



Shape Your Future Victoria

Emergency Management

Definition and description

Emergency management seeks to save lives, preserve the environment and protect property and the economy. The protection of life is of paramount importance. Management of emergencies involves four interdependent areas of activity:

Prevention and Mitigation: Elimination or reduction of the risk and impacts of hazards.

Preparedness: Readiness for response to a disaster and to manage its impacts through emergency response plans.

Response: Actions during or immediately after a disaster to minimize suffering and losses through emergency communication, medical assistance, evacuation and search and rescue.

Recovery: Reinstatement of a community to an acceptable level through post-disaster actions, such as return of evacuees and reconstruction.
[source: Public Safety Canada]

Why is this topic important?

Emergency management helps to sustain safe, prosperous and resilient communities.

Each municipality in BC is required to develop an emergency plan that assesses and ranks the risk of natural and human-made hazards as well as the impact of emergencies and disasters.

The inclusion of mitigation actions in emergency plans can prevent disasters or greatly reduce the social, economic and environmental impacts in a community during events and afterwards.

OFFICIAL COMMUNITY PLAN

Ideas and Options for the Future

June 25 and 26 - Topic Insert



Public Input on Emergency Management

Proposed Goal 1 From Public Input : <i>Engage Citizens in Planning and Development Processes</i>	
Direction: <i>Stakeholders</i>	Direction: <i>Engagement Model</i>
Ideas and Examples	Ideas and Examples
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider residents with disabilities re: equipment. They must have devices to ensure that they hear/see alarms. Otherwise people with physical disabilities can pose a risk to everyone in a building. • Have emergency devices that are visual and auditory for deaf and blind persons. • These alarms should be wired to lights to flash on and off. • Consider emergency devices for the disabled as essential for wider community – advocate for funding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have more Emergency Management outreach at community level. • Many citizens do not know location of designated emergency centres in community centres and staff at the latter is not well trained to deal with protocols. • Organize neighbourhood-level, citizen-led emergency planning. Ensure there are adequate facilities that are designated emergency management centres with clear signage so everyone can see their location and purpose.

Related Victoria Sustainability Framework Subthemes and Goals	
<i>Proactive Preparation:</i>	<i>Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies.</i>
<i>Response and Recovery:</i>	<i>Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long impacts and recovery times.</i>

Existing Policies on Emergency Management

Victoria Sustainability Framework (2010)		
Proactive Preparation:	<i>Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies.</i>	
Response and Recovery:	<i>Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long impacts and recovery times.</i>	
Official Community Plan (1995)	Downtown Core Area Plan (draft 2010)	Other Plans / Policies
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update the City of Victoria Emergency Management Plan to prepare for the challenges of an expanded, higher-density Downtown Core Area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Victoria Emergency Management Plan City of Victoria Hazard Risk Vulnerability Assessment
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue the seismic upgrading and rehabilitation of heritage buildings through heritage revitalization incentive programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> City of Victoria Post-Earthquake Recovery Plan for Heritage Buildings
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and update the Zoning Regulation Bylaw to establish standards for providing on-site emergency preparedness facilities and equipment in new multi-storey commercial, residential and mixed-use buildings. 	