



Bella Coola Emergency Response Plan

HAZARD ANNEX – TRANSPORT ACCIDENT RESPONSE PLAN

Central Coast Regional District

*Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd
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Transport Accident Emergency Response Plan

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1 Introduction

Transport accidents in Bella Coola may occur as **Marine, Air or Road** incidents. All of these accidents may involve a large number of persons, many of which may be non-residents of the Bella Coola Valley and who potentially will not have emotional support available locally. Marine and road accidents may also involve chemical and fuel spills requiring containment and clean-up.

Any accident involving multiple injuries or casualties will require a coordinated response between Bella Coola Emergency Program officials and the Bella Coola General Hospital, ambulance service, RCMP and perhaps other agencies like MOTI, DFO and MFLNRO. BCGH has contingencies addressed within the hospital's emergency plan that require the assistance of ESS in establishing and operating a reception centre at the neighbouring Bella Coola Elementary School to deal with minor injuries and support relatives and non-injured persons. In the early stages of EOC initiation the decision to establish such a reception centre must be addressed with priority.

2 Marine Accident

In the case of a local marine accident a response from the Coast Guard Station at Bella Bella will be requested, however the arrival time of these responders dictates that a local marine response may be necessary. Federal and provincial agencies with marine equipment will be notified and many commercial watercraft owners will be recruited to assist. The Bella Coola Harbourmaster is the logical source of contact information for commercial watercraft owners.

Dangerous goods are often transported by marine craft and an accident may involve fuel or chemical spills. Columbia Fuels has a trailer containing spill booms for containing fuels spills at the harbour. Western Marine is the industry agency equipped to respond to ocean fuel spills. They are based in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island and it will take a number of hours to days in order to mobilize to Bella Coola depending on weather.

3 Air Accident

An air accident could potentially involve the closure of the Bella Coola Airport resulting in additional concerns regarding accessing supplemental medical assistance or air-evacuation of severely injured patients. The 'Bed-line' organization, accessed by BCGH, has protocol in place to obtain medical evacuations using Canadian Armed Forces SAR helicopters. Local helicopter companies may be required to transport less injured patients from an accident site.

The Bella Coola Airport Authority maintains an emergency plan. Contact the airport manager to initiate.

4 Road Accident

RCMP and ambulance services are the lead first responders to deal with road accidents and they may ask for activation of EOC if there are multiple injuries or casualties.

The Nuxalk Fire Department possesses vehicle passenger extrication equipment (Jaws of Life) for use in serious vehicular accidents. Due to their west valley location, they must be dispatched quickly to respond to vehicle accidents in other parts of the valley.

Transportation of multiple casualties may be an issue during a major highway accident event. School busses may need to be employed to transport lesser injured victims in a timely fashion. Civilian emergency transport vehicles may also be called into service.

Road accident may also close Hwy 20 for an extended period but it is unlikely that the road closure would be long enough to have a significant effect on community services and supplies.