

Emergency Management

17



RELATED GOALS

- › 17 (A). Victoria is prepared to deal with known hazards and emerging threats, to limit the adverse impacts of events, and effectively manage emergencies.
- › 17 (B). Victoria is able to respond rapidly and effectively to all emergencies, including events with long impacts and recovery times.
- › 17 (C). Victorians can rely on significant local sources for food, energy and materials to meet daily needs under emergency conditions.

OVERVIEW

The purpose of emergency management is to save lives, preserve the environment, and protect property and the economy in the event of an emergency or disaster through the coordination of four areas of decision-making and action described in Figure 17: prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and post-disaster recovery. An emergency is a small-scale event that can be handled with community resources, while a disaster is more extensive, overwhelming local capacities. Legislation requires local governments to develop and maintain an emergency plan with policies for the delivery of preparedness, response and recovery, and to assess the likelihood and anticipated impacts of natural and human-made hazards that exist within their boundaries. Decisions and actions taken before and after disaster events are an important consideration for planning and land use management and related policy areas.

Currently, the top two natural hazards for Victoria are earthquakes and severe wind storms. Local impacts of global climate change are projected to include summer heat waves and more intense and frequent precipitation in winter within the timeframe of this plan. Victoria is located within Seismic Zone 5, with Zone 6 as the greatest risk of seismic activity. There is a 32% likelihood of a damaging earthquake event in the city before 2054. A disaster of this magnitude is a major threat to critical infrastructure, such as the city's fire halls, hospitals, bridges, water mains, and gas pipelines, and may require the demolition and extensive reconstruction of buildings and structures. An earthquake could disrupt access to and from Vancouver Island, which would threaten local and regional economic

activity and community well-being generally. For example, Vancouver Island is dependent on ferry services for approximately 90% of its food and ready food supply in Victoria is estimated to be sufficient for three days.

The City is committed to being a disaster-resilient community. This plan includes objectives for every area of emergency management through the maintenance and regular update of the Victoria Emergency Management Plan and the Emergency Response Plan, the development of a comprehensive plan for recovery after a disaster, and targeted support for improvements to the seismic conditions of buildings and infrastructure. Planning and delivery of emergency management must be coordinated with senior governments, neighbouring jurisdictions, public agencies, service providers and community organizations and works toward widespread preparedness in workplaces and households across the city.

Figure 17: The Four Pillars of Emergency Management

- › **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.

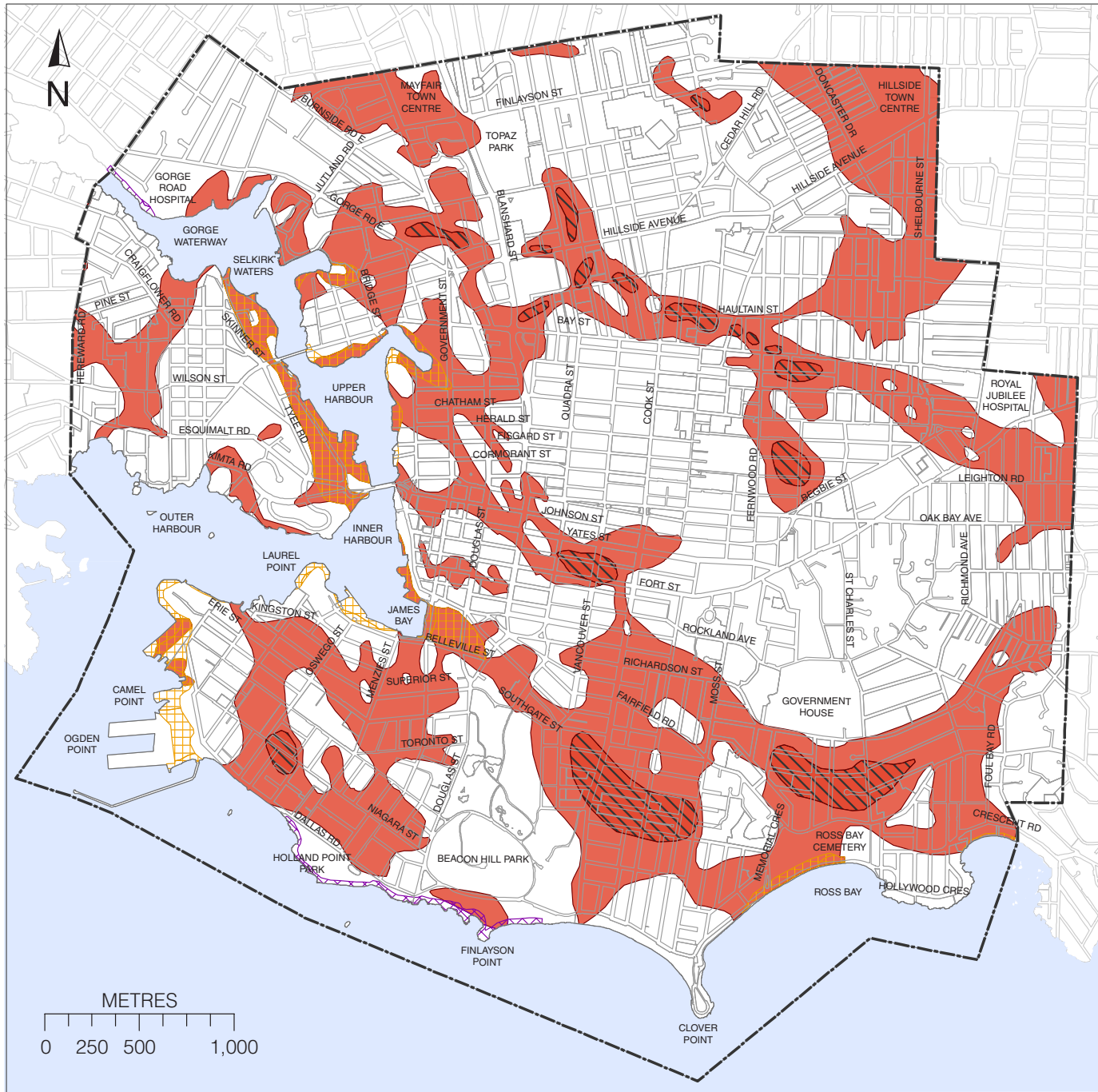
BROAD OBJECTIVES

The emergency management policies of this plan address 6 broad objectives:

- 17 (a) That the planning and delivery of emergency management is coordinated between governments, public agencies, service providers and community organizations.
- 17 (b) That disaster mitigation reduces the risk of major hazards, including a damaging earthquake event, to property owned by government, public utilities and citizens.
- 17 (c) That the City provides leadership in disaster mitigation by achieving high seismic standards in new facilities and in upgrades to existing civic buildings and infrastructure.
- 17 (d) That emergency preparedness is widespread in workplaces and households and supported in local area planning.
- 17 (e) That emergency response is coordinated and delivered efficiently and effectively for every area of the city.
- 17 (f) That the City is prepared for community recovery from a disaster with a short-to-long term plan.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT IN GENERAL

- 17.1. Establish and maintain partnerships with local, regional and senior governments, public agencies, service providers and community organizations for efficient and effective coordination of emergency management in the Capital Region.
- 17.2. Give consideration to emergency management in its four pillars of preparedness, response, post-event recovery and disaster mitigation in City all plans, policies and capital works.
- 17.3. Give consideration to the areas of seismic hazard identified on Map 14 in emergency preparedness, response, post-event recovery and disaster mitigation.



MAP 14
Seismic Hazard

-  High Slope Hazard
-  High Liquefaction Hazard
-  High to Very High Amplification Hazard
-  Moderate to High Amplification Hazard

Source:
Composite Relative Earthquake
Hazard Map, British Columbia
Geological Survey

City of Victoria
Official Community Plan 2011 (DRAFT)

- 17.4. Coordinate emergency planning and delivery of community services through the maintenance and regular update of the Victoria Emergency Management Plan, and the Emergency Response Plan.
- 17.5. Undertake an ongoing and citywide hazard, risk and vulnerability assessment, and consider the knowledge accumulated in City plans and decision-making for the maintenance, upgrade and replacement of infrastructure assets and City facilities.
- 17.6. Continue to allocate resources to emergency management including emergency services, support for community services and community organizations and public outreach.

DISASTER MITIGATION

- 17.7. Strengthen the City's capacity for emergency preparedness, response and post-disaster recovery through support for accumulation of knowledge about the seismic conditions of buildings, structures and critical infrastructure.
- 17.8. Encourage governments and public utility providers to invest in physical and technological upgrades that reduce the vulnerability of infrastructure to major hazards.
- 17.9. Encourage and support the efforts of senior and regional government, public utility providers and the private sector to strengthen the resiliency of infrastructure, buildings and structures to seismic events.
- 17.10. Continue incentives for seismic upgrades to owners of designated heritage property, and consider incentives for non-heritage properties that the City identifies as priorities in the development of a post-event recovery plan.
- 17.11. Continue to provide guidance to owners of properties on the Heritage Register to undertake seismic upgrades that are compatible with the National Standards and Guidelines for the Conservation of Historic Places in Canada.
- 17.12. Develop and adopt a policy to require new civic facilities and infrastructure, as appropriate, to achieve post-seismic standards.
- 17.13. Continue to strengthen the resiliency of civic buildings and infrastructure to seismic events through allocated resources, high standards and physical upgrades.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

- 17.14. Work with government, public agencies and community partners to encourage and promote a high level of emergency preparedness in the community through public outreach and public participation.
- 17.15. Engage with citizens and groups to enhance emergency preparedness in residences and workplaces and support community initiatives with the same purpose.
- 17.16. Take a leadership role by preparing City staff for official roles in response and recovery phases of an emergency event or a disaster event.

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

- 17.17. Continue to enhance public safety and coordination and delivery of policing and fire services through the maintenance and regular update of the Victoria Police Department Strategic Plan and the Emergency Response Plan, respectively.
- 17.18. Consider upgrading or replacing Fire Hall No. 1 with a new facility that meets the present and future requirements of the Victoria Fire Department for service delivery.

POST-DISASTER RECOVERY

- 17.19. Develop a post-disaster recovery plan for hazards that provides a decision framework for setting priorities to reinstate critical infrastructure, the rest of the built environment, services, and social activities throughout the community.
- 17.20. Develop a policy for the removal of debris after a disaster as part of solid waste management in partnership with the Capital Regional District.