

Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) in British Columbia

Emergency Management is a shared responsibility between First Nations, the federal government, the provincial government, and individual community members. In partnership, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) supports communities on reserve under the authority of the Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP).

ISC provides funding to First Nations through EMAP to build resiliency, prepare for emergencies (e.g., wildfires, flooding, severe weather events) and respond to them across the four pillars of emergency management:

1	MITIGATION	2	PREPAREDNESS
3	RESPONSE	4	RECOVERY

When an emergency exceeds the capacity of a First Nation, Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) is the first point of contact. Through EMBC, ISC reimburses eligible response and recovery costs. In addition, EMAP supports First Nation partners in their efforts to increase community-based capacity and disaster resilience through mitigation and preparedness activities.

In 2018, ISC introduced the Building Back Better Strategy Guide, under EMAP, which provides additional supports during response and recovery.

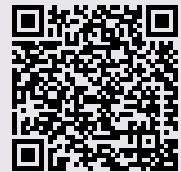
This document provides information on EMAP and Building Back Better, including information on how ISC works with First Nations and provincial response agencies.

To contact ISC BC Region on EMAP, please email aadnc.bcemu.aandc@canada.ca.

Save the EMBC phone numbers on your phone to ensure they are readily available during an emergency

**EMBC 24/7
Emergency Line
1-800-663-3456**

QR code for contact information of all EMBC offices



Indigenous Services
Canada

Services aux
Autochtones Canada

Canada

Emergency Management Assistance Program

1 NON-STRUCTURAL MITIGATION

Mitigation relates to steps taken proactively to prevent or minimize a hazardous event from occurring by eliminating the hazard, or reducing the potential impact. The goal of these efforts is to protect lives, infrastructure, and the environment, and to reduce economic and social disruption. Non-structural mitigation does not involve capital but rather may include studies to identify or quantify risks or hazards.

Project funding through EMAP is available for First Nation-led emergency management non-structural mitigation initiatives, such as:

- tsunami preparedness
- all hazard risk assessments (HRVA)
- non-structural mitigation works such as flood mapping or feasibility studies

In BC, the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) receives funding through ISC for forest fuel mitigation initiatives on reserve.

With the introduction of Building Back Better in 2018 (see last page), ISC has additional authority to support mitigation works during the recovery process. For example, where a road and culvert has been breached due to flooding, it may be possible to support replacement of a larger culvert if it can be shown that such an enhancement would increase resilience to future threats.

2 PREPAREDNESS

Preparedness generally includes actions taken to ensure that individuals, communities, and organizations are ready to undertake emergency response and recovery. It may include planning, resource planning, volunteer management, training, exercises, public/stakeholder education, and continuous improvement.

Project funding through EMAP is available for First Nation-led emergency management preparedness initiatives, such as:

- emergency planning (not including capital purchases)
- emergency management plan development and plan exercising
- emergency management training opportunities

Further, EMBC offers a suite of EM training and courses, in addition to technical expertise and guidance, which are free to First Nations under the service agreement (see below). Courses are delivered through the Justice Institute of British Columbia at designated locations across the province, including in First Nations communities. Your EMBC regional representatives can provide more information, and a list of course offerings can be found at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc/emergency-management-training-and-exercises/em-training-program.

▶▶▶▶▶ **To access Non-Structural Mitigation and Preparedness streams through EMAP,** ISC holds an annual call out for proposals for annual or multi-year EM projects. Details on this call out and EMAP, including dates, can be found on ISC's website at www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1534954090122. You can also contact the ISC BC Region office at aadnc.bcemu.aandc@canada.ca.

The BC Context

In Canada, Provinces and Territories are responsible for operating overall emergency management programs in their jurisdictions. ISC works collaboratively with Provincial and Territorial governments for the provision of emergency management services for First Nations on reserve.

To facilitate First Nations' access to comparable emergency services, ISC coordinates emergency management service agreements among First Nations, provinces/territories and sometimes non-governmental organizations. These service agreements vary between provinces and territories in their scope, partners, roles and responsibilities, as reflected in the negotiated outcomes for each arrangement. Ultimately, the arrangements ensure that First Nations have access to and are integrated into the provincial/territorial emergency response system.

and the 4 Pillars of Emergency Management

3 RESPONSE

Response is the “reaction” phase to an imminent or occurring emergency/disaster, which involves actions taken to manage the consequences including limiting loss of life, minimize suffering, and reducing personal injury and property damage. It also includes the initiation of plans and actions to support recovery.

ISC does not have on the ground response capabilities but rather funds the province, through the EMAP authority, to respond to emergencies on reserve as they would in any off-reserve community in BC.

If your community is experiencing an emergency, please contact Emergency Management British Columbia’s (EMBC) 24/7 emergency line at 1-800-663-3456 to report the incident and request support for your response activities. EMBC will issue you a Task Number, which is associated with your emergency event and is used to track related expenses.

It is also a good idea to get acquainted with your local EMBC Regional office prior to any emergency event for technical advice, situational awareness, and maintenance of communication.

EMBC South West
604-586-4390

EMBC North West
250-615-4800

EMBC South East
250-354-5904

EMBC North East
250-612-4172

EMBC Central
250-371-5240

EMBC Vancouver Island
250-952-5848

With the introduction of Building Back Better in 2018, ISC can also offer funding for additional supports when people have been forced to evacuate from their primary residence on-reserve due to a recognized emergency event (see last page).

4 RECOVERY

Recovery is the period following an emergency event where steps are taken to repair communities. In some cases it is possible to make incremental improvements during those repairs if they will increase resilience (see last page). Recovery may consist of several stages (short, medium, and long-term) depending on the level of affectedness.

ISC supports First Nations on-reserve in recovery through EMAP in two ways. The primary platform for recovery of essential community infrastructure in British Columbia is the provincial Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program. ISC works with EMBC to ensure that 100% of eligible recovery costs are supported.

In situations where emergency events are not eligible for recovery through the province, ISC will work directly with First Nations to determine additional eligibility through EMAP.

Eligible emergencies include imminent or occurring events such as the following:

- wildfire
- tornado
- freshet flood
- earthquake
- storm
- tsunami

More information on DFA can be found at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/disaster-financial-assistance or by email at dfa@gov.bc.ca.

In BC, the service agreement is with Emergency Management British Columbia and First Nations have full access to EMBC’s Suite of Services which can be found at engage.gov.bc.ca/app/uploads/sites/121/2017/03/Suite-of-Services-Document-Feb-2017-Web-Copy.pdf.

In BC, ISC also has a service agreement with BC Wildfire Service to provide wildfire suppression support on reserve. Additionally, ISC, the First Nations Leadership Council and the Province of British Columbia signed a **Tripartite Memorandum of Understanding on Emergency Management Services** (news.gov.bc.ca/files/EM_MOU_Ecopy.pdf) on April 27, 2019. The intent of this document is to ensure that First Nations are included as full partners in both the governance and operations of emergency management on-reserve.



Building Back Better Strategy Guide

Building Back Better is intended to guide implementation of the EMAP to better support risk reduction and community recovery. With the implementation of this policy document, ISC and First Nations will have enhanced tools to support response to, and recovery from, emergency events. Building Back Better aligns with the EMAP Terms and Conditions.

Building Back Better is a concept of recovery that centres on supporting the restoration of communities and assets in a manner that achieves two things:

- reducing the vulnerability of First Nation communities to disasters; and
- strengthening First Nations' resilience.

First Nations, tribal councils, provincial/territorial governments and other emergency management partners will be supported to adopt and implement activities that support the EMAP Building Back Better goals.

Building Back Better Response

Building Back Better Response supports activities that address immediate impacts of an emergency event including, but not limited to social, cultural, and mental health aids available to a community in their response to an emergency event. This may include:

- **Emergency Social Supports** – Short term social supports to ensure the health, safety and cultural well-being of evacuees (e.g. mental health and wellness, child-friendly spaces, incidentals, animals/livestock);
- **Temporary Displacement Assistance** – Supports for individuals who remain evacuated for more than 60 days (e.g. accommodation, health and mental wellness, exceptional circumstances travel);
- **Search and Recovery** – Supports efforts to recover an individual (or individuals) when the first response effort is not successful and the well-being of the community remains at risk due to the increased levels of stress.

▶ **For health related emergency services,** please call the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and speak with the Environmental Health Officer (EHO) assigned to your community. www.fnha.ca

Building Back Better Recovery

Building Back Better Recovery consists of measures taken post-emergency to repair and restore community conditions to appropriate levels. This rebuilding phase may include a mitigation component to reduce the vulnerability of an impacted First Nation, such as:

- **Recovery Assistance** – Eligible for recovery costs under \$10 million;
- **Mitigation Measures** – Structural or non-structural activities that are designed to eliminate or reduce the impact of future emergency events on primary residences in order to protect lives, property, the environment and to reduce economic disruption;
- **Personal Losses** – An individual's basic and essential property from their primary residence that sustained damage due to an EMAP eligible emergency event (flooding, wildland fire, severe storms, earthquakes, etc.). EMAP is not a substitute for private insurance.

Building Back Better supports are offered where there is no equivalent support from other governmental or non-governmental programming. For Building Back Better supports, ISC works directly with First Nations or in collaboration with DFA for structural mitigation in recovery.

For full information please see ISC's Building Back Better web page (www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1534954506773/1535121720820) or contact ISC BC Region.

▶ **Emergencies or disasters know no boundaries,** so it is important to build relationships with emergency management neighbours in advance to make the best use of resources and to improve public safety for your communities.

If you have any questions, please contact the ISC Duty Officer at bcaandc.do@canada.ca or 604-209-9709.

In addition to preparing for emergencies at a community level, it is also **important to prepare for your family.** Learn more at www.getprepared.gc.ca.