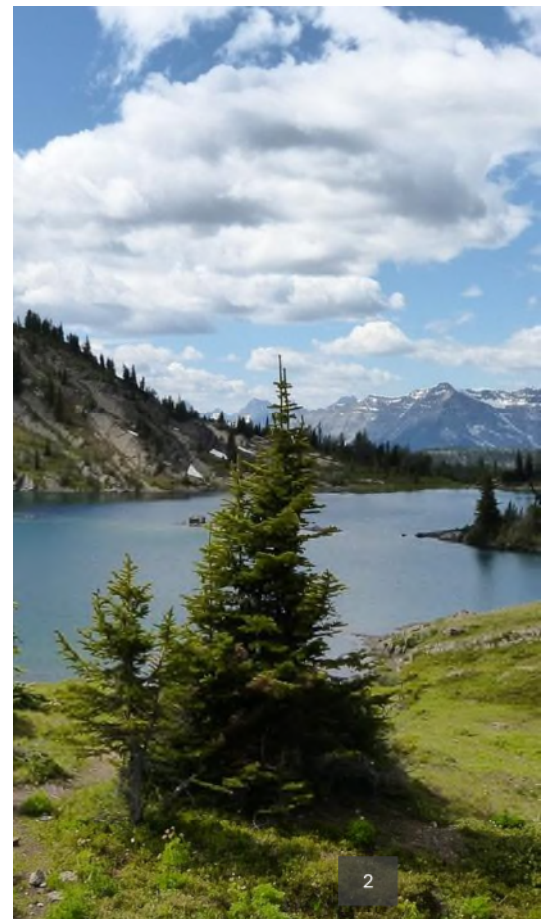


BC's *Emergency and Disaster Management Act*

Peace River Regional District
February 20, 2025

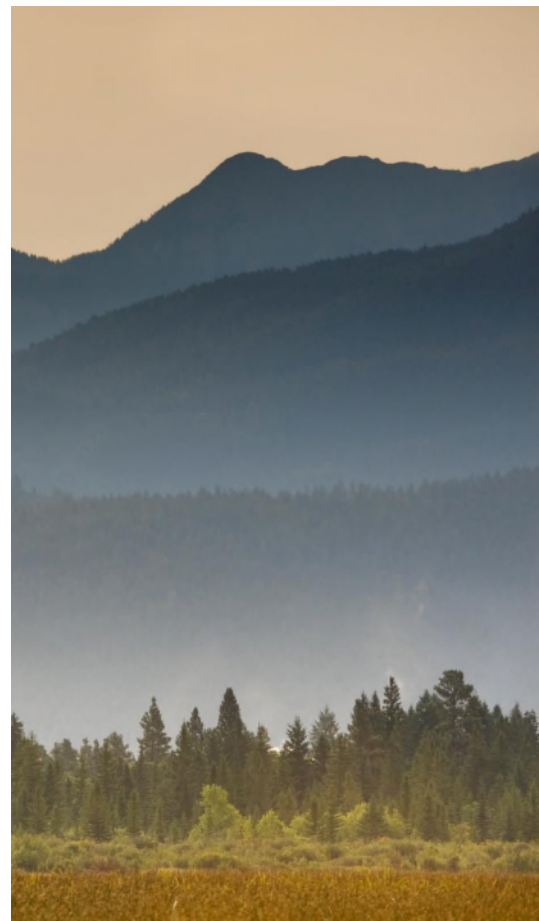
Agenda

- Local authority jurisdiction
- Powers under the EDMA
- Duties under the EDMA
- Partnership opportunities
- Regulation development



Local authority jurisdiction

- Regional districts may exercise powers and must perform duties within the boundaries of any electoral areas within the regional district.
- Local authorities must establish, appoint members to and maintain an emergency management organization or join a multijurisdictional EMO.
- The Regional District may designate members of their EMO to act on behalf of the local authority.



Powers - States of Local Emergency (SOLEs)

- Declaring a SOLE provides access to emergency powers under the EDMA.
- A SOLE can be declared if the regional district is satisfied that an emergency is present or appears imminent.
- SOLE declarations can be made by:
 - the Regional District Board
 - the chair of the Regional District
 - A member of the RD's emergency management organization
- **REVISED** SOLEs are 14-day extendable periods.



Powers - Response powers

- Response powers are available with a SOLE declaration.
- Existing powers carried over.
- **NEW** – Control or prohibit carrying on of a business or type of event.
- **NEW** - Land-or property based powers require consultation and cooperation with Indigenous Governing Bodies prior to being used.
- **NEW** - When issuing evacuation orders must coordinate with other local authorities.
- EMCR *Response and Recovery Powers* guide available online.



NEW Local recovery periods

- Provides continued access to some emergency powers during recovery.
- LRPs are up to 90-day renewable periods.
- During LRP RDs may prohibit the entry into any structure or onto any land to protect health, safety or well-being or the safety of property or objects or to take emergency measures.
- Declarations and renewals require ministerial approval.



Duties – Risk assessment

- Requirement for risk assessment which identifies and assesses:
 - The extent of the risk and the potential consequences for persons or property, or for objects or sites of heritage value--giving special consideration to:
 - **NEW** individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage; and
 - **NEW** vulnerable individuals, animals, places, or things.
- Scope of risk assessments for regional districts will be outlined in regulation.



Duties – Emergency management and business continuity plans

- Continued requirement for development of an emergency management plan.
- **NEW** - emergency management plans must be based on risk assessments and results of consultation, coordination and cooperation with local authorities and Indigenous governing bodies
- **NEW** - emergency management plans must include:
 - measures to promote cultural safety and mitigate adverse effects on:
 - individuals who may experience intersectional disadvantage
 - vulnerable individuals, animals, places, or things
 - Agreed upon areas and processes for consultation, engagement and cooperation
- Requirement for development of a business continuity plan



NEW Duties – Consultation, cooperation and engagement

With Indigenous governing bodies (including Treaty 8 Nations)

- During mitigation and preparation phases:
 - preparing, reviewing and revising risk assessments and EM plans
 - to reach agreements respecting areas described in EM plans for response and recovery
- During response and recovery phases:
 - when planning to use certain land or property-based powers
 - when issuing evacuation alerts, orders, and allowing return

With adjacent local authorities:

- when preparing, reviewing and revising risk assessments and EM plans
- when issuing evacuation alerts, orders, and allowing return.



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Indigenous Engagement Requirements: Funding Program

- 'Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program' for Local Authorities and First Nations
- Provides LA \$40,000 – \$65,000 and IGB \$45,500
- Two years of funding available; no application required
- Information, agreement, reporting template distributed to recipients
- Reporting requirements included



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Compliance and enforcement

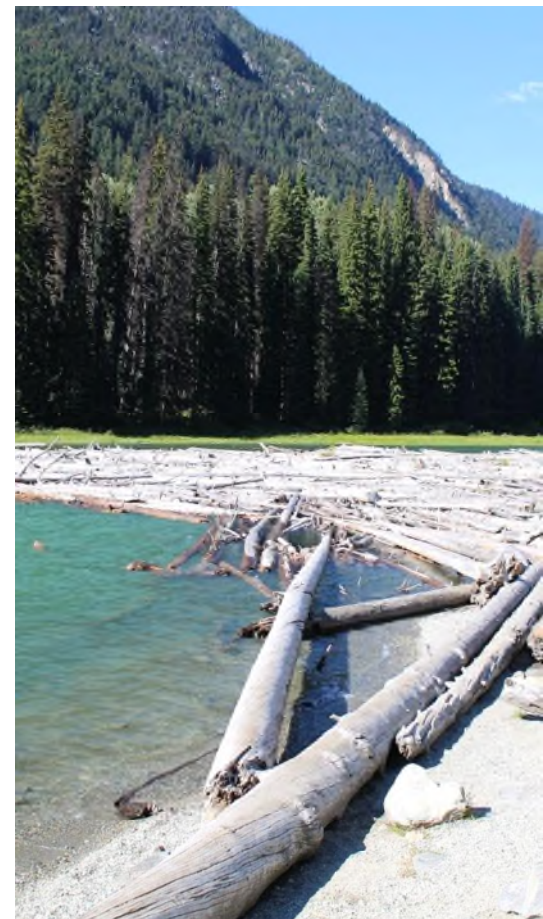
- Favoured approach continues to be on cooperation and information sharing
- Maximum penalty amounts represent a maximum and not a target amount
- Penalties are only for offences under the Act, such as violating local authority or provincial orders.



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Supporting regulations

- What we've heard:
 - capacity concerns
 - preference for a light touch with regulations
 - concerns about mitigating all risks associated with all hazards
 - reduced geographic scope
 - requests for additional engagement
- Local Government Advisory Committee
- Regulations for local authorities expected 2025



Questions and resources

- 'What's in Effect' guide: [When does B.C.'s emergency management legislation come into effect](#)
- Response and Recovery Guide: [EDMA response and recovery powers](#)
- Indigenous engagement requirements (IER): [EDMA IER Interim Guidance](#)
- IER Funding Program Guide: [Indigenous Engagement Requirements Funding Program - Province of British Columbia](#)
- General questions or follow-up: gov.bc.ca/emergencymanagementact
or contact: modernizeEM@gov.bc.ca

