



Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver

IPREM Quarterly Bulletin – October 2011

Message from the Co-Chairs

We are pleased to offer this newsletter, to be produced quarterly, as a means of sharing important regional emergency management information and status of IPREM initiatives. Over the past year IPREM has renewed its strategic plan and restructured to provide additional focus and capacity. The IPREM team now includes the Project Manager (Heather Lyle, Director Integrated Public Safety EMBC), Partnership Advisor (Doug Allan) and two Emergency Management Planning Coordinators (Andrew Morrison and Clarence Lai).

IPREM initiatives are all moving forward and this bulletin highlights project accomplishments to date. We would like to thank everyone for their support of this very important regional public safety initiative.

For more information about IPREM, Please visit www.iprem.ca or email info@iprem.ca



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Chief Administrative Officer
City of Pitt Meadows



Lori Wanamaker
IPREM Co Chair
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IPREM Background

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) is an intergovernmental entity working to improve emergency management with all levels of government and stakeholders across Metro Vancouver. It was established in 2009 with full support from local, regional and provincial governments.

Emergency Management is a shared responsibility – most public and private agencies currently operate under the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System (BCERMS) with the common aim of ensuring our region is prepared and resilient.

IPREM's role is to facilitate multi-sector cooperation between private and public sector organizations involved in emergency management and public safety.



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Integrated Regional Concept of Operations

Purpose

- To utilize an integrated team of local, regional, provincial and other stakeholder agencies (including private sector) to develop an all hazard, integrated framework for coordinating regional emergencies in the Metro Vancouver region

Project Update

- The scope of the project has been approved by the IPREM Steering Committee. Scope includes building a framework to better achieve:
 - o Regional priority setting
 - o Regional decision making
 - o Regional resource sharing
- A tabletop exercise is being planned for February 16, 2012, utilizing a regional earthquake scenario to:
 - o Provide an opportunity for learning, engagement and exploring various regional decision making models
 - o Foster discussion amongst members from: Local and Regional Authorities, EMBC, Public Safety Canada, and representatives from other key stakeholder agencies

Regional Emergency Communications Strategy

Purpose

- To develop a strategic plan and governance framework for interoperable communications across the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The intent of the strategic plan and governance framework is to address oversight, planning coordination, implementation and ongoing support for regional emergency communications interoperability amongst emergency response agencies and key stakeholders

Project Update

- A two-day workshop was conducted in July for the purpose of presenting an analysis of a communications survey conducted and a series of facilitated focus groups and interviews. The workshop addressed:
 - o Current state of communications interoperability
 - o Key challenges the region faces
 - o Potential solutions to the challenges
 - o Identified next steps and timeframe for establishing a regional framework and interoperable process
- An executive summary of the workshop outcomes was developed and disseminated to workshop participants and stakeholders
- A follow-up Communications Workshop was held on October 27th to review and validate recommendations from the first workshop and conduct a stakeholder review of draft governance framework and strategic plan



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Regional Hazard/Risk Assessment

Purpose

- To conduct a Regional Hazard Risk Assessment based on an all hazard approach
- To establish a comprehensive understanding of potential hazards, risk priorities and existing vulnerabilities that will impact jurisdictions from across Metro Vancouver

Project Update

- Guidelines for conducting hazard risk assessments as part of Capability Based Planning model have been developed
- Regional participants and subject matter experts to support hazard risk assessment identified
- Key Dates for a series of risk assessment workshops have been established:
 - o Nov 8 – Capability Based Planning Orientation Session
 - (1/2 Day) for all participants
 - o Nov 15 am/pm, 17 am/pm – Hazard Rating Instruction Workshop
 - 4 Half Day Sessions offered
 - Each participant is asked to attend at least one session
 - o Nov 23 & 24 – Conduct Human Accidental and Technological Hazard Rating Workshops (Full Days)
 - o Jan 11, 12 & 18 – Conduct Human Intentional, Terrorism and Natural Hazards Rating Workshops (Full Days)
 - o Jan 25 – HRVA Summary Reporting Out Session
 - (1/2 Day) for all participants

Disaster Response Routes (DRR)

Purpose

- DRRs are comprised of an integrated multi-modal transportation network of air, rail, road and marine transportation corridors. Designated response routes leave available all other arteries for egress in the highly unlikely event that large-scale or regional evacuations are required. A few dedicated response routes can be maintained as the disaster transitions to recovery operations, can support the region's reception of relief supplies and can provide opportunities for regional recovery and business resumption

Project Update

- The DRR working group is being restructured as DRR is now a component of a broader Integrated Network for Emergency Transportation (iNET) initiative. The establishment of iNET for British Columbia will enable multi-modal transportation corridors and support facilities to be activated for enhancing response activity & evacuation, support supply chain management and expedite recovery
- Work on various aspects of this initiative continues



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Critical Infrastructure Assurance

Purpose

- The overall approach is to develop from a regional perspective, a recommended Regional Critical Infrastructure Assurance Plan for Metro Vancouver and to champion initiatives that support Critical Infrastructure Assurance in the Region

Project Update

- Terms of Reference for the Regional CI Assurance Working Group were approved by the IPREM Steering Committee
- A brief survey has been developed and forwarded to Local Authorities to establish a high level understanding of the current state of CI assets inventory and use of CI assessment methodology tools

Regional Disaster Debris Management Plan

Purpose

- To develop a regional disaster debris management model that local authorities and stakeholder agencies can support and adopt within their jurisdiction

Project Update

- The focus of the draft working plan proposes an ongoing debris management program (including training and exercises) and further identifies that following emergency events that create mass debris, that specific debris management projects be identified and coordinated based on the scope and scale of the event and the debris involved
- A draft of the current plan is currently being reviewed by the working group and will be sent to stakeholders for comment later this fall

Upcoming Events

Nov 29 – Dec 1

- 24th Annual Emergency Preparedness Conference, Vancouver, British Columbia.
www.epconference.ca