



STARTER GUIDE

THE RURAL RESILIENCY INITIATIVE & EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN B.C.



communityfutures.ca



Pacific Economic
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Contributors

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Disclaimer

This Management Guide & Playbook is not intended to be a set of instructions and does not bind Community Futures staff, volunteers or contractors to a course of action. Contents herein are not intended for emergency management or economic development organizations outside of CFBC jurisdiction.



Table of Contents

Glossary & Acronyms 3

Reconciliation Statement..... 4

About the Guide..... 4

Executive Summary..... 4

Our Vision..... 5

Our Objectives..... 6

Who’s Who in Emergency Management..... 7

What Happens When Economic Disruption is Anticipated or Underway..... 9

What Happens When There is an Evacuation..... 10

What Happens in the Disaster Recovery Stage..... 11

Resource Allocation..... 12

Support from CFBC’s Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team 13

Closing Statement..... 14

Glossary and Acronyms

(CFBC) Community Futures British Columbia

(CSA) Corporate Supply Arrangement

(ECC) Emergency Coordination Centre, managed by the Province.

(EMCR) Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness

Evacuation Alert: Being ready to leave on short notice.

Evacuation Order: Leaving an area immediately due to the risk.

Evacuation Rescinded: The risk to life and safety has passed.

(GOC) Government Operations Centre, managed by the federal government

(PREOC) Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre

(EQRRT) Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team: CFBC's leadership team for its Rural Resiliency Initiative.

Re-Entry: The process of allowing individuals or businesses to return to an area that was previously evacuated.

(RRI) Rural Resiliency Initiative: CFBC's mechanism to mobilize the emergency management expertise and experience in the CF network.

(SOLE) State of Local Emergency.



CFBC Reconciliation Statement

Community Futures British Columbia is dedicated to promoting Truth and Reconciliation while fostering Indigenous inclusion in BC's economy. We support Indigenous entrepreneurs, celebrating their success and prosperity through diverse, equitable, and collaborative programs that contribute to more inclusive communities.

About the Guide

This Guide is an introduction to the world of Emergency Management for CFs. It accompanies RRI's Emergency Management Playbook which contains specific actions your CF can take to ensure you are prepared and able to operate to help your businesses during and after an emergency.

Executive Summary

Through its Rural Resiliency Initiative (RRI), Community Futures British Columbia (CFBC) is establishing the role of Community Futures (CF) in the area of economic disruption and disaster management for businesses in rural BC.

The objective is for your CF to become an economic emergency leader for your businesses.

By formalizing decades of ad-hoc experience and knowledge gained by member CFs that have experienced economic disasters, we are creating resources and supports for all member offices of the Pan West CF network to become trusted and effective economic emergency management partners in their communities before, during and after an economic disruption or disaster.

CF prides itself on the local knowledge, local experience and relationship-building abilities of its members. This guide shows you how to leverage CFs' strengths to help your businesses when your community is most vulnerable and at risk.

Our Vision

CF offices across all Pan West communities are prepared to act in the best interest of their businesses during all 4 'Pillars of Emergency Management.' They access tools and supports from CFBC's Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team (EQRRT) and are recognized as trusted local leaders in economic emergency management.

By accessing tools and resources from their CF, small and medium-sized enterprises in rural and remote Pan West communities are resilient to economic disruption and disaster.



Figure 1.
The four pillars of emergency
management.
Source: [Writer's Block Solutions](#).

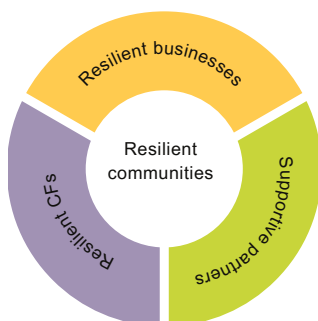


Figure 2.
Building resilient
communities with our
partners and businesses.



Our Objectives

OBJECTIVE #1

Ensuring your CFs is able to operate during and after an economic disruption or disaster so that you can support your businesses.

OBJECTIVE #2

Equipping your CF to become a leader in emergency management for your businesses, helping them access tools, resources and supports to build resiliency so they can recover from economic disruption or disasters.

Who's Who in Emergency Management

COMMUNITY FUTURES BRITISH COLUMBIA

CFBC's **Rural Resiliency Initiative (RRI)** is the Association's mechanism to mobilize the expertise and experience in the Community Futures network to provide support for businesses in rural BC before, during and after economic disruptions and disasters.

Activities are carried out by the **Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team (EQRRT)**, a Community Futures BC leadership team whose members include contractors and CF staff with experience in finance, project management, communications, and disaster response and recovery.

The EQRRT's role is to provide support to CF members in order to facilitate and coordinate effective economic-focused emergency response and recovery efforts for businesses. Your office can access the EQRRT for supports and assistance at any time.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of Canada typically provides support at the policy-level. In extreme emergencies they may activate a **Government Operations Centre (GOC)**, respond to local requests to deploy the Armed Forces, and reimburse provinces for disaster assistance claims.



The GOC would only be activated during a catastrophic emergency.

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

The **Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR or "the Ministry")** provides and coordinates the Province of BC's level of support to Municipal Governments, Regional Districts and Indigenous-governing bodies. It does so through management of its 6 **Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centres (PREOC)**:

- Northwest - Terrace
- Northeast - Prince George
- Central - Kamloops
- Southwest - Surrey
- Southeast - Nelson
- Vancouver Island - Victoria

The Ministry also houses the provincial **Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)**, which records, notifies, and monitors emergencies across the province 24/7/365.



MUNICIPAL & REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Municipal and regional governments typically develop their own emergency management programs, training programs and drills for their emergency management personnel.

When an economic disruption is anticipated or underway, both governments determine whether or not to activate the local Emergency Operations Centre (EOC): Your community's command-and-control center during emergencies.

Both governments may also work with first responder agencies, utility providers, internal departments (e.g. Public Works), school districts and health authorities to restore services.

INDIGENOUS-GOVERNING BODIES

First Nations, Inuit and Metis governments and governing bodies manage their own emergency programs with support from partners including the Ministry (EMCR) and Indigenous Services Canada (ISC). Treaty First Nations are governed by provincial legislation and Non-Treaty First Nations can access provincial-level support through agreements with the Province and the Government of Canada.

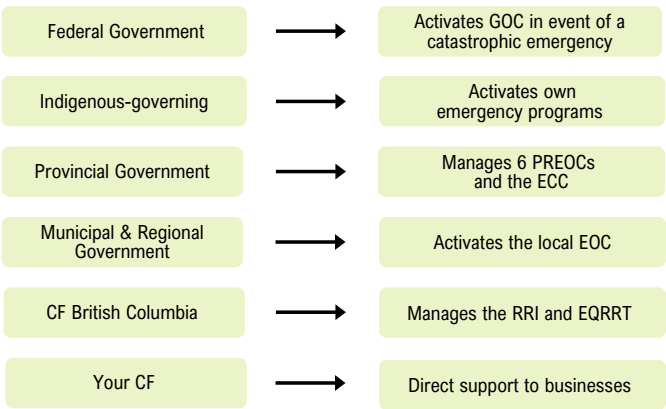


Figure 3.
Roles in emergency management centres when an emergency is anticipated or underway.

What Happens When Economic Disruption is Anticipated or Underway

ACTIVATION & ROLE OF EMERGENCY CENTRES

Local leaders in Emergency Management (e.g. emergency managers, fire departments) will activate the EOC. Depending on the situation in your area, a single EOC may be shared across governments and First Nations-governing bodies or each government and/or First Nations-governing body may activate a separate EOC. Often, the EOC is activated organically without a set “moment.”

EOCs are command-and-control centres. They coordinate all emergency response activities in your local area including resource allocation, communications and reporting. Activities across multiple jurisdictions may be governed by mutual Aid Agreements.

EOC(s) alert the Provincial Government, who may then active the PREOC (regional) and/or the PECC (provincial). The PREOC will assess local data supplied by the EOC to issue a plan.



“Economic disruption” can be broadly applied, e.g. closure of a major employer, a water system failure or a transportation route interruption.



If local telecommunication is not available, information is coordinated by the ECC, the Ministry’s 24-hr Emergency Coordination Centre.



Figure 4. The EOC, PREOC and ECC.

DECLARING A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY (SOLE)

SOLEs are implemented by local or provincial governments to they can access locations, resources, and legal instruments to ensure the safety of residents and emergency responders. An EOC Director may recommend a SOLE, which is authorized by a head of government, e.g. Mayor.

When a SOLE is declared, an EOC must be opened. However, EOCs can be activated and operational without the declaration of a SOLE.



What Happens When There is an Evacuation

EVACUATION & RE-ENTRY OF A COMMUNITY

Local and provincial governments determine whether and when to communicate an **Evacuation Alert** (being ready to leave on short notice), **Evacuation Order** (leaving immediately) and whether/when Rescind an Evacuation Order.

The process to re-enter a community after an evacuation typically happens in phases and is carefully managed by local governments and Indigenous-governing bodies. Priority is often given to essential personnel, then residents and business owners before the general public. Businesses that provide essential services, like building supplies, fuel stations and grocery stores, are also often prioritized.

Key aspects of Re-entry include:

- Safety assessment(s)
- Communications to evacuees
- Enforcement of any identification or access controls
- Provision of support services, e.g. medical care, food, water, shelter.
- Ongoing Monitoring

What Happens in the Disaster Recovery Phase

TIMING & DECISION-MAKING

Disaster Recovery is the process of rebuilding, restoring, and rehabilitating businesses to reach functionality.

The Recovery Phase starts during the emergency's Response Phase, when your CF may already be helping to manage immediate impacts to businesses. Your businesses have the best chance of recovering when recovery efforts happen at the same time as the emergency itself.

All governments decide whether and when to activate their Recovery Plans. The Director of the Emergency Operations Centre decides when to activate the local Recovery Operations Centre (ROC). Both ROCs and Emergency Operations Centres can be active at the same time.



Your CF may be able to leverage existing CFBC-managed programs or special, short-term programs to support your businesses, e.g. myCommunityFutures.

Contact the EQRR to learn more.



Resource Allocation

HOW EMERGENCY FUNDING WORKS

During the response and recovery phases of an emergency, provincial funding is only disbursed to municipal governments, regional district governments and First Nation-governing bodies.

The EOC submits resource requests and expense authorization requests to the PREOC. Some resource requests may be escalated to the PECC. EOCs can also request support from the federal government, such as deployment of the Canadian Armed Forces.

CFBC'S CORPORATE SUPPLY ARRANGEMENT WITH EMCR

CFBC currently has a **Corporate Supply Arrangement (CSA)** with the Ministry's Community Recovery Branch, which pre-qualifies CFBC to provide supports to communities during the recovery phase of an emergency when selected by the province. The EQRRRT may be deployed to a CF community outside of a request by the community's CF. At the time of publishing this document, renewal of the CSA is uncertain.

RESOURCING YOUR CF

EQRRRT supports and services are available by request at any time, at no additional cost to your CF. The EQRRRT is not able to provide additional funding to CFs at this time, and CFBC is currently working to secure funding to sustain emergency management costs incurred by CFs.

Funding arrangements for your CF rely on your ability to establish strong, trusted relationships with local emergency managers long before an emergency happens. You may be able to negotiate opportunities and contracts with local governments and/or First Nation-governing bodies for "extraordinary costs". Payments from the EMCR would be reimbursed to governments and First-Nation governing bodies, who would then pay the CF.



If an emergency is anticipated or underway contact the QRT to discuss financial and resource constraints of your CF.

Supports from CFBC's Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team

Your CF can request the supports of the EQRRT at any time, at no cost to your CF, regardless of whether or not an EOC is activated in your community. The EQRRT is available during any stage of the emergency management cycle: before, during and after.

While the EQRRT cannot provide funding to CFs at this time, contact them to learn about potential options to source alternate funding.

TRAINING & CAPACITY-BUILDING BY REQUEST

When requested by member CFs, the EQRRT can provide valuable strategic and operational support regarding:

- ✓ • Direct support to businesses during/after an emergency:
 - How to gather and share data about real and potential economic impacts.
 - How to provide direction to supports.
 - How to handle mental wellness concerns.
- ✓ • Integrating your CF into the emergency management plans/systems of local government and First Nations-governing bodies', e.g. As Economic Liaison
- ✓ • Creating and maintaining lines of communication with local emergency managers.
- ✓ • Providing guidance and data to local emergency managers about economic impacts and recovery.

ON-THE-GROUND DEPLOYMENT BY REQUEST

If your community is experiencing or recovering from an emergency and you would like additional support for your office, contact us about deploying the EQRRT. Receiving previous EQRRT training is not a pre-requirement.



Closing Statement

It is undisputed that economic disruption and disasters can cause lasting damage to rural businesses and the economic outlook of rural communities. We believe CF as an organization is uniquely positioned to help businesses prepare for, mitigate and recover from emergencies.

Through the leadership of our Rural Resilience Initiative and the support of its Economic Quick Response & Recovery Team, we can help member CFs to become trusted Business and Economic emergency management leads and valued partners in their communities.

It takes time and effort to establish CF into existing emergency management frameworks, but we believe the reward for our businesses and communities is worth it.

We have the skills, we have a plan. Please join us.

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