

## Community Emergency Preparedness Fund Definitions

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For the purpose of the administration of the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF), the following definitions apply to all CEPF funding streams:

**Career Fire Department:** A **fire department** that has a complete roster of fulltime members that ensure that the fire services required by the local government can be provided to the residents of a defined fire protection area. Any roster of volunteers within the department is not essential to the ability of the fire department to function in their service provision. The volunteer roster is strictly for succession or an introductory path of community members to assist in fire services and only there for surge capacity, if ever needed.

**Climate Adaptation:** Proactively understanding and preparing for the changing climate and reducing climate-related risks. Some climate impacts are related to sudden disaster events, such as flooding and wildfire, while others occur more slowly over time such as sea level rise, species and ecosystem shifts, and water shortages ([BC's Climate Preparedness and Adaptation Strategy](#)).

**Composite Fire Department:** A **fire department** that has a mixture of fulltime paid members and volunteers (unpaid, honorarium, or paid on-call). The capability of the department is fully dependent on the volunteer roster for the department to provide the required fire services to residents of a defined fire protection area.

**Cultural Safety:** Indigenous cultural safety is the process of making spaces, services, and organizations safer and more equitable for Indigenous people by considering current and historical colonial impact and seeking to eliminate structural racism and discrimination ([BC Centre for Disease Control](#)).

**Disaster Risk:** The potential loss of life, injury, or destroyed or damaged assets which could occur to a system, society, or a community in a specific period of time, determined probabilistically as a function of **hazard**, exposure, vulnerability, and capacity ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** **Disaster risk** reduction is aimed at preventing new and reducing existing **disaster risk** and managing residual risk, all of which contribute to strengthening **resilience** and therefore to the achievement of sustainable development ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Emergency Operations Centres (EOC):** Designated facility established by an organization or jurisdiction to coordinate the overall organizational or jurisdictional response and support to an emergency response ([Emergency Support Services Program Guide](#)).

For the purpose of CEPF funding, EOCs must be located in a **First Nation owned building** or **publicly owned building** or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.

**Emergency Support Services:** Services provided on a short-term basis to evacuees in emergency situations ([Emergency Support Services Program Guide](#)).

**Fire Department:** A department established and operated as a Local Authority service responsible for the prevention or suppression of fires in a defined Fire Protection Area by a Local Authority or a board, or commission of a registered society having the responsibility for the management or conduct of work or services through a service agreement, or equivalent of any of the above.

**First Nations land:** First Nation reserve land, land owned by a Treaty First Nation (as defined by the *Interpretation Act*), land under the authority of an Indigenous National Government, or other land owned by a First Nation or Treaty First Nation.

**First Nations owned buildings:** Buildings owned by a Treaty First Nation (as defined by the *Interpretation Act*) or buildings owned by a First Nation band.

**Group Lodging:** Congregate care facility for the lodging and feeding of evacuees ([Emergency Support Services Program Guide](#)).

For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of group lodging facilities are proposed, the group lodging must be located in a **First Nation owned building** or **publicly owned building** or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.

**Hazard:** A process, phenomenon, or human activity that may cause loss of life, injury or other health impacts, property damage, social and economic disruption, or environmental degradation ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Mitigation:** The lessening or minimizing of the adverse impacts of a **hazard** (modified from [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Natural hazards: Hazards** that are predominantly associated with natural processes and phenomena ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Natural infrastructure:** Naturally occurring landscape features and/or nature-based solutions that promote, use, restore, or emulate natural ecological processes.

**Publicly owned buildings:** Buildings owned by a local government or public institution (such as health authority or school district).

**Publicly owned land:** Provincial Crown land, land owned by a local government, or land owned by a public institution (such as a health authority or school district).

**Publicly, provincially, and First Nations owned Critical Infrastructure:** Assets owned by the Provincial government, local government, public institution (such as health authority or school district), First Nation, or Treaty First Nation that are either:

- Identified in a Local Authority Emergency Plan;
- Essential to the health, safety, security, or economic wellbeing of the community and the effective functioning of society, and;
- For the purpose of CEPF funding, proposed activities related to critical infrastructure must be clearly related to **disaster risk reduction-climate adaptation**.

**Reception Centre:** A safe gathering place where evacuees can register, are interviewed to determine their immediate emergency needs, and are referred to suppliers for assistance ([Emergency Support Services Program Guide](#)).

For the purpose of CEPF funding, if minor renovations of reception centre facilities are proposed, the reception centre must be located in a **First Nation owned building** or **publicly owned building** or an asset owned by the primary applicant or a sub-applicant.

**Resilience:** The ability of a system, community, or society exposed to **hazards** to resist, absorb, accommodate, adapt to, transform, and recover from the effects of a **hazard** in a timely and efficient manner, including through the preservation and restoration of its essential basic structures and functions through risk management ([Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)).

**Volunteer Fire Department:** A **fire department** that has a complete roster of volunteers (unpaid, honorarium, or paid on-call) members that are available either on a scheduled rotation or on-call to provide the fire services of the department for the residents of a defined fire protection area.