



Bella Coola Emergency Response Plan

HAZARD ANNEX – EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE PLAN

Central Coast Regional District

*Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd
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Earthquake Emergency Response Plan



Table of Contents

1	<i>Earthquake Contacts</i>	3
1.1	Earthquake Emergency Action Diagram	4
2	<i>Introduction</i>	5
3	<i>Response Action</i>	5
3.1	Search & Rescue	6
3.1.1	S & R Callout	6
3.1.2	S & R Priority Areas	6
3.2	Damage Assessment	6
3.2.1	Damage Assessment Callout	6
3.2.2	Coordination of Resource Deployment	7
3.3	Damage Potential	7
3.3.1	Primary Local Vulnerabilities	8
4	<i>Appendices</i>	8
4.1	Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual	8
4.2	BC Earthquake Immediate Response Manual	8

1 Earthquake Contacts

Refer to Bella Coola EOC call out list.

The following individuals and organizations comprise the Bella Coola Earthquake Response Team:

Emergency Executive Committee – Coordinator

- CCRD Rep
- Secretary
- Nuxalk Rep

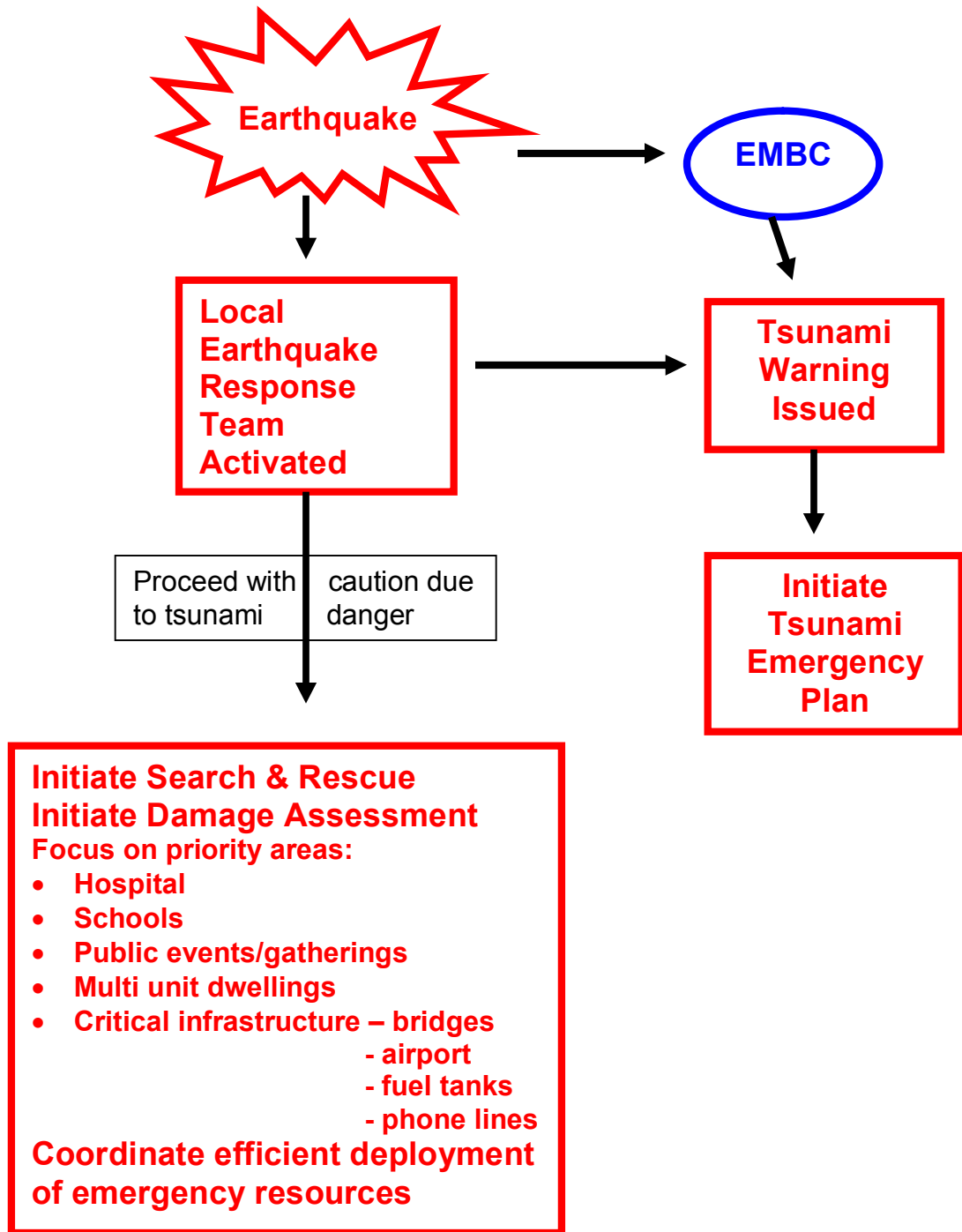
Emergency Response Core Team – RCMP

- Ambulance
- Communication Officer
- Public Information Officer
- ESS Officer
- Hospital

Emergency Response Operations – BC Wildfire

- Fire Halls – Townsite, Nuxalk (2), Hagensborg, Nusatsum
- Harbour Master
- Highways
- Interior Roads
- Rangers
- Columbia Fuels
- BC Hydro
- Airport
- DFO
- School District - BCE

1.1 Earthquake Emergency Action Diagram



2 Introduction

Earthquakes generally happen without warning, so initial emergency response actions must be virtually automatic and based on the locally available emergency resources. The activation of the local emergency program would be immediate once an earthquake is felt. Earthquakes can occur as a series of shocks so even if an earthquake appears minor, it is recommended that the local Earthquake Response Team be alerted in case there are more severe aftershocks.

Furthermore, given Bella Coola's proximity to the sea and distance to the main seismic fault in the Pacific Ocean, damage from tsunami poses a greater risk than damage caused by a typical earthquake. Therefore, an earthquake automatically triggers the Tsunami Emergency Response Plan as well.

The primary role of local emergency response following an earthquake is to initiate search and rescue along with damage assessment. This information would then be used to coordinate response to address areas of greatest need.

Refer to the Prepared BC – “Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual” (2015) in Appendix 1 and the “BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan” in Appendix 2 for further information.

3 Response Action

When an earthquake is experienced, the local Emergency Coordinator and/or the EEC would determine need to activate EOC. The EOC would immediately initiate response actions. The level of response would depend on the severity of the event and would vary from simple acknowledgement of the occurrence with no additional action needed to full deployment of search and rescue and comprehensive assessment of damage. **In initiating response and deploying personnel, the threat of tsunami must be carefully considered and integrated into response actions.**

When an earthquake is experienced, the following steps are recommended:

1. EC and/or EEC ascertain whether EOC is activated
2. Earthquake and/or Tsunami callout initiated
3. EOC established
4. Search and rescue initiated
5. Damage assessment initiated.
6. Remedial and recovery action coordinated.

3.1 Search & Rescue

For significant earthquake events, search and rescue would be initiated immediately under the direction of the EOC. In a significant event, RCMP, Fire Departments and ambulance can be expected to receive calls for assistance. It is important that EOC is notified of response and deployment of emergency services and that EOC initiates a coordinating function to deploy emergency help on a priority needs basis.

3.1.1 S & R Callout

- Neighbourhood Emergency Team (NET) Captains initiates neighbourhood callout and field check.
- RCMP
- Fire Departments
- Rangers
- GSAR

3.1.2 S & R Priority Areas

- Hospital
- Schools- Acswlacta, BCE, SDA, SAMS.
- Bella Coola old age home
- Bella Coola Valley Inn, Eagle Lodge, Mountain Lodge, Tweedsmuir Lodge
- Multi unit dwellings – primarily 4 Mile Reserve
- Public functions – Sunday church, Lobelco Hall, Nuxalk Hall
- Large offices – Band office, Credit Union, Gov Agent, Hatchery,
- Stores – Coop, Ace Hardware, Kopas, Hagensborg Mercantile.

3.2 Damage Assessment

3.2.1 Damage Assessment Callout

- NET Captains
- Hospital staff
- Government Ministries - MOTI
- Business contacts – BC Hydro, BC Tel, Columbia Fuels, Airport, Mechams gas station, Belco Service, Tallio Gas Bar, Hotels and stores.
- Government damage assessors.

- Insurance adjustors.

3.2.2 Coordination of Resource Deployment

Following a significant earthquake event, the immediate establishment and co-ordination of emergency service deployment is critical for effective response. Therefore:

1. EOC needs to be quickly established.
2. Operational contact links with RCMP, Fire Department and ambulance needs to be established immediately.
3. Ascertain extent of injuries, infrastructure damage and transportation disruption.
4. Rank reported emergency situations.
5. Deploy of emergency assistance to highest priority needs.

3.3 *Damage Potential*

An earthquake capable of structural damage (greater than 5 on the Richter scale) can be expected to strike somewhere in southwestern British Columbia once every ten years, and there are predictions that a very serious (8 to 9) earthquake is overdue for the Lower Mainland - Vancouver Island region. Such a quake would likely cause some problems in Bella Coola in terms of structural shake damage and disruption of power and supply lines. However, the greatest threat of damage from earthquake in Bella Coola would likely result from an associated tsunami or landslide.

Severe damage can be expected in areas within 100 km of epicenter and moderate amounts of damage within 300 km of epicenter. Injury to death ratios are 30:1 and hospitalization injury to death ratio is 4:1. In case of a large earthquake, other parts of the Province will likely be affected thus limiting the availability of outside emergency assistance as larger population centers will receive priority help.

Bella Coola is fortunate in the sense that there are relatively few multistory buildings, large structures or facilities that would be vulnerable to earthquake effects. However, damage to buildings, roads and runways, power and telephone lines, fuel lines, water lines and sewage systems; diversion of stream channels, and blockage of streams with subsequent flooding are possible. Damage may be minor or nearly total, local or regional. Debris removal and cleanup will be a concern after the event.

Fires can also be triggered by earthquakes and although it is not anticipated that these fires would be multi-structure catastrophes, it is conceivable that there would be numerous single structure fires that would severely tax fire fighting resources.

3.3.1 Primary Local Vulnerabilities

- Hospital
- Schools
- Power lines
- Phone lines
- Bridges
- Fuel tanks at harbour
- Airport
- Multi story buildings - Government Agent building, Bella Coola Valley Inn, Eagle Lodge, Mountain Lodge
- Hagensborg and Bella Coola/4 Mile and Smith subdivision water line distribution

4 Appendices

4.1 *Earthquake and Tsunami Smart Manual*

Prepare BC, 2015.

See CCRD EMP Annex D – EMBC Supporting Emergency Manuals

4.2 *BC Earthquake Immediate Response Manual*

2015

See CCRD EMP Annex D – EMBC Supporting Emergency Manuals.