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# Prioritizing Emergency Management

## UBCM Convention 2019





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# Presentation Overview

## Part 1: Emergency Management in BC

Cameron Lewis, Executive Lead, Emergency Management Review Office

## Part 2: BC Wildfire Service

Rob Schweitzer, Acting Director, Wildfire Operations, BC Wildfire Service





# Part 1 Overview: Emergency Management in BC

- BC Emergency Management System
- Emergency Management Context
- Strengthening Emergency Management: Key Initiatives
- Flood Risk
- Climate Change Adaptation



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# BC Emergency Management System



# BC Emergency Management System

1. Mitigation

2. Preparedness

3. Response

4. Recovery



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Emergency  
Management  
System  
2016



- Local Authorities
- First Nations
- Provincial Ministries and Agencies
- Federal Departments
- NGOs
- Private/Corporate Sector



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# Emergency Management Context





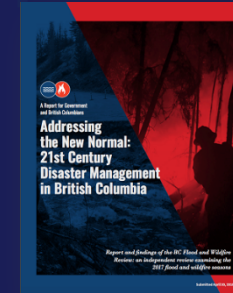
# Abbott Chapman Report and Action Plans

## Abbot/Chapman Report (Released April 2018):

- Speaks to the Impacts of the 2017 Floods/Wildfires
- Includes 108 Recommendations

## Action Plan and Updates:

- Partner Engagement → Priority Issues
- Changes/Action to Date
- Strategic Shifts → Sendai Framework, EPA Modernization, Climate Adaptation, EMBC/BCWS Improvements



Apr. 2018

Oct. 2018

Apr. 2019

Oct. 2019





# Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

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

Sendai Framework  
for Disaster Risk Reduction  
2015 - 2030



## Contents

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



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# National Emergency Management Strategy



Building Resiliency Together

An Emergency Management  
Framework for Canada  
Third Edition

MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
MAY 2017

Building Resiliency Together

Emergency  
Management  
Strategy for  
Canada



Toward a  
Resilient 2030



“An Emergency Management Framework for Canada”  
was updated and released in 2017.

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.



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# 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

- “Repeal and Replace”
- Consultation and Engagement
- Key Change Drivers Reflected:
  - Sendai Framework
  - UNDRIP
  - 2017 & 2018 Events: Lessons Learned
  - Disaster Recovery Framework
  - Four-Pillars Approach



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**UBCM Convention Clinic – Thursday, Sept. 26 (7:30-8:15am)**

# **Modernizing BC's Emergency Program Act (EPA)**

Presentation by Lori Halls,  
Deputy Minister of Emergency Management BC



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# Strengthening Emergency Management: Key Initiatives



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## Regional Partnerships



**Integrated Partnership for  
Regional Emergency Management**

**Metro  
Vancouver  
Region**

**Est. 2009**



**REMP**

REGIONAL EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP  
in the Capital Region

**Regional Emergency Management  
Partnership**

**Capital  
Region**

**Est. 2016**



**Central Coast Emergency  
Management Partnership**

**Bella Coola  
Valley**

**Est. 2018**





# First Nations & Emergency Management

- Emergencies know no borders
- First Nations were disproportionately impacted in the 2017/2018 events
- Engaging with leadership level and on the ground





# Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF)

- \$69.5M grant program administered by UBCM
  - 2016/17 – \$32M to UBCM to initiate CEPF
  - 2017/18 – \$1.5M to supplement Stream #1 funding
  - 2018/19 – \$36M to UBCM to continue CEPF through 2022
- CEPF now open to all First Nations

More Information: [CEPF@ubcm.ca](mailto:CEPF@ubcm.ca) or 250-387-4470

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund.html>



# Community Emergency Preparedness Fund: Streams

Stream	Next Application Deadline
Structural Flood Mitigation	October 25, 2019
Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training	November 15, 2019
Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility Training	December 13, 2019
Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning	January 24, 2020
Emergency Support Services	February 14, 2020
Emergency Operations Centres & Training	March 13, 2020
Evacuation Route Planning	April 17, 2020

More Information: [CEPF@ubcm.ca](mailto:CEPF@ubcm.ca) or 250-387-4470

<https://www.ubcm.ca/EN/main/funding/lgps/community-emergency-preparedness-fund.html>





# Key Recovery Framework Drivers: 2017/18 Events

## 2017 Wildfires



- 65,000 evacuees
- 1.2 million hectares burned
- 500 structures lost – 229 homes
- Provincial state of emergency 71 days





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# Key Recovery Framework Drivers: 2017/18 Events

## 2018 Freshet

- Over 400 homes and 100 businesses severely damaged
- Over \$70M in recovery funding to date





# Interim Disaster Recovery Framework

## Before

No overall provincial or federal direction on disaster recovery - creating delays, inconsistencies and uncertainties for families, businesses and communities

Numerous examples of funding and resource gaps, leading to unmet individual and community needs and to adhoc requests for provincial funding

Limited coordination at local, regional, or provincial levels and between the province and First Nations and other recovery partners

Recovery not integrally linked to disaster pre-planning, risk reduction and emergency response

## After

Provides overall direction and common recovery lexicon to guide operations in 2019 and 2020 emergency seasons, and to inform modernization of emergency management legislation

Facilitates and enables strategic approach to funding that addresses priority needs while reflecting fiscal plan

Builds upon existing EMBC governance framework, and organizes cross-agency recovery coordination into four sectors.

Reflects Sendai Principles of emphasis on all four pillars of emergency management



# Emergency Support Services Modernization

**Digital Emergency Support Services Registration and Assistance System (ESSRAS) is currently under development**

Spring 2019	Proof of Concept	Digital system piloted in four BC communities: City of Prince George, City of Kamloops, Tk'emlups te Secwepemc, and Regional District of Central Okanagan
Spring 2020	Phase 1	Case Management; Reporting
Spring 2021	Phase 2	Just-In-Time Supports; Enhanced Payment Options





## Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR)

- GSAR volunteers in B.C. are among the best, globally
- March 2019: GSAR received a \$18.6M grant (for 3 years)
  - Training and Equipment for SAR Groups
  - EMBC and BC SARA Support Staff

EMBC and BC Search and Rescue Association are in the final stages of establishing a joint committee to work towards a long-term sustainable funding model





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# Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC)

## Supports and Coordinates:

- Deployment of Fire Fighting Resources
- Fire Fighter Training
- Fire Department Funding
- Structure Protection Program



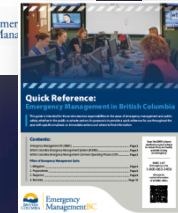
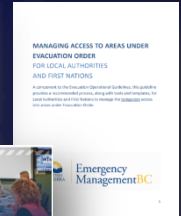
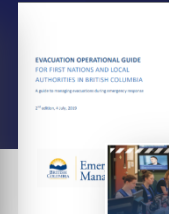
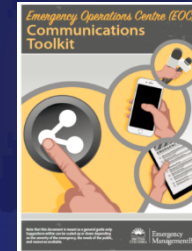




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## Additional Information

- Integrating Tourism into Emergency Management
- Exercise Coastal Response 2022
- New Planning Products Available
- [PreparedBC.ca](https://PreparedBC.ca)





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# Flood Risk



# Provincial Flood Risk Approach

- Emergency Program Act Modernization
- Fraser Basin Council (FBC) Flood Strategy Investigations
- Flood Management Tools
- Flood Mitigation Funding Programs



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# Climate Change Adaptation



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# CleanBC – Climate Adaptation Strategy

- Why is a Strategy Needed?
- Climate Risk Assessment
- Reporting
- Timeline







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## Part 2: BC Wildfire Service





# Overview

1. **Wildfire Season Debrief**
2. **Accomplishments and Changes Implemented in 2019**
3. **Prevention and Funding Opportunities**



# 2019 Season in Review

\* as of September 5, 2019

Total fires	782
Lightning-caused fires	344 (about 44%)
Human-caused wildfires	438 (about 56%)
Area burned	21,154 ha
Fires of Note	9
Evacuation Orders	8
Evacuation Alerts	2
Suppression Costs	~ \$117.9 million
Total Days on Provincial State of Emergency	0 Days



# Seasonal Comparison

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



# Accomplishments and Changes Implemented in 2019

1. Response
2. Integration with Partner Agencies
3. Prescribed Fire





# Response

- Additional Fire Fighters
- New Aircraft
- Technology
- Partnerships with academic and business communities
- Night Vision Goggles
- Research & Innovation program
- Predictive Services Unit





# Integration with Partner Agencies

- Structural firefighters in rural areas
- BCWS and OFC expanded Structure Protection Program
- Training for structural firefighters & forest industry
- Industry equipment strike teams
- Contract Advisory Committee
- BCWS / Forest Industry Working Group





# Prescribed Fire

- Resource Management Open Fire Strategy
- Framework to re-introduce prescribed fire
- Collaborating with local governments, First Nations, and stakeholders
- Integrate Traditional Knowledge with western science
- Partner with the Association of BC Forest Professionals
- Funding through FESBC and CRI
- Working with First Nations on planning and prescriptions for prescribed burns



# Community Resiliency Investment Program

The Community Resiliency Investment (CRI) program is intended to reduce the risk of wildfires and their impact on B.C. communities, through community funding, supports and priority fuel management activities on provincial Crown land.

There are 2 main funding categories:

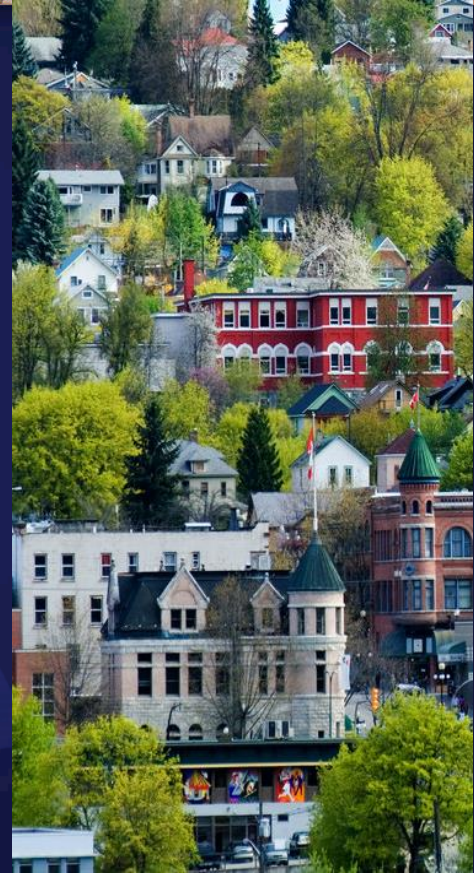
1. FireSmart Community Funding and Supports
2. Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction





# Community Resiliency

- Support applications through FESBC and CRI programs.
- Established in September 2018 with **\$60 million**
- As part of Budget 2019, the B.C. government has provided an additional **\$75 million** over the next 3 years
- Activities eligible for CRI funding expanded to align with seven FireSmart disciplines





# FireSmart Community Funding and Supports

- Announced September 2013 at UBCM
- Funding to Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities
- Support provided by Districts and Fire Centres
- Administered by UBCM; implemented by communities
- \$60M program; \$9.8 approved for communities in first intake.
- ~95% of applicants receive funding
- To date, 128 First Nations and local governments funded.



# Funding Eligibility

## Eligible applicants:

- municipalities
- regional districts
- First Nations

## Funding amounts:

- applicants with lower wildfire risk are eligible for funding up to \$25,000
- applicants with higher wildfire risk are eligible for funding up to \$150,000

*\*The funding maximum may be exceeded for applications that*

*Include vegetation management on Crown land.*







# Examples of Eligible Activities

Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ host community FireSmart events and workshops</li></ul>
Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ develop FireSmart policies for design and maintenance of publicly owned buildings</li></ul>
Development considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ amend bylaws to incorporate FireSmart policies</li></ul>
Inter-agency co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ develop regional FireSmart planning tables</li></ul>
Emergency planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ develop cross-jurisdiction meetings and exercises</li></ul>
Cross-training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ support professional development to increase capacity for FireSmart activities</li></ul>
FireSmart demonstration projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ undertake FireSmart demonstration projects for publicly owned buildings or critical infrastructure</li></ul>
FireSmart activities for residential areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ offer local rebate programs to homeowners who complete FireSmart activities on their properties</li></ul>
Fuel management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ undertake fuel management and/or vegetation management on publicly owned land</li></ul>





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# Next Intake

The next intake deadline is October 18, 2019.

The 2020 program materials are available at:  
[www.ubcm.ca/cri](http://www.ubcm.ca/cri)





## Category

# Crown Land Wildfire Risk Reduction

Administered by the BC Government

Prescribed Fire:

- funding for maintenance

Critical Infrastructure:

- phased approach beginning with provincial emergency response infrastructure

Other Crown Land Treatments:

- fuel management activities in higher risk areas



# Crown Land WRR Funding Principles and Prioritization

## **Risk:**

- Level of risk to communities and high value assets.
- Priorities are WUI risk class 1 and 2.

## **Prioritization:**

- Prioritize specific project types with a focus on operational treatments as the highest priority.



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### Northwest Fire Centre

Smithers, BC  
(250) 847-6600

### Prince George Fire Centre

Prince George, BC  
(250) 561-4628

### Cariboo Fire Centre

Williams Lake, BC  
(250) 989-2600

### Kamloops Fire Centre

Kamloops, BC  
(250) 554-5500

### Coastal Fire Centre

Parksville, BC  
(250) 951-4222

### Southeast Fire Centre

Castlegar, BC  
(250) 365-4040







## Contact Information

**Emergency Management BC: Cameron Lewis** – [Cameron.Lewis@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cameron.Lewis@gov.bc.ca), 778-698-4897

Executive Lead, Emergency Management Review Office, Emergency Management BC

**BC Wildfire Service: Rob Schweitzer** – [Rob.Schweitzer@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Rob.Schweitzer@gov.bc.ca), 250-312-3032

Acting Director, Wildfire Operations, BC Wildfire Service

**Climate Action Secretariat: Archie Riddell** – [Archie.Riddell@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Archie.Riddell@gov.bc.ca), 778-974-4064

Executive Director, Resilience and Clean Government, Climate Action Secretariat

**FLNRORD Water Management Branch: Ted White** – [Ted.White@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ted.White@gov.bc.ca), 778-698-3981

Director and Comptroller of Water Rights, Resource Stewardship Division, Water Management Branch



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The background of the slide features a large, stylized Union Jack flag (the flag of the United Kingdom) with its characteristic red, white, and blue stripes and cross. The flag is set against a backdrop of a coastal landscape with mountains and a body of water under a sunset sky. The entire scene is overlaid with a dark blue, semi-transparent map of British Columbia.

# Questions?

*Thank you for attending.*