

Preparing Your Community for an Emergency

Preparing your community for an emergency can be a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. Compiling the items below can help you considerably in the event of an emergency. Start planning today.

- 1. Planning committee.** Determine personnel, assign roles and responsibilities.
- 2. Community emergency management plan.** Create or locate an emergency plan for your community and ensure it is up to date. Review Emergency Management BC's Emergency Management Planning Toolkit for Local Authorities and First Nations at <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-emergency-programs/local-emergency-planning>
- 3. Community maps.** Identify high hazard and high-risk areas.
 - a. Wildland-urban interface zones
 - b. Infrastructure (e.g. roads, communication systems, water and power lines)
 - c. Water sources
 - d. Elder's homes
 - e. Community centres
 - f. Places of special interest (e.g. community church, graveyard, sacred places)
- 4. Contacts lists.** Identify emergency resources and community contacts.
 - a. Compile a list of community members that may require extra assistance (e.g. elders, people with disabilities)
 - b. FNESS Emergency Contacts
 - Wayne Schnitzler, Interim Executive Director – 250-318-8278 wschnitzler@fness.bc.ca
 - Dean Colthorp, Fire Services Manager – 604-838-5711 dcolthorp@fness.bc.ca
 - Bob Mills, Emergency Management Manager – 250-457-1694 bmills@fness.bc.ca
 - c. EMBC Central PEOC Operations Chief – 250-312-6623 preoc3.ops1@gov.bc.ca
 - d. EMBC 24-hour Emergency Reporting Hotline – 1-800-663-3456
 - e. Indigenous Services Canada Duty Officer – 604-209-9709 bcaandc.do@canada.ca
 - f. Red Cross Reunification Line – 1-800-863-6582. Line open from 8am to 8pm, every day
 - g. First Nations Health Authority – 1-855-550-5454 <https://www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/wildfire-information>
 - h. Veteran Affairs Canada – Veteran or RCMP Mental Health Support 1-800-268-7708
 - i. Province of BC Disaster Financial Assistance - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/disaster-financial-assistance>
 - j. BC SPCA Okanagan/Kootenays Emergency Animal Rescue – 250-571-0849
- 5. Partner/host communities.** Reach out to other communities to develop reciprocal agreements to provide/receive assistance during emergency situations. Build relationships with your neighbours, both inside and outside of your nation. We are in this together.

FNESS Communications Contact

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