

June 11, 2024
Indigenous Services Canada
bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca or call 1-604-209-9709.

Attention: Chief and Council and Emergency Coordinators

**Emergency Memo: High Season Notice of Outreach for
First Nation emergency events**

In preparation for emergency events, this memorandum provides important information about what to do in an emergency to ensure the health and safety of your community members and the protection of your critical infrastructure.

Indigenous Services Canada works in partnership with the First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS), the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) and the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) to support First Nations through emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery in the event of First Nation emergency events. This package contains information on how our partners and ISC come together to provide emergency management support to First Nations.

With the potential for an active emergency season, it is a good time to review your First Nation emergency plan and update critical information.

In response to events, EMCR continues to be the first point of contact to support emergency coordination through **1-800-663-3456**. You can also contact your regional EMCR office for information and updates on emergency events including evacuation alerts and orders. (<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/contact-us>)

During evacuations, community members are supported through the provincial Emergency Support Services (ESS) program. The **ISC Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP)** can provide additional supports for unmet needs not supported by EMCR such as traditional food, cultural supports, wellness supports and social supports. Funding beyond provincial ESS per diem rates may also be available through ISC. Federal ISC supports to First Nation evacuees continues until they return home, regardless of when Provincial Emergency Supports end. For more information please contact the Indigenous Services Canada regional Emergency Management team at bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca or call 1-604-209-9709.

The First Nations Emergency Services Society (FNESS) is available to support community emergency preparedness and response. FNESS can be contacted at 1-888-388-4431 or 250-377-7600 <https://www.fness.bc.ca/core-programs/emergency-management>.



Indigenous Service Canada (ISC) also has the Non-Structural and Mitigation Program (NSMP), through which you can submit a proposal for preparedness and mitigation activities including items such as emergency planning, risk awareness exercises, training and equipment to help with preparedness and mitigation of upcoming seasons. Please request additional information from: bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca or call 1-604-209-9709.

For more information regarding the First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) programs and supports related to Health Emergency Management, please visit www.fnha.ca, or call your regional Health Emergency Management connection or email HEM@fnha.ca

I hope that this letter provides useful tools and resources. In the event of an emergency, the partners above will work in collaboration to ensure that your First Nation has the support that you need.

If you have questions regarding ISC emergency management programs or funding supports, please contact the regional team by email bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca or call 1-604-209-9709.

Sincerely,



Laura Aucoin
A/Director, Emergency Management
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VANCOUVER BC V6E 4S3

Emergency Management Resources

Report **forest fire sightings or the presence of smoke** to **BC's Wildfire Management Branch** at **1-800-663-5555** or ***5555** on most cellular phones.

For **emergency response support** your **first point of contact is EMBC at 1-800-663-3456**. This connects to EMBC's 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre.

If you are **injured or experiencing a life threatening incident**, you should immediately **call 9-1-1** or your local emergency number.

For current information on **fire danger ratings, regional fire prohibitions and forest fire activity** call 1-888-336-7378 (3FOREST).

Forest fire Resources

- BC Wildfire Service: <http://bcwildfire.ca/>
- PreparedBC Wildfire Preparedness Guide: PreparedBC.ca/wildfires
- BC Wildfire Dashboard:
<https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/f0ac328d88c74d07aa2ee385abe2a41b>
- Review the "Wildfires of Note" regularly for the latest updates:
<http://bcfireinfo.for.gov.bc.ca/hprScripts/WildfireNews/OneFire.asp>
- Fire Danger Ratings: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/wildfire-situation/fire-danger>
- To find Air Quality Advisories issued by the BC Ministry of Environment:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/air/air-quality/air-advisories>

Spring Freshet & Flood Resources

- EMBC – Freshet & Flood: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/business-market-development/emergency-management/freshet-and-flood>
- PreparedBC Flood Preparedness Guide: PreparedBC.ca/floods
- BC Flood plain mapping: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/integrated-flood-hazard-management/flood-hazard-land-use-management/floodplain-mapping>
- BC Water Resource Atlas: <https://maps.gov.bc.ca/ess/hm/wrbc/>
- BC River Forecast Centre: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/river-forecast-centre>

Additional Resources

- Municipal Heat Response Planning: [http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines and Forms/Guidelines and Manuals/Health-Environment/BC Municipal Heat Response Planning.pdf](http://www.bccdc.ca/resource-gallery/Documents/Guidelines%20and%20Forms/Guidelines%20and%20Manuals/Health-Environment/BC%20Municipal%20Heat%20Response%20Planning.pdf)
- General drought information: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information>
- Emergency Management Preparedness for individuals and families, visit Public Safety Canada's website: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/>



REFERENCE LIST OF ELIGIBLE EMAP EXPENSES

Please note:

- This list is meant to be a quick reference guide and is not an exhaustive list, please refer to [Building Back Better: Emergency Management Assistance Program Strategy Guide](#) for more details;
- This list is exclusive to emergency response and recovery specific to natural hazards and extreme weather events;
- Every situation is unique and context-dependent and as such, EMAP eligibility will be determined on a case-by case basis;
- Health programs and services should be directed to the First Nations Health Authority
- Please contact the ISC BC Regional Office if you have specific eligibility questions or concerns: 1-604-209-9709
bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca

RESPONSE

Response Costs

- Incremental wage costs, including mandatory employment related costs such as CPP, EI, WC (for temporary new hire for period of emergency or for overtime related to emergency for existing employees)
- Administrative fees (EMAP will only consider administrative fees that are included in the proponents' initial, approved proposal)
- Shipment of food and water into community to respond to a threat to provision of necessities as a result of an eligible emergency event, confirmed by a third party with subject matter expertise (e.g. water management agency for risk of flooding)
- Response to an imminent threat to protect primary residences and community-owned buildings** (snow removal around houses and critical infrastructures, ditch and culvert clearing, purchase and installation of culvert gates, sandbagging, ice breaking, rental/purchase of residential sump pumps for flood-prone houses, control burn, fire breaks/guards, clearing debris around houses, etc.)
- Rental of equipment required to respond to emergency event
 - o Costs must be in line with Provincial rates.

Emergency Social Services Policy (less than 60 days)

- Accommodations (hotels, group lodgings)
- Transportation
 - o Out of the community (evacuation)
 - o Within host community/ies: for family reunification, for medical appointments, etc.
- Food (per diems)***
- Incidentals (personal hygiene/infant care products, etc.)
- Vouchers for Seasonal Clothing (on a one-time basis, if required)
- Special Services (navigational supports/services, security costs at evacuation facilities, transitional educational services, laundry costs, special services to vulnerable groups, etc.)
- Pets/Livestock (costs for transporting and housing pets or livestock during an evacuation)
- Child Friendly Spaces (child care services, child-specific counselling services, recreational activities)
- Cultural Continuity (access to traditional foods, language translation, etc.)

Long-Term Displacement Assistance Policy (longer than 60 days)

- Accommodations (preferably rental home/apartment)
- Clothing (clothing allowance/seasonal clothing on one-time basis and to be deducted from Personal Losses Claim, laundry costs)
- Cultural Continuity / Special Services (transitional educational services, special services to vulnerable groups, language translation, etc.)
- Child Friendly Spaces (child care services, child-specific counselling services, recreational activities)
- Exceptional Circumstances (transportation costs to ensure effective disaster recovery, individual transportation costs for burials, etc.)

RECOVERY

Recovery Costs

- Incremental wage costs, including mandatory employment related costs such as CPP, EI, WC (for temporary new hire for period of emergency or for overtime related to emergency for existing employees)
 - o This can include hiring temporary Recovery managers
- Food replacement due to extended power outage and/or extended evacuation due to an eligible emergency event
- Repairs/rebuilding to pre-event conditions for primary residences and community-owned buildings with supporting damage assessments by qualified professional
- The cost of the insurance deductible as part of repair costs once funding has been approved
- Health aspects of emergencies caused by a natural or accidental hazard that address health and social concerns during re-entry and recovery process.

Mitigation Measures Policy As Part of Build Back Better

- Underground pipes to prevent freeze damage
- Elevating flood-prone structures
- Bracing buildings for wind damage
- Mould resistant drywall or weeping tiles
- Weather resistant shingles
- Rebuilding homes without basements with equivalent floor area
- Mitigative enhancements above and beyond building code requirements
- Modification of hazards (i.e. eliminating or reducing the size of a hazard, such as preventing slope erosion by planting vegetation or deepening or dredging water channels to improve water flow)
- Moving homes away from flood plains and associated costs (e.g. Hydro hook up costs, landscaping, etc.)

Before any of the above can be undertaken, all required land use permits and environmental studies need to be completed and approved.

Personal Losses Replacement Policy

Includes non-insured items deemed as basic and essential necessities of life****; this may include:

- Clothing
- Primary furniture
- Bedroom furniture
- Children's furniture
- Large and small appliances commonly found in households
- Kitchen and bathroom items
- Food
- Office equipment and school supplies
- Yard equipment
- Cultural items

Search and Recovery Policy

- Cost of fuel for recovery vehicles
- Drivers (travel, accommodation, food)
- Professional search and recovery specialist
- Transportation, food, per diems and accommodation costs for recovery teams (professionals and volunteers)
- Search and recovery operations to be preapproved for incremental periods

**Community-owned buildings are eligible in the event that they are not generating profit

*** In accordance with the guidelines set out by provincial authorities up to the maximum allowed by the Treasury Board of Canada.

****In accordance to Provincial Schedule of losses or ISC EMAP Schedule of losses



Water Shortages and Drought Conditions TIPS SHEET

What should you do if there are concerns about potential water shortages in your community?

1. Check your Emergency Response Plan

What does it say about water shortages? If you don't have an emergency response plan, or it doesn't cover prolonged water shortages, then begin recording your steps to document for any future events. First Nation communities enrolled in the Circuit Rider Training program (CRTP) can seek guidance from their assigned Circuit Rider to get started.

2. Establish your response team

This may include your water system operator, public works manager, Band manager and a councilor(s). Your Circuit Rider can also be a resource for the team at this stage. Determine roles and responsibilities so you can develop an action plan. Your team should meet at least daily to update what they have been working on, what impact it's having, and what's still left to do.

3. If you haven't been doing this already, immediately begin to monitor your water consumption

You need to know how much water your community is using and at what rate so that you can estimate how many days of water you might have left. Track this regularly so you can monitor changes over time.

4. Start a program of leak detection and repairs in your community's water distribution system

Even small leaks can account for large losses of water! The most common area for leaks to occur is at service connections – where the services meet the main distribution line -- and also at hydrants and in unoccupied buildings. These are good places to start looking for and repairing leaks.

5. If needed, advise residents to reduce their water consumption

See tips provided by the First Nations Health Authority:

[Drought Planning Information for First Nations Communities](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/drought-planning-information-for-first-nations-communities)

[\(<https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/drought-planning-information-for-first-nations-communities>\)](https://www.fnha.ca/about/news-and-events/news/drought-planning-information-for-first-nations-communities)



If you're going door-to-door to advise residents, ask to also inspect water services inside the home to make sure they are not leaking. Leakage from faucets and toilets can add up to significant water waste. If these are leaking, make sure they are repaired.

6. Let community members know what's happening.

Have a means of letting residents know what's happening and reinforce what they should be doing to conserve water. This could be via a community Facebook page, flyers delivered to each house, or regular community meetings. This ensures everyone is informed.

7. If water levels are in your water reservoir are decreasing, investigate alternate sources of water. This could include water hauling or bottled water companies. Indigenous Services Canada can re-imburse communities for water hauling or bottled water under certain conditions, contact your Capital Management Officer first to determinate what supports are available.¹


8. If you need additional assistance, contact your Capital Management Officer (CMO) to seek advice.


9. If you need immediate assistance due to drinking water shortages and are outside of normal working hours, please contact 604-209-9709 or bcaandc.do@sac-isc.gc.ca


10. Once the event is over, document your activities and update your Emergency Response Plan.

¹ Some items above may be eligible for reimbursement from Indigenous Services Canada (ISC), but only if pre-approved.

Learn More:

	Web Link – Drought Information
	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information

	PDF Document - Dealing With Drought
	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-info/dealing_with_drought_handbook.pdf

	Web Link – Water Conservation Tips
	https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/drought-flooding-dikes-dams/drought-information/water-conservation-tips