



Bella Coola Emergency Response Plan

HAZARD ANNEX – SEVERE WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN

Central Coast Regional District

*Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd
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HAZARD ANNEX – SEVERE WEATHER

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1 Introduction

Extreme weather events may cause damage to critical infrastructure such as highways, bridges, utility and communications systems and cause all or portions of the Bella Coola Valley to become isolated. Homes and other structures may also be damaged by falling trees and high water. Effects of severe weather may require one or more emergency response plans to be activated, such as:

- **Flooding**
- **Infrastructure Failure**
- **Evacuation**

2 Severe Weather Response Organization

The damage that severe weather can cause is unpredictable but with modern technology, weather forecasting enables early warning and the ability to ‘batten down the hatches’. Therefore, the first step is to notify the community when severe weather is approaching.

2.1 *Weather Monitoring*

EMBC monitors weather provincially and will issue warnings when storm weather is forecasted.

The CCRD EC will notify members of the EEC when weather warnings are issued as well as the core EOC staff and reps from the local Inter-Agency Emergency Management Council. Depending on the severity of the forecasted storm, warnings may also need to be issued to the broader public. See the Communication Annex.

The EEC may determine that an EOC should be activated, even prior to the storm.

There are also many weather websites that provide forecasts for the general public to monitor.

2.2 Weathering the Storm

In most cases, people should be advised to 'shelter in place' during the course of the storm. Rescue and assistance may not be possible during the storm as conditions may be too dangerous for first responders to mobilize.

During the course of the storm, the EC and EEC will assess the severity of situation and activate EOC as required.

2.3 Assessing Damage

As the storm is subsiding, search and rescue may need to be initiated along with damage assessments. Agencies like BC Hydro and Interior Roads Ltd will initiate their own damage assessments and findings should be reported to the EC or EOC, if activated. It may be necessary to dispatch qualified personnel (Fire Departments, GSAR) to conduct field assessments of damage to homes and neighborhoods.

Focus on priority areas:

- Critical infrastructure –
 - Hydro
 - Phone lines
 - Bridges
 - Airport
 - Fuel tanks
- Hospital
- Schools
- Multi unit dwellings

2.4 Response Action

EOC Director to review situation reports and, initiate Emergency Response Plans as required to address specific issues.

ESS Personnel to play key role in assessing response requirements.

