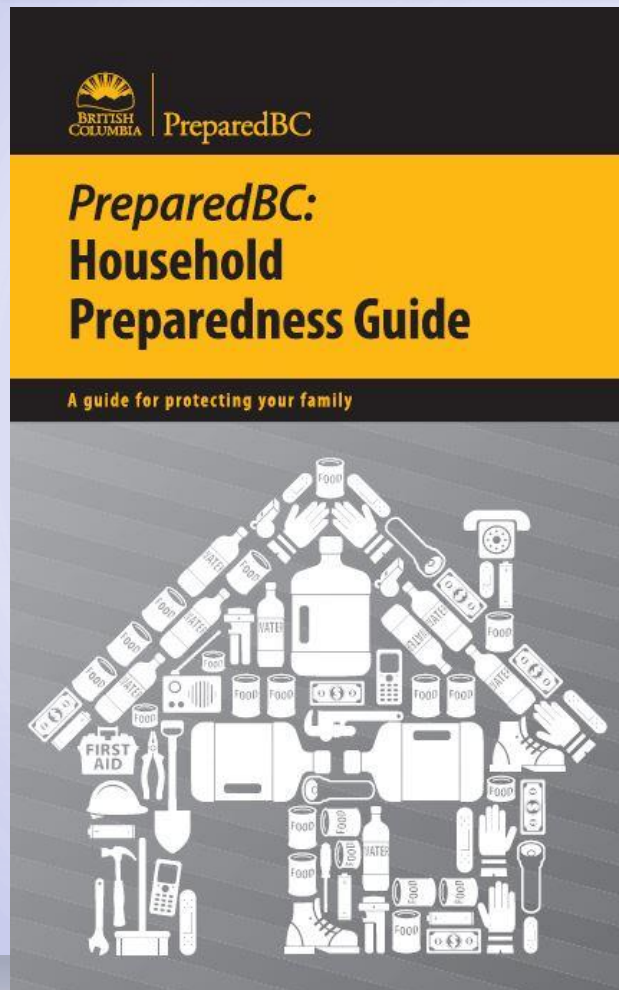
Utilities:



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Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual

A guide for protecting your family



GET INFORMED - TYPES OF ALERTS

THERE ARE FIVE ALERT LEVELS AND EACH OF WHICH HAS A DISTINCT MEANING. THE ALERT LEVELS ARE:

		ACTION
 WARNING	FLOOD WAVE POSSIBLE	FULL EVACUATION SUGGESTED
 ADVISORY	STRONG CURRENTS LIKELY	STAY AWAY FROM THE SHORE
 WATCH	DANGER LEVEL NOT YET KNOWN	STAY ALERT FOR MORE INFORMATION
 INFORMATION STATEMENT	MINOR WAVES AT MOST	NO ACTION SUGGESTED
 CANCELLATION	TIDAL GAUGES SHOW NO WAVE ACTIVITY	CONFIRM SAFETY OF LOCAL AREAS



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Thank You

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