

Regulations

Three new regulatory areas are proposed:

1. General
2. Compliance and Enforcement
3. Critical Infrastructure

Timing and Phasing

2021-2023: Engagement & Feedback Opportunities

October 3, 2023: Legislation tabled

2023/2024: Target for *Regulations*.

Shifts in New Legislation

- Inclusion of Indigenous peoples.
- Well rounded four phase framework.
- Clear hazard-focused risk assessment and planning requirements.
- Embedded “all of society approach”.
- Increased opportunities for collaboration.
- Enhanced response and recovery powers.

New Powers and Tools

Multi-jurisdictional Emergency Management Organizations

- Local authorities will now be able to choose to establish a joint of multijurisdictional emergency management organization. These can include local authorities, First Nations, and the province.
- Minster also reserves the power to force a local authority to join a MEMO.

State of Local Emergency (SOLE)

- SOLE declaration will last 14 days and can be extended for period of 14 days each with approval of the Minister.

Recovery Powers

- Local authorities will now be able to declare a Recovery Period and use recovery powers, if required, following a SOLE.
- Recovery Periods will last 90 days



New Responsibilities

Emergency Management Planning

- Prepare/maintain a Risk Assessment with respect to the hazards within a local authority's jurisdiction, which consider climate change, equity denied populations, and available Indigenous knowledge.
- Local authorities, provincial Ministries and critical infrastructure providers will be required to have business continuity plans.
- Emergency Management plans will be required to include actions for all four phases of emergency management, all available Indigenous knowledge, and action to address risks to equity denied populations.

Consultation and Collaboration

- Local governments will need to engage with other relevant parties when preparing emergency management plans.
- When developing risk assessments and emergency management plans, local authorities must also make reasonable efforts to consult and co-operate with Indigenous governing bodies and coordinate emergency management plans.
- Local governments will be responsible for consulting and cooperating with Indigenous Governing Bodies in all phases of emergency management.

Previous Emergency Plan Requirements

- (a) require a periodic review and updating of the local emergency plan and establish a procedure for that review and revision,
- (b) establish and maintain for all emergency response staff to whom responsibilities are assigned in the plan,
 - (i) a program of emergency response exercises, and (ii) a training program,
- (c) identify the procedures by which emergency resources, including, without limitation, personnel, equipment, facilities and financial resources, may be obtained from sources within or outside of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility,
- (d) establish the procedures by which the plan is to be implemented,
- (e) establish procedures by which those persons who may be harmed or who may suffer loss are notified of an emergency or impending disaster,
- (f) coordinate the provision of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services to victims of emergencies and disasters, whether that provision is made from within or outside of the local authority,
- (g) establish the priorities for restoring essential services provided by the local authority that are interrupted during an emergency or disaster, and
- (h) recommend to service providers the priorities for restoring essential services not provided by the local authority that are interrupted during an emergency or disaster.

New Emergency Plan Requirements

- (a) **measures that are necessary or advisable for the purposes of each phase;**
 - (b) the roles, powers and duties of persons identified in the plan by name, title or position;
 - (c) requirements for emergency resources;
 - (d) procedures for engaging emergency systems;
 - (e) the emergency management training and exercise programs that will be conducted;
 - (f) **measures to mitigate** any adverse effects of an emergency on
 - (i) individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage, and
 - (ii) **vulnerable individuals, animals, places or things;**
 - (g) measures to promote cultural safety;
 - (h) any prescribed matters by the Minister.
- (3) In addition to the requirements of subsection (2), the emergency management plan of a local authority must
- (a) include a plan for the **evacuation and care of individuals and animals** in the area within the jurisdiction of the local authority,
 - (b) include a description of each area, if any, that is described for the purposes of section 120 [*consultation, engagement and cooperation with Indigenous peoples*] in one or more of the following:

Next Steps

- Attend webinars hosted by Emergency Management Climate Readiness on the Regulations that will be part of the Emergency & Disaster Management Act.
- Prepare detailed reports to Regional Board regarding additional staffing requirements, budgetary changes, and if additional provincial funding that may be available.
- Continue to engage with stakeholders, member municipalities and First Nations.

Next Steps

- Provide response to *BC's Modernized Emergency Management Legislation: Regulations for Local Authorities* provincial discussion paper prior to December 31, 2023 submission deadline.
- Alternatively, the Regional Board could request a deadline extension from the Ministry of Emergency Management Climate Readiness.