

# **Evacuation Operational Guide for Local Authorities**

## **A guide to managing evacuations during emergency response**



Ministry of  
Emergency Management  
and Climate Readiness

### **More information**

Online: [gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact](http://gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact)

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For specific inquiries, contact your EMCR Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (Appendix A).

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## Amendment Record

Version #	Release Date	Description
1	2009	Original document with templates
2	July 4, 2019	Fully revised document with templates
3	July 24, 2021	Update of Natural Gas shut off recommendation
4	March 17, 2022	Fixing broken website links
5	September 10, 2024	Fully revised to align with the <i>Emergency &amp; Disaster Management Act</i> . Key changes include sections on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Roles and responsibilities</li><li>- Consultation, coordination, cooperation, and consent</li></ul>
6	November 27, 2024	Corrected contact information in Appendix A

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# Introduction

## About this Guide

This guide provides advice, information, and considerations for local authorities in all stages of an evacuation and is intended for use during the response phase of an emergency. While the focus of this guide is on community-directed strategic evacuations, some general information is provided on tactical evacuations and protective actions. The recommendations provided are not prescriptive. Each local authority will need to implement a process that works best for them and should seek independent legal advice as necessary.

**For immediate assistance with an evacuation, contact the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) at 1-800-663-3456 and request to speak with the Regional Duty Manager for your region.**

The *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* recognizes that the inherent right of self-government of Indigenous peoples includes authority to make laws in relation to emergency management, and therefore, does not provide powers or impose any requirements on most Indigenous governing bodies. While the legal powers described in this guide do not apply to most Indigenous governing bodies, there are benefits in using similar approaches and processes to evacuations across regions and areas to streamline operations.

The guide does apply to Modern Treaty Nations. Under the Act, Modern Treaty Nations are local authorities, though the Act is also designed to respect the self-governing nature of the Modern Treaty Nations.

A list of acronyms used in this guide can be found in Appendix B.

## Who this Guide is for

This guide was developed for local authorities that are considering evacuating all or part of their community to protect life and safety. It is intended for use by an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), if one is activated or, a designated Emergency Program Coordinator (EPC). It is assumed that the audience has an understanding of the BC Emergency Management System

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(BCEMS) and EOC Procedures, both of which can be found on the [Provincial Emergency Plans webpage](#), and the [Incident Command System](#) (ICS). **[Transitional note: future updates to the BCEMS and EOC Procedures documents will reflect the repeal and replacement of the Emergency Program Act with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.]**

## Terminology

**'Act'** refers to the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.

**'Community Navigator'** is an individual identified by a community to act as a liaison between the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), Emergency Support Services (ESS) support agencies, and evacuees.

**'Emergency'** means a state that:

- is the result of any of the following:
  - an event that
    - has occurred, is ongoing or appears imminent, and
    - is caused by one or more incidents, whether or not those incidents occur in the same location or at the same time, of accident, fire, explosion, technical failure, rioting, security threat, or terrorist activity within the meaning of section 83.01 of the *Criminal Code*, force of nature or a prescribed type of incident;
  - the presence, suspected presence, or imminent spread of a transmissible disease or an environmental toxin; and
- requires the prompt coordination of action, or the special regulation of persons or property, to protect
  - the health, safety, or well-being of persons, or
  - the safety of property, objects, or sites of heritage value.

**'Emergency instrument'** refers to:

- an instrument such as a bylaw or resolution if made by a local authority, or
- an order if made by an individual, such as the head of a local authority or a person designated to act on behalf of a local authority.

**'Head'**, in relation to a local authority means the following:

- for a municipality, the mayor or an individual assigned by bylaw of the municipal council to act in the capacity of mayor in the mayor's absence;
- for an unincorporated area in a regional district, the chair of the board of the regional district or, in the chair's absence, a vice chair;
- for the Nisga'a Nation, the individual elected or appointed as the head of the Nisga'a Lisims Government under the Nisga'a Final Agreement and Nisga'a Constitution;
- for a treaty first nation, the individual elected or appointed as the head of the treaty first nation under the final agreement and constitution of the treaty first nation; or

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- if a person referred to above is unable or unavailable to act, the person's deputy or another person who is authorized to act in the person's capacity in the person's absence.

**'Indigenous governing body'** means an entity that is authorized to act on behalf of Indigenous peoples that hold rights recognized and affirmed by section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

**'Local authority'** means the following:

- a municipality;
- a regional district;
- the Nisga'a Nation; or
- a treaty first nation.

**'Modern Treaty Nation'** refers to any of the following First Nations:

- Tsawwassen First Nation;
- Tla'amin Nation;
- Huu-ay-aht First Nations, Ka:'yu:k't'h'/Che:k'tles7et'h' First Nations, Toquaht Nation, Uchucklesaht Tribe and the Yuułuʔilʔath Government, collectively the Maa-nulth First Nations;
- Nisga'a Nation.

**'SOLE'** refers to a state of local emergency.

## Roles & Responsibilities

Local authorities are responsible for managing evacuations within their communities although there are multiple levels of government and agencies ready to support through all stages of an evacuation. Plans to coordinate with these support entities should be made in advance, and ideally included in emergency response plans.

Before any emergency instrument is made under the Act to exercise a local authority's emergency response powers, a SOLE must be in place. As well, the local authority must be satisfied that any prohibitions, requirements, limits, conditions imposed, or authorizations made under the emergency instrument are necessary to respond to the emergency.

## Local Authority Decision Makers

The head of a local authority may exercise the powers or perform the duties of a local authority under the Act, such as ordering evacuations. The local authority may also designate, in writing, **one or more** of the following individuals to act on its behalf:

- a member of the local authority's emergency management organization;
- in a case where powers or duties have been set out in an agreement or other instrument made

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- for the purposes of joining a multijurisdictional emergency management organization, an employee of a member of the multijurisdictional emergency management organization; or
- if the local authority is a Modern Treaty Nation, any other person or entity.

The written designation must identify the person or entity by either name, title, or position. It is highly recommended that the local authority makes these designations in advance of an emergency event.

There are benefits to having more than one person designated by the local authority to act on its behalf. For example, if a tactical evacuation is required, having more than one person designated to verbally declare a state of local emergency and issue an evacuation order will ensure this can happen without delay. Local authorities should consider obtaining legal advice when making designations.

## **Indigenous Governing Bodies and Modern Treaty Nations**

The Act recognizes that the inherent right of self-government of Indigenous peoples includes authority to make laws in relation to emergency management, and therefore, does not provide powers or impose requirements on most Indigenous governing bodies.

Modern Treaty Nations are defined as local authorities under the Act and may exercise powers as a local authority under the Act within the boundaries of their treaty land or Nisga'a Land, as applicable. However, they are not subject to all the same requirements as local authorities. For example, while a Modern Treaty Nation must declare a state of local emergency (SOLE) to exercise response powers under the Act, they do not need the Minister's approval to extend a SOLE.

For local authorities that are not Modern Treaty Nations, the Act imposes duties to consult and cooperate with Indigenous governing bodies when making plans or taking certain actions that fall within or may affect certain agreed upon areas. If those plans or actions fall within or may affect the treaty land or Nisga'a land of a Modern Treaty Nation, then the local authority may need to first obtain the consent of that Modern Treaty Nation. This must be done to ensure that the rights to self-determination and self-governance are respected.

This guide distinguishes between requirements for Modern Treaty Nations acting in their capacity as local authorities under the Act, and voluntary actions or approaches that could be implemented by all Indigenous governing bodies, including Modern Treaty Nations.

While EMCR recommends using the templates provided on the [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#), as well as emergency instruments and processes to standardize approaches

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across jurisdictions, Indigenous governing bodies may continue to use emergency instruments available to them, such as Band Council Resolutions (BCRs) or those created under their own legal orders, for this purpose.

## Financial Reimbursements

EMCR may reimburse local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies for eligible evacuation-related expenses. Proactive communications with EMCR will help determine what evacuation response expenditures may be eligible for reimbursement. To facilitate these discussions, call your EMCR Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) (Appendix A).

Refer to EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) for further **financial guidance on response and recovery costs**. **[Transitional note: future updates to the financial guidance on response and recovery costs will reflect the repeal and replacement of the Emergency Program Act with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.]**

## Types of Evacuations

Local authorities have legal authority to issue and rescind evacuation alerts and orders for areas within their jurisdiction in response to an emergency event. Decision-makers should consider the local authority's emergency management plan and should engage hazard-specific subject matter experts, including Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) keepers and technical specialists, to inform these actions.

There are two types of evacuations: strategic and tactical.

### Strategic Evacuations

Strategic evacuations are used when time allows for planning, consultation, coordination or cooperation with Indigenous governing bodies and/or other local authorities as required, and issuing written emergency instruments, like declarations of states of local emergencies and evacuation orders.

Appendix C provides a high-level checklist for strategic evacuations.

### Tactical Evacuations

A tactical evacuation may be necessary when there is an immediate need to protect people, animals,

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and property from a hazard impact, and there is minimal time for warning or preparation. Hazardous material accidents/incidents, fires, and rapid-onset floods are all examples of events that may require a tactical evacuation.

For an evacuation to have effect under the Act, a SOLE should be declared and an evacuation order should be made with consideration given to the information in the [Evacuation Orders](#) section of this guide. As soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so, the local authority must publish the declaration and evacuation order(s) (for example, on the local authority's website).

It is also important to contact EMCR's Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) to report the tactical evacuation as soon as it is reasonably practicable to do so, and if necessary, provide any supporting documentation.

Tactical evacuations are most often carried out by RCMP, first responders, ground search and rescue, local authority staff, First Nation members, or BC Wildfire staff going door to door. When tactically evacuating people and animals, it is important to provide them with as much basic information as possible, such as why they are being evacuated, where to go (e.g., evacuation route, Reception Centre, community centre, or to friends and family), and how they can receive information updates (e.g., phone number, social media platform, etc.). It is also vital to confirm whether people can evacuate themselves, and to provide the necessary transportation should they not be able to do so.

## Declaring a State of Local Emergency

To access response powers provided by the Act, including ordering evacuations, a local authority must first declare a SOLE.

For more information on declaring and managing a SOLE, refer to the **Guide for Declaring a State of Local Emergency in British Columbia** on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

Some critical components to be aware of include:

- The SOLE must cover the area that will be included in an evacuation order.
- A SOLE is NOT required to issue an evacuation alert, but it **IS** required to issue an evacuation order.
- A SOLE expires after 14 days.
- If a SOLE is nearing expiry and evacuation powers are still required, the local authority, other than a Modern Treaty Nation, must request an extension approval from EMCR. Ideally, this request should be made at least three days before the SOLE expires. Extension requests are facilitated through EMCR's Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC).

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- If the SOLE expires before receiving an extension approval, the local authority will have none of the emergency powers associated with the SOLE and any evacuation order will end.

## **Consultation, Coordination, Cooperation, and Consent**

### **Local Authorities Adjacent to Evacuation Areas**

If a local authority intends to (1) issue an evacuation alert or order, or allow evacuees to return to the previously evacuated area (i.e., rescind an evacuation order), and (2) the evacuation area is adjacent to an area within the jurisdiction of another local authority other than a Modern Treaty Nation, the local authority must do the following prior to taking the action:

- consult and coordinate with the adjacent local authorities;
- provide the consulted local authority with notice of the
  - details of the intended actions, and
  - if the local authority intends to exercise authority under the Act to make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of evacuated persons, the details of those arrangements;
- consider any comments received from the consulted local authorities; and
- coordinate with the consulted local authority on:
  - any prohibitions, requirements, limits, and conditions applicable to the evacuation and re-entry; and
  - the form, content, and timing of any warnings; and any other requirements prescribed by regulations.

**These requirements do not apply if, in the opinion of the head of the local authority, it would not be practicable to comply due to an imminent risk of loss of life or risk of injury to individuals or animals, or risk of significant loss or damage to property. In such cases, consultation must occur as soon as reasonably practicable.**

## **Indigenous Governing Bodies**

A local authority must consult and cooperate with the relevant Indigenous governing bodies if the local authority: (1) intends to issue an evacuation alert or order, or allow evacuees to return to an evacuated area (i.e., rescind an evacuation order); and (2) the action affects an agreed-upon area, or the people in that area.

Before taking the action, the local authority must do the following, as applicable:

- consult and cooperate with applicable Indigenous governing bodies, if any;

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- provide the consulted Indigenous governing bodies with notice of the details of the intended actions and any arrangements to be made for evacuated individuals; and
- consider all comments received from the consulted Indigenous governing bodies and the rights of the Indigenous peoples on whose behalf the Indigenous governing bodies act.

**Note:** If the action affects Modern Treaty Nation treaty lands, Nisga'a Lands, or people within those lands, the local authority must obtain the **consent** of the affected treaty nation before taking the action.

It is recommended that the local authority also coordinate the following with the consulted Indigenous governing bodies:

- any prohibitions, requirements, limits, and conditions applicable to the evacuation and temporary access;
- the form, content, and timing of any warnings; and
- any arrangements to be made for evacuated animals, including livestock.

More information on indigenous engagement requirements can be found in the **Interim Indigenous Engagement Requirements guide**. For additional information on when consultation is required, refer to the **Response and Recovery Powers overview**. Both can be found in the interim resources section on EMCR's [Modernized Emergency Management Legislation webpage](#).

**If, in the opinion of the head of the local authority, it would not be practicable to fulfill the above consultation and/or consent requirements due to an imminent risk of loss of life, injury to individuals or animals, or significant loss or damage to property, then the action may be taken without consent and/or consultation and cooperation or coordination. In such scenarios, post action requirements apply.**

As soon as reasonably practicable after taking the action, the local authority must do all the following, as applicable:

- engage and cooperate with applicable Indigenous governing bodies;
- give notice of the details of actions taken and any arrangements the local authority made or intends to make for evacuated persons to the Indigenous governing body and adjacent local authority, as applicable; and
- consider all comments received from the consulted Indigenous governing bodies and the rights of those Indigenous peoples on whose behalf the Indigenous governing bodies act.

It is recommended that any arrangements made for evacuated animals, including livestock, be shared as well.

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The reasons for not consulting and cooperating with an Indigenous governing body, or for not obtaining the consent of a Modern Treaty Nation, as applicable, prior to taking the action must be included in the local authority's post-event report.

Reporting requirements are discussed later in this guide, and additional information can be found in the **Post-Event Reporting by Local Authorities guide** on EMCR's [Local Government Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Evacuation Alerts

Evacuation alerts are used as a best practice to advise the affected population of a potential or current threat that may lead to an evacuation order. During the evacuation alert stage, individuals in the identified area should prepare for a potential evacuation by gathering the personal supplies and belongings required for a minimum of three days. **Evacuation alerts do NOT require a SOLE declaration, but may require consultation with Indigenous governing bodies and with other local authorities if the area that will be affected by the evacuation alert is adjacent to the jurisdiction of another local authority.**

Depending on the hazard and the specifics of each individual event, an evacuation order may be immediately required, and this step can be skipped.

Once the evacuation alert is in place, consider whether vulnerable populations should be evacuated, livestock relocated, and if a BC Emergency Alert request will be needed to support an evacuation order. These considerations are discussed in the following sections.

An **Evacuation Alert template** and an **Issuing an Evacuation Alert checklist** are available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Incident Commanders & Traditional Indigenous Knowledge Keepers

The Incident Commander (IC) for the emergency event typically sets objectives, and priorities can be designated to have overall responsibility at the incident or event. Generally, the IC, alongside other subject matter experts will provide recommendations on evacuations, including determining the geographic area, evacuation route, and when an evacuation alert or order should be rescinded.

In some cases, a Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) Keeper may be making these recommendations. TIK Keepers are a subject matter expert whose ancestral knowledge spans centuries, including details of past emergencies that pre-date formal documentation. TIK Keepers provide a holistic context to an event by bringing forward practices that have emerged over time to

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promote harmony within their territories, along with a deep understanding of the interdependency of the human and natural elements on the land.

The local authority retains the decision-making authority to accept or reject the recommendations of a hazard IC and/or TIK Keepers. However, it is strongly encouraged that subject matter expert recommendations are treated with due significance.

If the community does not already have access to subject matter experts, contact your EMCR PREOC for help connecting with one. The cost for a contracted subject matter expert may be reimbursable by EMCR.

## **Voluntary Evacuation**

There may be times when individuals believe it is in their best interest to evacuate from their community, even though there is no evacuation order in effect. There are various reasons why an individual may seek evacuation, including:

- the hazard is directly affecting their perceived safety and/or livelihood;
- traditional Indigenous knowledge demonstrates a risk to their safety and/or livelihood; or
- they wish to accompany and care for a vulnerable person who is being evacuated during an evacuation alert.

There may also be situations where a subject matter expert, EOC/EPC, or other agency deems it to be in the best interest of certain individuals or populations to voluntarily evacuate ahead of an area-wide evacuation order.

The local authority/EOC is responsible for determining the best process for managing voluntary evacuees. This includes determining the length of time the individual will be eligible for Emergency Support Services (ESS), and transportation and accommodation options. The local authority should consult with their EMCR PREOC before taking steps to support people in voluntarily evacuating.

It is recommended that local authorities proactively inform individuals that they may not qualify for ESS if they choose to evacuate prior to being ordered to do so, unless authorization for ESS is given by their local EOC/EPC.

If an individual wants to evacuate before being ordered to do so and will require ESS, they should be directed to contact their local EOC/EPC and request authorization to receive support. Without authorization, these individuals may not receive ESS until they are ordered to evacuate.

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## AUTHORIZING ESS SUPPORT

1. EOC/EPC receives requests for ESS authorization, or proactively determines certain vulnerable people should be supported in leaving the area in advance of an area-wide evacuation order.
2. The local authority, through the EOC/EPC, authorizes ESS for individuals in the absence of an evacuation order by completing an Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form.
3. The individual(s)/property manager/community navigator may be provided with the approved Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form, either directly through the EOC/EPC or remotely via email/fax.
4. Authorized evacuees are directed to a safe location, i.e., a Reception Centre.
5. Reception Centre staff are informed of the incoming evacuees and to accept the approved Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form as validation that the individual/property residents are approved for ESS.

**Discuss these situations with EMCR prior to authorizing ESS to confirm if the expenses associated with the evacuation are eligible for reimbursement.**

To facilitate this process, a template of an **Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form** is available for use on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#). **[Transitional note: updates to the Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form, including changes to reflect the repeal and replacement of the *Emergency Program Act* with the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*, are pending.]**

## EVACUATING VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

Local authorities should consider evacuating vulnerable populations during the evacuation alert stage. It may take longer to evacuate vulnerable populations, and there may be increased risks to individuals and first responders if done during the evacuation order stage. It may also reduce stress if it is done during a time that is generally less intense than when an evacuation order is issued, and because there may be more time to better accommodate needs. Note that evacuating individuals before an evacuation order is made must be done on a voluntary basis. To legally require persons to leave an area, a SOLE must be declared, and an evacuation order issued.

The vulnerable groups that a local authority may consider evacuating early will vary based on factors

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such as geography, sociocultural context, intersectional disadvantages, or the presence of specific subpopulations. Vulnerable populations may include those with any of the following:

- Communication challenges: limited ability to speak, see, and hear; limited ability to read or understand English; limitations in learning and understanding.
- Medical challenges: assistance with bathing or feeding, managing medications, on dialysis or oxygen, or operating power-dependent equipment to sustain life.
- Independence challenges: maintain functional independence with medical equipment such as wheelchairs, walkers, or scooters.
- Supervision needs: persons with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, prisoners, and unaccompanied children.
- Transportation needs: persons unable to drive due to disabilities, legal restrictions, or socio-economic factors.
- At-risk populations: transient or homeless, substance use issues, or mental health challenges.

Evacuating vulnerable populations may entail the movement of individuals and/or groups of individuals (e.g., a long-term care facility). Where possible, it is recommended that local authorities proactively engage vulnerable individuals, applicable property managers or agencies, or community navigators to complete the **Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form** found on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) if applicable.

**Note:** Moving vulnerable populations before an evacuation order is issued (e.g., during the evacuation alert phase) should be done in consultation with your EMCR PREOC so that available support and eligible expenditures for reimbursement are understood by all parties.

## Medical Patients

Health authorities will manage the evacuation of medical patients during evacuation alerts, including patients being cared for at home and those assigned to care for them.

**It is important for First Nations to contact the First Nation Health Authority (FNHA), and for regional districts and municipalities to notify Health Emergency Management BC (HEMBC) of the Alert to confirm the authority is able to evacuate their patients quickly and to coordinate the evacuation process with all organizations that need to be involved.**

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## **EVACUATION OF VULNERABLE POPULATIONS**

- Work with individuals, caregivers, applicable property managers or agencies, and/or Community Navigators to identify vulnerable individuals that should be supported in leaving the area in advance of an area-wide evacuation order.
- Provide each evacuee with approved Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization Form.
- Coordinate transportation as needed - great care needs to be taken to establish the best transportation method possible, with consideration of the following:
  - Is transportation appropriate? (E.g., make sure buses are air conditioned, with accessible washrooms and medical staff on board, etc.)
  - Are detailed records of the method of transportation and destination of everyone being kept?
  - Are there sufficient support personnel (e.g., security, mental health professionals, care givers, etc.) traveling with vulnerable people?
- If individuals are evacuated to another community, refer to the Host Communities section of this guide for additional information.
- Arrange appropriate and safe accommodations for vulnerable populations as needed.

**Discuss these situations with EMCR prior to evacuating to confirm if the associated expenses are eligible for reimbursement.**

## **Relocating Livestock and Other Animals**

If livestock or animals besides domestic pets, such as horses or animals lawfully kept in zoos, will need to be relocated, it is strongly recommended that it happens during the evacuation alert stage.

### **Resources for Relocating Livestock**

If local authorities need assistance identifying producers and farm status holders in an area during an emergency, they may request support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF). MAF uses

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Premises Identification to help facilitate the rapid evacuation of an animal in an emergency. For more information on **Premises ID and Premises ID registration** please go to the [Premises ID webpage](#).

MAF representatives may be available in the Provincial Regional Emergency Operation Centre (PREOC) to help coordinate livestock relocation. EMCR may be able to reimburse response costs related to relocating livestock and supporting livestock producers.

For guidelines and tools on livestock relocation, see MAF's [Livestock Relocation webpage](#).

For more information on eligible livestock relocation costs, see EMCR's **Policy 2.01 Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency** on the [Emergency Management Policies webpage](#). **[Transitional note: future updates to this document will reflect the repeal and replacement of the Emergency Program Act with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.]**

## Evacuation Orders

When an evacuation order is issued, it means the impacted population must leave the specified area immediately or by the time the order states.

Considerations such as when to order an evacuation, evacuation routes, mapping, notifications, emergency support services, host communities, and managing access to evacuated areas are discussed in the sections below.

An **Evacuation Order template** and an **Issuing an Evacuation Order checklist** are available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

**Note:** An evacuation order is only valid if there is a SOLE in place. If a SOLE is nearing expiry and evacuation powers are still needed, the local authority must contact EMCR's PREOC to obtain ministerial approval for the extension. For more information on SOLE extensions, refer to the **Declaring a State of Local Emergency guide** available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Deciding When to Issue an Order

### Considerations

An evacuation order to evacuate all or part of a community should only be made if it is considered necessary to respond to the related emergency. Necessity must be assessed by the local authority. Generally, it should only be issued given the following:

- a recommendation from subject matter experts;

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- consultation and cooperation or coordination with adjacent local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies as required by the Act;
- consent from a Modern Treaty Nation if required; and
- careful consideration of all the factors involved, including but not limited to:
  - life and safety;
  - areas/facilities that are at risk;
  - population size and demographics;
  - where the impacted population can be evacuated to (e.g., ESS within the affected community or a host community);
  - evacuation route availability and capacity;
  - availability of transportation resources;
  - time required to mobilize evacuation resources and physically conduct evacuation;
  - time of year, day of week, time of day;
  - current and forecasted weather;
  - any exceptions to the order, such as persons, things, or classes of persons or things to whom the order does not apply to; and
  - an official who may authorize temporary entry and/or occupation into the evacuated area.

## **Timing**

Ordering residents to evacuate is one of the most difficult decisions a local authority is likely to make. Timing is important. Ordering an evacuation too far in advance can expose the evacuees to unnecessary hardship and/or create a risk of complacency for future evacuations. Waiting too long may force the community to evacuate under higher-risk conditions.

The time of day is also critical. Is there enough daylight available to support the safe and full evacuation of the population? A general formula for determining the time needed to conduct an evacuation is provided below.

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## **FORMULA FOR DETERMINING EVACUATION TIMELINE (after consultation, coordination, cooperation, or consent, as applicable)**

Time required to process the paperwork (drafting and sign-off) +

Time required to mobilize notification personnel +

Time required to notify impacted population +

Time required to physically conduct the evacuation +

120 minutes contingency

= **Trigger point for evacuation**

## **Evacuation Routes**

Most evacuee movement will take place on roadways and highways, in both personal vehicles and public and private transit vehicles, as coordinated by the local authority. However, consideration should also be given to alternative methods (air, rail, marine, etc.), especially in locations with single or limited exit routes.

Key considerations for evacuation routes include, but are not limited to:

- number and geographic distribution of evacuees;
- available transportation resources – public transport, school, private;
- capacities and vulnerabilities of transportation infrastructure and network;
- potential for congestion or bottlenecks;
- areas vulnerable to damage;
- available facilities or resources, e.g., fuel stations or supplies (internal/external of jurisdiction);
- vehicle breakdown contingencies (internal/external of jurisdiction);
- access control and security of the evacuated area;
- coordination of evacuation routes with the appropriate authority, including BC Parks, District Offices of the Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to ensure all recommended evacuation routes are open, and to confirm road conditions and current industrial use; and
- safe staging area assembly points for individuals to congregate while waiting for transportation to a Reception Centre.

Contact your EMCR PREOC for support with evacuation route planning, coordination, and the considerations above.

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## Mapping Evacuation Alerts and Orders

Clear and consistent mapping of evacuation boundaries is critical for showing what properties are on evacuation alert or under an evacuation order. Some recommendations for mapping standards include:

- map titles match that of the evacuation alert or order;
- include date, time, and legend;
- only show *current* alert and order boundaries, using only two colours (one for alerts, and one for orders) and [following best practices for accessibility](#);
- include minimal data in the map to make certain a wide range of people can quickly understand the content;
- if possible, identify evacuation routes;
- if possible, identify address points; and
- photocopy map in color for easy viewing.

Maps of an area under an evacuation alert or order should be included in the emergency instrument. Contact your EMCR PREOC if mapping support is needed.

## Notification of Evacuation

Notifying people of an evacuation order in a timely and effective manner is one of the most important steps a local authority must take during an emergency event. Timely notification is essential to make residents aware of the emergency and have all the information needed to evacuate safely.

There are several ways in which a local authority can notify their community of an evacuation order, including:

- local radio and television
- sirens
- public address systems
- telephone network or database
- door-to-door visits
- notice boards
- amateur radio
- website
- social media platforms, including Facebook and X (Twitter)
- automatic notification system
- BC Emergency Alerts sent to cellphones and/or television and radio

Send a copy of all evacuation notices to your EMCR PREOC, who can then share and amplify the information on EmergencyInfoBC's website ([www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://www.EmergencyInfoBC.ca)) and X (formerly Twitter).

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For further information and recommendations on communications during evacuations, refer to the **Communications Guide** under the Public and Media Communications section on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## BC Emergency Alerts

EMCR can send a BC Emergency Alert at the request of a local authority or a First Nation. BC Emergency Alerts push emergency alert messages directly to those in an impacted area through wireless devices and/or by interrupting regular TV and radio programs. BC Emergency Alerts supplement current tools used for alerting in a local authority's area. They are not meant to replace the existing alerting systems used by local authorities.

Alerts must meet these criteria before being issued:

1. There is a threat to human life.
2. The threat is immediate.
3. There are recommended actions that may save lives.

Because an immediate threat to human life is required before it can be issued, they can be used to notify individuals of an evacuation order, but not of an evacuation alert. It is recommended, however, that a local authority prepare their request during an evacuation alert stage so it can be submitted as immediately once needed.

Information and forms needed to submit an emergency alert request can be found in the **Emergency Alerts** section on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Door-to-Door

Door-to-door notification is still one of the best practices for notifying residents of an evacuation order. Generally, upon notification of the evacuation order and through request, the following agencies will coordinate the door-to-door notification process for the impacted area(s) on behalf of the local authority:

- local police of jurisdiction;
- firefighters;
- local authority staff; and
- Ground Search and Rescue (GSAR).

The steps for facilitating door-to-door notifications include:

- request local police of jurisdiction or another agency as applicable to assist in the door-to-door notification, and provide:
  - evacuation notification kit\* containing:
    - evacuation clipboard with evacuation recording procedures and logs;
    - a system to easily identify the evacuation status of each property, such as using colour-coded flagging tape rolls or electronic applications; and

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- waterproof pens.
- copies of the evacuation order with a map of the geographic boundaries of the affected area; and
- ensure each notification team has a method of communication (i.e., phone or radio).

If the capacity to provide door-to-door notifications is beyond what your community can provide, a resource request can be submitted to your EMCR PREOC.

\*Contact your EMCR PREOC for a template evacuation notification kit and a sample colour-coded flagging tape guide.

### **Protecting First Responders**

It is important to consider the protection of first responders delivering evacuation notifications from the hazard (e.g., fire/smoke), and from critical incident stress and/or post-traumatic stress disorder. At no time should those involved in delivering notifications work alone or be placed in a position of risk.

Those delivering evacuation notifications should not be expected to resolve conflict, but to simply report the situation to the local authority EOC/EPC for resolution and to continue with the evacuation notification.

## **Emergency Support Services**

It is a local authority's responsibility to have a program that coordinates the provision of essential services to their evacuees, such as Emergency Support Services (ESS). ESS is a community-based emergency response program that helps to preserve the well-being of people affected by emergencies.

Under the direction of the local authority, ESS teams will provide services to evacuees through facilities usually referred to as Reception Centres (RC). The location and hours of operation for Reception Centres should be available on information sites throughout the service area.

EMCR has established a Roving ESS Team (RESST) to support local authorities with ESS. RESST can help ESS teams with a range of actions, from setting up RCs, to acting as the ESS director if needed. Local authorities should discuss ESS supports if needed with EMCR.

For information on operating ESS, refer to the **ESS Program Guide** found in the Guidance and Resources section of EMCR's [Emergency Support Services Responder Resources webpage](#).

**[Transitional note: future updates to this document will reflect the repeal and replacement of the *Emergency Program Act* with the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.]**

Provincial reimbursement for eligible costs to support evacuees is governed by **EMCR Policy 5.03**,

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**Evacuee Living Assistance Policy and Procedures**, and can be found on EMCR's [Emergency Management Policies webpage](#). [Transitional note: future updates to these documents will reflect the repeal and replacement of the *Emergency Program Act* with the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*.]

To receive assistance, eligible individuals can make a profile at supportess.gov.bc.ca. After creating a profile they will receive instructions on how to receive supports.

**Note:** It is recommended that local authorities keep records of all evacuees, including where they evacuated to, and what supports they are receiving for the duration of the evacuation.

## Domestic Animal Care and Relocation

Evacuation and care of domestic animals, i.e. household pets, is an important issue for emergency managers and the public. Providing options for domestic animal care during emergencies is one way to prevent homeowners from remaining in evacuated areas because they refuse to leave pets behind.

The preparation and planning for pets in reception centres (or pet-specific facilities if required) should be done in consultation with local and regional animal service community groups.

Qualified service animals are specially trained domestic animals and are not considered household pets. Individuals who are accompanied by qualified service animals must be allowed access to any location where the general public is allowed, and consideration should be made as to how to house individuals and families with qualified animals.

There are several considerations for providing domestic animal services, including:

- Communication to owners that, while a local authority may temporarily arrange for the care and protection of animals, the ultimate responsibility to find alternative lodging for domestic animals remains with the animal owner;
- Emergency management organizations and animal care agencies should work together to coordinate the expertise and resources of both emergency managers and animal care providers;
- Domestic animals need to be housed in a facility separate from Group Lodging facilities due to potential allergies from exposure;
- Protocols for rescue workers who encounter domestic animals, especially those that are less common (e.g., a snake) are also helpful;
- Local authorities should become familiar with public health considerations and liability.
- Food and medical care for domestic animals;
- Clear guidelines should be communicated to owners (e.g., how much food to bring, if kennel cases are required, etc.); and

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- Care of individuals always takes priority over the care of domestic animals.

In most cases, ESS coordinates a pet services function with assistance from local animal shelters and non-profit organizations. Contact your EMCR PREOC if you need assistance with coordinating animal relocation.

## Host Communities

When it is not possible to keep evacuees in the impacted community, it is common to ask neighbouring communities to provide accommodation and care to the evacuees as needed. Unless required by the minister, there is no obligation for another community to act as a host community, but fostering proactive, strong relationships with other communities will encourage mutual assistance in times of need.

Arranging emergency host communities is an important component of the emergency management planning process. Local authorities should reach out to potential host communities in advance of an evacuation to pre-establish relationships and communication channels. Where possible, these relationships can be formally established in emergency management plans. Local authorities should involve EMCR in discussions on being and using host communities wherever possible.

If possible, evacuees should be hosted in a community that is similar to the one they are evacuating from. For example, if evacuating a First Nations community, consider sending evacuees to another First Nations community where they have relationships. However, local authorities should not send evacuees to another community without first confirming the host community is able, willing, and ready to receive and support your evacuees.

Costs incurred for accommodating evacuees by host communities may be reimbursed by EMCR. Refer to the **Host Community Response Costs guide** on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) located under Financial Guidance for response and recovery costs. **[Transitional note: future updates to this document will reflect the repeal and replacement of the Emergency Program Act with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.]** Contact EMCR to further discuss eligible response costs available to host communities.

**Note:** Do not send evacuees to another community without first confirming the host community is able, willing, and ready to receive and support your evacuees. Include EMCR in these discussions, wherever possible.

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## **Supporting a Host Community**

There are a few ways in which an evacuating local authority can support a host community:

- Confirm with the host community that they can receive evacuees, and provide details on how many evacuees are being sent and any special considerations the host community should be aware of (e.g., number of vulnerable people).
- Provide an approved Extraordinary Evacuee Authorization form to any evacuee under an evacuation alert to ensure the host community's ESS team has appropriate validation to support the evacuees.
- When possible, evacuate vulnerable people with a support person able to assist with their safety (e.g., health care worker or caregiver), reducing the burden on the host community.
- Provide a regular information-briefing schedule for the host community and evacuees.
- Maintain consistent, planned contact between the evacuating community's officials and the host community's officials.
- Evacuate local community staff with their residents so they can provide support to the host community in matters concerning their residents.
- Where possible, designate a Community Navigator to act as a liaison for the evacuees and point of contact for the host community emergency support structures.
- If possible, designate a location for the purpose of providing First Nation specific cultural and spiritual supports.
- Further support for the host community's ESS team can be provided via a request to your EMCR PREOC.

## **Community Navigators and Cultural Activity Location Supports**

During emergencies and disasters, entire neighborhoods or communities may be evacuated to a host community. Evacuees may be unfamiliar with the host community and host communities may be unfamiliar with the needs of evacuees due to a lack of knowledge related to the evacuees' culture, protocols, and specialized services. To support evacuees, the host and/or evacuating community may utilize a Community Navigator. A Community Navigator is an individual identified by the evacuated or host community, or may be sourced from a support agency, to act as a liaison between the Emergency Operations Centre, ESS Reception Centre, support agencies, and evacuees.

It is a recommended practice that local authorities consider whether use of Community Navigators and First Nations Community Navigators could provide additional supports to evacuees to identify and support meeting of unmet needs. This position can be requested in a resource request (RR) or expenditure authorization form (EAF).

Cultural Activity Location Support (CALS) is a designated location for the purpose of cultural care services. CALS has been provided in past events at RCs and community centres. Services offered may

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be delivered in collaboration with the First Nations Health Authority, a community health society, or other support agency. CALS can be funded as a response cost through a RR or EAF.

While CALS policy was originally developed to meet the needs of First Nation communities, it is recognized that evacuations can be traumatizing for all evacuees. Please contact your EMCR PREOC if there is a specific situation in which CALS may benefit non-Indigenous evacuees, communities, cultural, or language groups.

For more information on Community Navigators and CALS, see **EMCR's Policy 2.14 Community Navigator and First Nations Community Navigator for Emergency Support Service** and **Policy 2.15 Cultural Activity Location Support** located on EMCR's [Emergency Management Policies webpage](#). **[Transitional note: future updates to these documents will reflect the repeal and replacement of the Emergency Program Act with the Emergency and Disaster Management Act.]**

## Managing Access to Evacuated Areas

The local authority that has jurisdiction for the area under the evacuation order is the primary authority for managing checkpoints and temporary access into evacuated areas.

Where possible, access into evacuated areas should be channeled through strategically pre-identified checkpoints that are staffed by the local authority, its designate, or an experienced contractor operating on their behalf. Resources related to checkpoint personnel may be reimbursable. Contact EMCR for a resource request or an Expenditure Authorization Form. Both forms can be found on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) in the Financial guidance for response and recovery costs section.

In some cases, allowing safe access into evacuated areas may assist in reducing the consequences of an emergency event. While the local authority has the jurisdiction to authorize temporary access into an evacuated area, they should connect with the response agencies involved to help determine any considerations that may affect the decision to approve or deny access.

It is recommended that any authorizations that the local authority may need to allow for temporary access be included directly in the evacuation order. The **Evacuation Order Template**, located on the [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#), includes sample authorization provisions. A local authority should obtain independent legal advice on how to include authorizations if needed. If the evacuation order needs to be amended to include these authorizations, see the Amending an Evacuation Order process above.

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For more information on checkpoints and managing temporary access into evacuated areas, refer to the **Managing Temporary Access to Areas Under Evacuation Order** guide on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) under Evacuation Resources.

## Amending an Evacuation Order

The circumstances during a response phase are subject to change, and there is often a need to amend an evacuation order after it has been issued.

The whole or any part of a previously issued evacuation order can be amended, including expanding or reducing evacuated areas to reflect the current hazard risk, by rescinding and replacing the original order with a new one that supersedes the original. Amended evacuation orders should state that the original evacuation order is superseded by the amendment and should reference the original order number. This will allow for easier tracking of issued orders, which must be reported on once the emergency has passed. More information on post-event reporting can be found in the **Post-Event Reporting by Local Authorities** guide on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

An **Amended Evacuation Order template** and an **Amending an Evacuation Order checklist** are available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Rescinding an Evacuation Order

When the threat to life and safety has passed, the subject matter experts will make a recommendation to the local authority to rescind the evacuation order. In some cases, they may additionally recommend keeping the formerly evacuated area on an evacuation alert.

Some limitations and considerations that may influence the local authority's decision to rescind an evacuation order include but are not limited to:

- Have community support agencies had the opportunity to prepare the area for the public's return?
- Is it safe for the entire evacuation order to be rescinded, or should it be amended to reduce the area? If only a portion of the evacuation order area should be rescinded, amend the evacuation order instead using the Amending an Evacuation Order process above.
- Has physical access been cleared in advance of general re-entry?
- Have the appropriate local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies been consulted, and/or given consent to rescind the evacuation order in accordance with the Act?

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Considerations such as early re-entry for community support agencies are discussed following this detailed list.

An **Evacuation Order Rescind template** and a **Rescinding an Evacuation Alert checklist** are available on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#).

## Early Re-Entry for Community Support Agencies

To prepare for a safe and orderly return of individuals and animals to the evacuated area, certain individuals or agencies might need to re-enter the evacuated area before the evacuation order is rescinded. The evacuation order remains in effect during this period to allow those agencies to work as safely and efficiently as possible to restore services.

Early access may need to be granted for the following agencies or reasons:

- The respective health authority will need to validate that critical public services are available, such as drinking water, sanitary sewer, air quality, and food safety.
  - \* Failing to allow the health authority access into the evacuated area to validate these requirements may result in a new order being issued by the health authority under Part 5 of the *Public Health Act*.
- The respective health authority will also need hospital maintenance, inspection, and clinical staff to prepare the emergency department to ensure services are open and available.
- Critical infrastructure owners will need to ensure their equipment is operating.
- Utility Agencies will need to reinstate services if interrupted.
- Rapid damage assessments of properties will need to take place.
- Contaminated sites will need to be assessed and, if required, cleaned up.
- School Districts will need to determine if schools can open within a reasonable period.
- A Resilience Centre may need to be established for evacuees to obtain information and resources once the order is lifted.

For further information on facilitating early re-entry, refer to the **Managing Access to Areas Under Evacuation Order guide** on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#) under Evacuation Resources.

For more information on re-entry considerations, please refer to the **Re-entry Guide and Template section** on the [Disaster Recovery for Communities webpage](#). **[Transitional note: future updates to the Community Re-entry Considerations Guide and Checklist will reflect consultation and cooperation requirements under the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*; however, all other content remains relevant.]**

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**Note:** There are consultation requirements related to permitting evacuated persons to return to an evacuated area. For details, please refer to the Consultation, Coordination, Cooperation, and Consent section in this guide.

## Cancelling a State of Local Emergency

Once the subject matter experts indicate that the threat to health, safety, and the welfare of persons has subsided such that an evacuation order is no longer necessary, the local authority should consider if cancelling the SOLE, or letting it expire, is appropriate. If a local authority believes that the emergency is no longer present, it must cancel the SOLE. If non-evacuation response powers are still required, the local authority should consider whether a state of local recovery period should be declared.

For further information on cancelling a SOLE, refer to the **Declaring a State of Local Emergency guide** on EMCR's [Local Emergency Response Operations webpage](#). For more information on recovery periods, refer to the **Declaring Local Recovery Periods guide** on EMCR's [Disaster Recovery for Communities webpage](#). Both guides are available.

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## Appendix A: EMCR Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre Contact Information

The following contact information for EMCR's Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC) is for use by local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies. Members of the public can contact the ECC to report an emergency or their [EMCR regional office](#) should they need to.

<b>For 24/7 support and access to a Regional Duty Manager, contact the Emergency Coordination Centre: 1-800-663-3456</b>		
Vancouver Island Coastal	<a href="mailto:preoc1.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc1.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	250-952-5848
Southwest	<a href="mailto:preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc2.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	604-586-4390
Southeast	<a href="mailto:preoc4.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc4.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	250-354-5904
Central	<a href="mailto:preoc3.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc3.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	250-371-5240
Northeast	<a href="mailto:preoc5.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc5.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	250-612-4172
Northwest	<a href="mailto:preoc6.ops1@gov.bc.ca">preoc6.ops1@gov.bc.ca</a>	250-615-4800

**Note:** All imminent issues should be directed to the Emergency Coordination Centre first. Email should only be used once a connection with the Regional Duty Manager has been made and they are aware information is coming electronically.



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## Appendix B: Glossary of Acronyms

BCEMS	British Columbia Emergency Management System
BCR	Band Council Resolution
EAF	Expenditure Authorization Form
ECC	(EMCR) Emergency Coordination Centre
EDMA	Emergency and Disaster Management Act
EMCR	Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
EPC	Emergency Program Coordinator
ESS	Emergency Support Services
FNHA	First Nations Health Authority
GL	(ESS) Group Lodging
HEMBC	Health Emergency Management British Columbia
IC	Incident Commander
ICS	Incident Command System
IR	Indian Reserve
ISC	Indigenous Services Canada
PECC	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre
RESST	Roving Emergency Support Services (ESS) Team
RC	(ESS) Reception Centre
RR	Resource Request

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RDM	(EMCR) Regional Duty Manager
SOLE	State of Local Emergency
TIK	Traditional Indigenous Knowledge

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# Appendix C: Strategic Evacuation Checklist

## Site Support Level – Emergency Operations Centre

- Activate the Emergency Operation Centre and obtain a Task Number from EMCR.
- Begin to document the evacuation process, including the decisions.
- Ensure all entities involved are consulted before evacuation if time allows.
- Confirm resources needed to conduct evacuation operations and advise potential mutual aid agencies, if time allows.
- Appoint an Information Officer, with support and back-up.
- Establish a structure to announce public information to the community.
- Establish and announce a telephone number for persons to call for information on the incident.
- Work with the Incident Commander at the site level to determine the evacuation area.
- Create a map of the evacuation area with clear perimeters.
- Draft evacuation documentation (including the evacuation order) and receive sign-off from applicable authority.
- Assemble and brief a standby force of personnel to assist with evacuation and EOC operations if the need arises.
- Request police assistance in providing evacuation notifications. If the decision is made to go door-to-door, provide all teams with the appropriate evacuation documentation and emergency notification kits.
- Announce and publish evacuation decisions through traditional media outlets and social media, as applicable and as soon as reasonably practicable.
- Forward a copy of the evacuation documentation to EMCR and local elected officials.
- Establish a process for allowing temporary access into the evacuated area.
- Keep all field units updated regarding changes.
- Provide additional resources to the site as required (e.g., transportation resources).
- Track all costs related to the incident.
- Track numbers of evacuees and any reported injuries.
- Provide advice and information on any special precautions that should be taken during and after the event.
- Provide Situation Reports and updates to PREOC or the RDM.

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## Appendix D: Legal Authorities

<p><u><a href="#">Emergency and Disaster Management Act, Section 95(1), 107(1)</a></u></p>	<p>95 (1) A declaration of a state of local emergency relating to all or part of the area within a local authority's jurisdiction may be made, by emergency instrument, by the following:</p> <p>(a) the local authority, if the local authority is satisfied that an emergency is present;</p> <p>(b) the head of the local authority, if the head</p> <p>(i) is satisfied that an emergency is present, and</p> <p>(ii) has used reasonable efforts to obtain the consent, to the declaration, of the other governing members of the local authority.</p> <p>107 (1) For the purposes of this Division, a local authority may, by emergency instrument, do all the things that the minister may do as described under the following provisions:</p> <p>(a) section 75 [<i>essential matters</i>], other than section 75 (1) (b) (iv);</p> <p>(b) section 76 (1) [<i>land and other property</i>];</p> <p>(c) section 77 (1) or (2) [<i>evacuations and removals</i>];</p> <p>(d) section 78 [<i>general restrictions</i>].</p>
<p><u><a href="#">Fire Safety Act, Section 13</a></u></p>	<p>13 (1) If a fire chief, or a person authorized by a fire chief, believes that there is an immediate threat to life due to a fire hazard or explosion, the fire chief or person authorized by the fire chief may evacuate a geographic area or premises.</p> <p>(2) For the purposes of an evacuation under this section, the fire chief or person authorized by the fire chief may call on the assistance of a police officer.</p> <p>(3) Persons evacuated under this section must not return to the geographic area or premises until notified by the fire chief or person authorized by the fire chief that it is safe to do so.</p>

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[Public Health Act, Section 28  
\(1\), 29 \(2\) \(a\), 31 \(1\), 31 \(2\)  
\(b\) \(ii\)](#)

28 (1) If the circumstances described in section 27 [when orders respecting infectious agents and hazardous agents may be made] apply, a medical health officer may order a person to do anything that the medical health officer reasonably believes is necessary for either or both of the following purposes:

- (a) to determine whether an infectious agent or a hazardous agent exists, or likely exists;
- (b) to prevent the transmission of an infectious agent or a hazardous agent.

29 (2a) A medical health officer may order a person to remain in a specified place, or not enter a place.

31 (1) If the circumstances described in section 30 [when orders respecting health hazards and contraventions may be made] apply, a health officer may order a person to do anything that the health officer reasonably believes is necessary for any of the following purposes:

- (a) to determine whether a health hazard exists;
- (b) to prevent or stop a health hazard, or mitigate the harm or prevent further harm from a health hazard;
- (c) to bring the person into compliance with the Act or a regulation made under it;
- (d) to bring the person into compliance with a term or condition of a license or permit held by that person under this Act.

31 (2) (b) (ii) A health officer may issue an order under subsection a person who has custody or control of a thing, or control of a condition, that is not in compliance with the Act, or a regulation made under it, or a term or condition of the person's license or permit.

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<p><u><a href="#">Environmental Management Act, Section 91.4 (1), 91.2 (2)(c)</a></u></p>	<p>91.4 (1) The government may carry out actions described in section 91.2 (2) [<i>responsible persons — spill response</i>] if an officer considers that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) a spill has occurred or there is an imminent risk of a spill occurring,</li> <li>(b) action is necessary to address a spill or the risk of a spill or to resolve or mitigate the long-term effects of a spill, and</li> <li>(c) one or more of the following apply:</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) there is no responsible person in relation to the spill;</li> <li>(ii) an officer has reasonable grounds to believe that government action is required to safeguard the environment, human health or infrastructure;</li> <li>(iii) the responsible person in relation to the spill requests that the government assist with spill response and recovery actions.</li> </ul> <p>91.2 (2) (c) identify and evaluate the immediate risks to and impacts on the environment, human health, or infrastructure and, as necessary,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) advise persons to take protective action in relation to the spill,</li> <li>(ii) protect infrastructure, and</li> <li>(iii) protect, recover, and restore the environment;</li> </ul>
<p><u><a href="#">Energy Resource Activities Act, Section 51</a></u></p>	<p>51 (1) An official, by order, may restrict or prohibit, in a manner prescribed by regulation, access to a public area, including a highway, road, resource road, or railway, if the official thinks that the restriction or prohibition is necessary because of hazardous conditions resulting from an energy resource activity.</p> <p>(2) If an official issues an order under subsection (1), the regulator must confirm the order in writing within 24 hours or the order ceases to be effective.</p>
<p><u><a href="#">Wildfire Act, Sections 11, 13 and 14</a></u></p>	<p>11 (1) If the minister considers it necessary or desirable to limit the risk of a fire, to address a public safety concern, or to avoid interference with fire control, the minister by order may designate a specified area as a restricted area for a specified period.</p> <p>13 (1) If the government is engaged in fire control, an official by order may require all persons in an area specified by the official to leave the area.</p>

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	<p>(2) Each of the persons that is the subject of an order under subsection (1) must comply with the order.</p> <p>(3) An order under subsection (1) may be different for different categories of persons.</p> <p>14 (1) Despite section 63, notice must be given by this section of an order made under any of sections 10 to 13.</p> <p>(2) The notice required under subsection (1) is sufficiently given to all persons in or near the applicable specified area under sections 10 to 13 if the notice includes a copy of the order or contains particulars or a summary of the order and is posted in or near the specified area, published in or near the area in a manner that the official giving the notice considers will come to the attention of persons in or near the specified area, or broadcast in a manner that the official giving the notice considers will come to the attention of persons in or near the specified area.</p> <p>(3) Without limiting subsection (2), a notice under any of sections 10 to 13 is sufficiently given to any person if the notice includes a copy of the order or contains particulars or a summary of the order and is delivered to the person.</p>
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