



To: Community Safety Committee **Date:** April 20, 2015
From: Phyllis L. Carlyle **File:** 09-5126-20-01/2015-
 General Manager, Law & Community Safety Vol 01
Re: **British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report**

Staff Recommendation

That a letter be sent to the Members of Parliament and Members of the Legislative Assembly for the City of Richmond, requesting that the recommendations and key actions contained in the British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, dated December 2014, be acted upon.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
 General Manager, Law & Community Safety
 (604-276-4104)

REPORT CONCURRENCE	
ROUTED To:	CONCURRENCE
Corporate Communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Richmond Fire-Rescue	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS:
APPROVED BY CAO 	

Staff Report

Origin

On March 25, 2014, the Auditor General issued the report “Catastrophic Earthquake Preparedness in BC”. The Auditor General’s report focused on Emergency Management BC (EMBC) and concluded:

EMBC cannot demonstrate that it is adequately prepared to manage the effects of a catastrophic earthquake and it is not reporting publicly on the Province’s preparedness.

The Auditor General’s report was the subject of a previous report to Council.

As part of the Province’s response to this report, the Province engaged a consultant to confer with various stakeholders with respect to issues, priorities and opportunities to improve the ability of British Columbians to prepare for and respond to a catastrophic seismic event. The report on this public consultation, British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report (http://www.embc.gov.bc.ca/em/hazard_preparedness/earthquake/prep-consult-report/pdf/prep-consultation-report.pdf) was issued March 6, 2015 and this report summarizes its findings.

This report supports Council’s Term Goal #1 Community Safety:

To ensure Richmond remains a safe and desirable community to live, work and play in, through the delivery of effective public safety services that are targeted to the City’s specific needs and priorities.

Analysis

The City has a well-established, robust and effective emergency program and is prepared to respond to a major emergency or disaster. Section 6 (1) of the British Columbia Emergency Program Act states that:

“A local authority is at all times responsible for the direction and control of the local authority’s emergency response.”

In order to respond to emergencies and disasters, the City has developed an emergency management program for a disaster resilient community.

Emergency management is a shared responsibility and the Province and the Federal government, as senior levels of government, need to do more than is currently being done to provide the leadership, funding, intergovernmental, inter-agency and critical infrastructure coordination, public education, training, exercising, emergency management risk data and enhanced emergency management capabilities.

Background

The consultant engaged stakeholders from local authorities, elected officials, first responders, First Nations, federal agencies, private sector and critical infrastructure organizations, non-governmental organizations, insurance and housing sector representatives, neighbouring jurisdictions, representatives of vulnerable populations, faith-based communities, and animal welfare groups to seek their input on earthquake preparedness concerns and priorities.

Approximately 300 representatives from over 100 local authorities (including Richmond) and First Nations attended community stakeholder sessions and numerous written submissions were also received. Also consulted were over 200 stakeholders representing provincial ministries, federal agencies, private sector, professional associations, non-governmental organizations, emergency management professionals, scientific organizations and other jurisdictions.

Recommendations and Key Actions

The recommendations in the report are broad in scope and focus on a holistic approach to creating a culture of preparedness in British Columbia.

Recommendation #1: Leadership, Authority and Responsibility

The provincial government must provide EMBC with additional resources and the authority required to effectively deliver emergency management leadership to provincial crown agencies and local authorities. Further, EMBC must be positioned within government in such a fashion that its authority is greatly enhanced.

- 1.1 *The provincial government must augment EMBC's authority to require action of other provincial crown agencies in the realm of emergency management.*
 - 1.1.1 *The provincial government must support EMBC in the establishment of preparedness requirements for other ministries and crown agencies, and establish mechanisms to track and enforce these requirements.*
 - 1.1.2 *The provincial government must also address EMBC's ability to "task" or require action of other ministries and crown agencies during an emergency response.*
 - 1.1.3 *The provincial government must position EMBC within government in such a fashion that its authority is greatly enhanced. For example, EMBC could be moved to report directly to the Office of the Premier.*
- 1.2 *The provincial government must augment EMBC's authority, staffing and budget to set minimum standards for local authority emergency management programs.*
- 1.3 *The provincial government must provide additional resources to EMBC in order for it to meet its earthquake preparedness mandate.*
- 1.4 *The provincial government must provide for EMBC's emergency operations centres in seismically active areas to be housed in post-disaster facilities.*
- 1.5 *The federal government must provide additional regional resources to Public Safety Canada, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, and other applicable*

agencies, in order for them to meet their emergency management mandates to support emergency management in B.C.¹

While emergency management is a shared responsibility, this recommendation focuses primarily on EMBC's role in coordinating the emergency management activities of many organizations and suggests that they require resources and authority to effectively do so.

Richmond has a very positive relationship with EMBC, both with the local office for the Southwest region and in Victoria. While the City does not formally report to EMBC on its readiness, there are regular updates as to the City's level of emergency preparedness.

One recommendation is to set minimum standards for local authority emergency management programs and this concept is a positive one that will be helpful for local authorities to meet the expectations of the Province. However, during the public consultations, local authorities expressed concern that the establishment of standards would mean further downloading of responsibilities but the report also points to local authorities having responsibilities in shared planning.

Recommendations #2: Funding and Accountability

The provincial and federal governments must implement a funding program to support local authority preparedness efforts, and leverage emergency management funding to increase emphasis on planning and mitigation and increase local authority accountability.

- 2.1 The provincial and federal governments must implement a funding program to support emergency management preparedness efforts at the local authority level.*
- 2.2 The federal government must increase emergency management funding and personnel available to support First Nations emergency management.*
- 2.3 The provincial government must link new and existing local government emergency management funding to accountabilities, such as planning and mitigation efforts.*
- 2.4 The provincial government must formally assess mechanisms for local authorities to share in the costs for emergency responses, while ensuring that no community bears an undue burden.²*

The report recognizes that emergency management is underfunded in British Columbia at all levels of government and refers to the elimination in 2012 of the federally funded Joint Emergency Preparedness Program, a grant program for local authorities. The City had previously benefitted through this program by receiving funding for plans, training and equipment.

The current Provincial funding model for emergency management focuses on response. 100% of eligible response costs incurred by local authorities and 80% of recovery costs for non-insurable eligible costs are reimbursed by the Province.

The Province has some mitigation funds available to local authorities and the City of Richmond has taken advantage of these programs to enhance our dikes for flood protection. Additional

¹ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 11 - 15

² British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 15 - 18

funding for local authorities to mitigate risk would significantly reduce future response costs in British Columbia but there is reduced incentive for local authorities to engage in mitigation if 100% of response costs are reimbursed by the Province. The report identifies the potential to reduce the reimbursement of response costs to local authorities and to pass any savings back to local authorities for planning and mitigation efforts.

Recommendation #3: Intergovernmental and Inter-Agency Coordination

Federal, provincial, and local authorities, as well as other entities, such as those in the private sector, must ensure that they have the integrated plans and capacities in place to deal with a catastrophic event.

- 3.1 *EMBC, in concert with stakeholders, must complete province-wide catastrophic response and recovery plans. This work is already underway.*
- 3.2 *All provincial crown agencies must develop and exercise catastrophic event plans that link to provincial-level plans.*
- 3.3 *All provincial crown agencies must complete and exercise realistic business continuity plans.*
- 3.4 *The provincial government must implement mechanisms, such as Provincial Coordination Teams, to support all authorities during emergency events.*
- 3.5 *EMBC, and other provincial government partners, must be provided with additional funding and staff to complete work required to operationalize and exercise out of province assistance agreements and associated procedures.*
- 3.6 *EMBC and partners must complete the work required to clarify procedures with respect to provincially directed mutual aid between local authorities, and allocation of out-of-province aid to local authorities during a catastrophic event.*
- 3.7 *The provincial government must mandate that all local authorities participate in regional planning, training and exercises.*
- 3.8 *The provincial government must support regional planning efforts directly through funding to local authorities, and indirectly through creation of additional EMBC positions to guide and support this work.*
- 3.9 *The federal government must ensure that First Nations communities on reserves have adequate resources to effectively participate in regional planning effort.³*

EMBC is responsible for coordinating preparedness efforts for earthquakes and leads the response to provincial level emergencies and disasters. They have started work on an immediate earthquake response plan for the first five to seven days of response with plans for a sustained response plan and a recovery to plan follow and while the immediate response plan is at a high level, it requires the support of agency specific plans for earthquake response, for example in the health sector. These organization plans are required for all levels of government, the private sector and non-governmental organizations.

³ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 18 - 22

Business continuity planning is required of provincial ministries and agencies to ensure the continued delivery of critical services following an earthquake and these plans need to be exercised.

When the response to an emergency exceeds a local authority's capacity, assistance can come through mutual aid with a neighbouring local authority or from the Province. The process of allocating and sharing of resources is not formally articulated by the Province. Enhanced planning is required to ensure the efficient distribution of resources takes place for a successful response.

As a result, the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) was formed as a partnership between the Province and Metro Vancouver on behalf of the 23 local authorities to coordinate regional emergency management planning activities.

IPREM's initiatives include:

1. **Regional Hazard/Risk Assessment:** A report was completed in 2013 and will be revisited every 3 – 5 years to ensure it reflects the regional hazards that may cause the greatest impact to Metro Vancouver.
2. **Regional Emergency Communications Strategy:** Following the fall of 2013 regional communications exercise, draft Site Support Communications Procedures were developed to define communications procedures between Local Authority Emergency Operations Centres and EMBC's South West Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre. A draft Regional Emergency Communications Strategy is still in the process of being finalized.
3. **Regional Disaster Debris:** A Regional Disaster Debris Management Working Plan has been developed, but it is a framework with guiding principles and recommendations to move forward with the development of a regional disaster debris plan. Metro Vancouver's Regional Engineers Advisory Committee (REAC) Solid Waste Sub-Committee has begun to work on this project with IPREM staff.
4. **Disaster Response Routes:** This project is evolving from a land-based system of routes for emergency responders, equipment and supplies to use during a disaster to a multi-modal route system with muster stations providing access to various modes of transportation. The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has taken the lead for disaster response routes and provides leadership to the Provincial Disaster Response Transportation Advisory Group, formed as a provincial committee to create and maintain a disaster response transportation system for British Columbia. The program is under review with the understanding that it will be re-vamped to include multi modes of transportation.
5. **All Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations:** A model is being developed for how local authorities will share information and collaborate on decision-making in events of regional emergency significance, those major events that cross jurisdictional boundaries. A number of models were researched, extensive outreach and consultation occurred with stakeholders, and mini workshops were held with seven local authorities

CAOs to validate the concept of operations. Training will take place for all of Metro's CAOs in preparation for a Metro wide tabletop exercise in September 2015.

IPREM has limited resources and relies on stakeholder agencies to provide subject matter expertise. Richmond's Fire Chief participates as a member of the Regional Emergency Communications Strategy Working Group, the Manager, Emergency Programs participates on the All Hazards Integrated Regional Concept of Operations Working Group and the Manager, Fleet and Environmental Programs participates on the Regional Disaster Debris REAC Solid Waste Sub-Committee.

Recommendation #4: Public Education, Awareness and Engagement

EMBC, together with significant agencies at all levels of government and private sector partners, must launch a long-term and coordinated earthquake preparedness public education and awareness campaign. New funding and staff will be required.

- 4.1 *All partners, with EMBC leadership, must establish a mechanism to jointly develop and deliver long-term and coordinated earthquake preparedness public education.*
- 4.2 *All partners must contribute to developing and implementing resources in support of curriculum in this area for kindergarten to grade 12.*
- 4.3 *All levels of government, and involved partners outside of government, must devote additional resources to support coordinated earthquake preparedness public education.*
- 4.4 *Senior elected officials, at all levels, must demonstrate visible and vocal support for a culture of preparedness. Inclusion of earthquake preparedness initiatives in a Speech from the Throne, for example, would be an excellent example of such support.⁴*

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility with every individual and their family having a responsibility to be personally prepared for emergencies. It is a responsibility shared by all levels of government, individual departments and ministries within government, and includes the private sector corporations, non-governmental organizations and others.

Community Education in Richmond

Community education is a cornerstone of the emergency program at the City of Richmond. The Get Ready Richmond program was established in 2011 and currently includes free Personal Preparedness and Fire Life Safety modules at multiple City facilities. Planned for this fall is a more holistic approach to community safety public education with combined personal preparedness, fire life safety and home safety presentations jointly facilitated by Emergency Programs, Richmond Fire Rescue and the RCMP. This innovative approach to community preparedness will be assessed and influence the future of community education initiatives.

Potential future topics of preparedness include First Aid, Rapid Damage Assessment, Pet Preparedness, and Light Urban Search and Rescue. Additional considerations include presenting these modules in different languages (personal preparedness is currently offered in Chinese) and developing online training and providing videos for the City's website.

⁴ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 23 - 26

Staff and volunteers also provide personal preparedness presentations upon request and in multiple languages to both the general public and to businesses located in Richmond. In the last four years, Personal Preparedness presentations have been made to over 2,500 people.

Staff and volunteers participate in approximately ten community events every year by staffing display booths to engage and educate the public to becoming personally prepared for emergencies.

Staff are developing an enhanced public education strategy that will engage the public through Community Safety presentations, presentations on demand, at community events, on our website, through social media, and through greater outreach into the community with our stakeholder agency partners.

Recommendation #5: Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations

The Province must prepare and resource a strategy for further engagement of the private sector in emergency management planning, including mandated requirements for private sector entities.

- 5.1 *The provincial government must augment EMBC's resources for Critical Infrastructure (CI) coordination and expand the Provincial CI Steering Committee's coverage to include all 10 federally designated (recognized) CI sectors.*
- 5.2 *EMBC must conduct focused discussions with CI partners to determine mechanisms for enhanced coordination (e.g. addressing confidentiality barriers to information sharing).*
- 5.3 *The provincial government must provide guidance and templates for the preparation of emergency and business continuity plans for crown agencies and critical private sector services.*
- 5.4 *As a backstop to voluntary engagement, the provincial and federal government must mandate appropriate private sector preparedness, including sharing of CI information and engagement in joint planning with emergency management organizations.*
- 5.5 *EMBC must clarify and communicate its powers to direct actions by CI asset owners (e.g. restoration priorities) during and following a catastrophic event, and clarify provincial expectations of CI asset owners.*
- 5.6 *Existing and future contracts executed by the Province with private sector vendors must reference services, materials and equipment that may be needed and used during response and recovery activities.⁵*

Private sector vendors based in Richmond have approached the City regarding the services, materials and equipment they may offer during the response or recovery from an emergency. Their ability to support the City in an emergency response will depend on their own preparedness and business continuity planning.

Recommendation #6: Training and Exercising

The provincial government must resource EMBC with additional staff and funding to develop and implement comprehensive training and exercise strategies with partners.

⁵ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 26 - 28

- 6.1 *The provincial government must work with partners to develop an emergency management training strategy that improves access, increases integration between delivery organizations, and includes consistent training guidelines. Federal participation and funding will be required to ensure adequate training opportunities for all regional federal staff in B.C., as well as First Nations communities.*
- 6.2 *The provincial government, with partners, must develop and implement a robust, provincial exercise strategy that includes full-scale exercises. Additional provincial resources (funding and people) will be required. Federal funding and people will be required to ensure adequate participation by national and regional federal assets, in addition to First Nations.*⁶

Emergency Training

The City has a comprehensive training program in place to ensure staff receive emergency management training for their role in an emergency. Incident Command System training is provided to staff who work at emergency scenes. Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) training is provided to staff identified to work in the EOC and includes a self-study introductory booklet, a two day EOC Essentials class, and an additional day of specialized training in their role if the course is available. Some courses are offered online and provide greater flexibility for staff.

There is also training for those individuals who have roles in the provision of prompt, coordinated and accurate information to all internal and external stakeholders as outlined in the Emergency Information Plan, as well as those who have roles within the Emergency Call Centre.

Training is also provided to City staff that form part of a Rapid Damage Assessment Team, a program which currently has 84 trained staff.

There is currently no training offered by the Province or the Justice Institute of BC (JIBC) on earthquake preparedness or response.

Emergency Programs offers staff access to emergency preparedness information through offerings of lunch and learn opportunities, access to information booths, and employee purchase programs for emergency preparedness kits. Emergency Programs staff also participate in the Works Yard Core Safety program for staff by presenting an Emergency Preparedness module.

Emergency Exercises

The City has a multi-year exercise program to validate emergency plans, test procedures, identify gaps and weaknesses and give employees an opportunity to practice their emergency response roles. This program usually involves a tabletop discussion-based exercise in the spring and a functional exercise in the fall, typically in conjunction with the BC ShakeOut earthquake drop, cover and hold on drill in October. In recent years, these exercises have focused on earthquake scenarios and build in complexity with a goal of developing staff skills and abilities to respond.

The 2009 Richmond full scale on the ground exercise was a Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosive (CBRNE) scenario and validated the City's Emergency Management and

⁶ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 28 - 31

CBRNE Response Plans. This exercise gave numerous staff an opportunity to practice their roles and confirmed that the temporary EOC used during the Olympics Games was operational. These types of multi-agency live exercises are resource intensive and expensive to conduct. A minimum of approximately \$110,000 is required for a future similar scale exercise.

The City participates in other stakeholder agencies' exercises where there is a benefit to the City. Examples of stakeholder agency exercises include Richmond Hospital, a Translink tabletop discussion-based earthquake exercise, YVR's annual tabletop and full scale exercises, and the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) tabletop and functional exercises.

Recommendation #7: Province Wide Risk Analysis

In the long-term, EMBC and its partners must develop a strategy for enhanced hazard risk and vulnerability analysis and for increasing the availability of emergency management risk data for use by local authorities, the private sector, First Nations and the public.

- 7.1 *All partners must assess opportunities to develop, consolidate and share sources of risk data. Such work could include development and sharing of additional tsunami inundation modeling, inventories of public essential services facilities, building stock inventories, mapping of hazardous materials locations, etc.*
- 7.2 *Governments must provide additional funding to support the enhanced use of geospatial data within emergency management information systems, and assessment of unique issues such as vulnerable populations, hazardous materials, or animals. Often, these unique risks and vulnerabilities can be overlooked or inadequately considered in emergency plans due to lack of data, complexity, confidentiality concerns, etc.*
- 7.3 *The Province must fund a small, dedicated EMBC team to lead HRVA efforts at the provincial level and assist local authorities with local HRVA needs.⁷*

The City conducted a hazard risk and vulnerability analysis in 2008 against the 47 listed hazards in the Emergency Program Management Regulation. IPREM conducted a regional hazard risk and vulnerability analysis and released their report in 2014 identifying hazards with the greatest potential impacts to Metro Vancouver.

City Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

IPREM Regional Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis

Aircraft incident
 Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE)
 Critical infrastructure failure
 Dangerous goods spill release
 Earthquake
 Flooding

Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE)
 Earthquake
 Extreme weather
 Flooding
 Imported insect infestation
 Infectious disease or pandemic

⁷ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 31 - 33

Medical emergency (Pandemic)
Severe weather
Urban fire

Internet disruption
Transportation accidents
Wildfire

While there are similar hazards with different names, imported insect infestation was the only one not included in the City's analysis.

The City has been fortunate to leverage partnerships with academia to gain information on hazard risks to Richmond. For example, in 2005, Dr. John Clague and his team from Simon Fraser University did a study on the tsunami hazard to Richmond and Delta. His report concluded that there was "no evidence of tsunami deposits in Richmond, Delta, or other areas of the Fraser River delta." and suggests that the tsunami threat to the Fraser delta lowlands is very small.

More current work is being done with Dr. Carlos Ventura and his team of students from the University of British Columbia who conducted a seismic study of Richmond. Students used micro-tremor equipment on the soil and are modeling different earthquake intensities, casualties at different times of the day, estimated structural damage, functionality and more. This is a multi-year project that is not complete and will be the subject of a report to council at a future date.

Recommendation #8: Emergency Management Capability Priorities

Federal, provincial, and local governments must invest in emergency management capability enhancements in such areas as alerting, logistics, urban search and rescue, rapid damage assessment and 911.

- 8.1 *EMBC, and other partners, must select and implement improved emergency alerting mechanisms for British Columbians including both new technologies and operational practices.*
- 8.2 *The provincial government and other partners must establish and resource a framework and capacity for post-disaster logistics. At the provincial government level, such a framework will need to include ministries and agencies well beyond EMBC alone.*
- 8.3 *The provincial government and other partners must establish and resource a framework and capacity for urban search and rescue, with particular emphasis on light and medium urban search and rescue capacity.*
- 8.4 *The provincial government and other partners, must establish and resource a framework and capacity for rapid damage assessment, including use of appropriate technology.*
- 8.5 *The provincial government, local authorities, and key partners must assess opportunities to enhance the resiliency and capacity of the 911 system, and establish situational awareness linkages between the 911 system and emergency management structures.⁸*

The Province has just upgraded their tsunami notification system. There is a new emergency alert system being introduced in Canada, developed in partnership with federal, provincial and territorial emergency management, Environment Canada and the broadcast industry. Called Alert

⁸ British Columbia Earthquake Preparedness Consultation Report, pages 34 - 36

Ready, emergency alerts will be delivered through television and the radio. This system isn't completely operationalized yet, although advertising is actively taking place.

The City is launching its own public alerting system, a new emergency notification system capable of notifying the public by telephone, email, SMS text and fax. Key to its success will be the public signing up for notifications. A marketing and communications strategy is in place for the launch to encourage sign-ups. The public may sign up at www.RichmondBCAlert.ca or calling 604.233.3333.

The City already has a rapid damage assessment program in place to assess buildings after a flood or an earthquake. The City's 84 trained staff have exercised their assessment skills as part of the City's emergency management training and exercise program.

The City also participated as part of a working group with representatives from the City of Vancouver, North Shore Emergency Management, BC Housing and the University of British Columbia to develop an application to be used on IOS and Android cellular phones and tablets for electronically documenting rapid damage assessment results and transmitting that information along with photo documentation to a mapping function in the Emergency Operations Centre for improved situational awareness. This application will be rolled out to all local authorities in British Columbia later this year.

Plans

Section 2 (1) of the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation of the British Columbia Emergency Program Act requires local authorities to prepare emergency plans that reflect:

The local authority's assessment of the relative risk of occurrence and the potential impact on people and property of the emergencies or disasters that could affect all or any part of the jurisdictional area for which the local authority has responsibility.

The City of Richmond developed a number of comprehensive emergency plans that would address the response to an earthquake as an earthquake response plan on its own would not be comprehensive enough.

The City's Plans include:

- Emergency Management Plan – a comprehensive over-arching all hazard emergency response plan that:
 - Provides an overview of the City's emergency management and reporting structure.
 - Outlines the roles and responsibilities of City staff and departments and other agencies involved in the response effort.
 - Provides overall strategy for the City's emergency mitigation preparedness, response and recovery measures.
 - Identifies key priorities and actions to be undertaken in preparing for and responding to a major emergency or disaster.

- Outlines the procedures for Declaring a State of Local Emergency and delegating the required powers.
- Encompasses Richmond's jurisdictional boundaries for response operations and the type of emergencies that are beyond routine events.
- Emergency Information Plan – a comprehensive plan that provides a communication strategy for the provision of prompt, coordinated and accurate information to all internal and external stakeholders in the event of an emergency or disaster.
- Emergency Social Services Plan – a plan for the immediate needs of evacuees for food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services.
- Evacuation Plan – a framework for a coordinated evacuation response.
- Pandemic Plan – a plan for the continuity of government operations when numerous staff are away due to illness.
- Dangerous Goods Spill Response Plan – a plan for the response to a hazardous materials release.
- Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Explosives (CBRNE) Response Plan – a plan for the response to a threat of terrorism from an attack with the use of chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosions.

These plans are reviewed annually after the completion of emergency exercises, after every major emergency and updated as needed to ensure they are current.

Staff consults with neighbouring communities to ensure community emergency plans are congruent, and during a response, that actions that impact other communities are planned and jointly coordinated. EMBC holds a copy of the City's Emergency Management Plan.

The Province will be introducing their Immediate Response Plan to Earthquakes in the coming months. Staff will assess this Plan for integration with the City's emergency response planning.

Emergency Facilities

The City's primary Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and Emergency Call Centre are located at City Hall and a secondary EOC facility is located at the Works Yard. In a major earthquake, these locations would require a damage assessment prior to being used. A post disaster Emergency Operations Centre will be constructed in the new Firehall #3.

Emergency Volunteers

The City has 94 Emergency Programs volunteers who provide a number of services to our community. All have been trained to provide referrals to essential services of food, clothing, shelter, transportation and medical services to evacuees in reception centres and provide group lodging facilities in accordance with Emergency Social Services program standards.

Emergency communication capabilities are an important function in an emergency when telephones and cellular phones may be out of service. Approximately one third of our volunteers are amateur radio operators who will be able to assist with providing emergency radio communications during an emergency. The City has a new emergency communications vehicle and trailer that can be deployed when required.

To engage our emergency radio communications volunteers and exercise their skills, they also participate in many community events by providing communications services and coordination. Examples of these include the Steveston Salmon Festival, Ships to Shore, Terry Fox Run and SOS Children's Village Charity Run.

Other Emergency Programs volunteers who receive facilitation training present the Get Ready Richmond Personal Preparedness Workshops at community centres and to groups in the community. They also staff an educational emergency preparedness display booth at community events.

Financial Impact

None

Conclusion

It is a challenge for any level of government to be staffed and resourced for a catastrophic earthquake. In the City, the fundamental pieces of emergency management are in place to be built upon within the Emergency Programs work plan. In the event of a major emergency or disaster, Richmond is well positioned to respond, and will work with the Province to obtain the support the City requires.



Deborah Procter
Manager, Emergency Programs
(604-244-1211)

DP:dp