




PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

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# Peace River Regional District Agricultural Emergency Response Plan

November, 2025

***Final V1.0 – Public Version***

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## Executive Summary

The Agricultural Emergency Response Plan (AERP) is issued under the authority of the Peace River Regional District (PRRD) to guide the management of emergencies in the agriculture sector in the region. This plan aligns with British Columbia's (BC) new [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#) that replaced the [Emergency Management Act](#) in November 2023. It adheres to the BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS) and is to be used in conjunction with the PRRD's 2014 Emergency Management Plan, the PRRD Rural Emergency Response Plan, and the [Regional Climate Resiliency Plan](#).

This AERP outlines the operational framework for a coordinated response effort between emergency managers at the local, regional, provincial, and federal government levels, and the region's agricultural sector, specifically producers and processors. It covers the unincorporated rural areas of the PRRD, including Electoral Areas B, C, D and E, while acknowledging that First Nations and certain municipalities within the district such as Fort. St. John, Hudson's Hope, Taylor, the Village of Pouce Coupe, Chetwynd, Dawson Creek and Tumbler Ridge are responsible for their respective emergency management efforts.

This plan outlines procedures, considerations and actions for PRRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) staff and agricultural producers and processors to provide clear direction during emergencies. It outlines a set of core hazards which present risks to the agricultural sector within the PRRD, including:

Wildfire	Extreme Weather	Flood
Drought	Critical Service Disruption	Disease Outbreak

Although these hazards are points of focus, this plan and the processes described within may be applied to any hazard/emergency that contributes to risks and consequences for the PRRD's agricultural sector.

The PRRD's response to an agricultural emergency occurs within the EOC managed by the PRRD. While site-level response may involve various agricultural organizations and producers, the EOC provides support and coordination. This plan outlines the roles of EOC staff, specifically for agricultural emergencies.

The AERP provides guidance for the transition from normal operations to emergency response and back again. It offers direction on when the scope or intensity of an agricultural emergency exceeds normal capacities and requires a coordinated response supported by the PRRD EOC.

Key elements of the AERP include:

- **Strategies applicable before emergencies**, including the mitigation and planning actions to reduce the impact of emergencies on the agriculture sector within the PRRD;
- **Strategies to respond to and recover from emergencies** impacting the agriculture sector in the PRRD, including communication, coordination and evacuation strategies; and
- **Resources and tools to support the agriculture sector**, the PRRD EOC and other responding organizations with the management of emergencies impacting the agriculture sector in the PRRD.

This AERP is intended to be a living document, regularly updated to incorporate lessons learned from exercises, actual emergency events, and changes in the agricultural landscape of the Peace River region. It aims to enhance the resilience of the local agricultural sector and support a swift, coordinated response to emergencies affecting this vital component of the PRRD's economy and community.

# Acronyms

Acronym	Full Form
<b>AAFC</b>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
<b>AERP</b>	Agricultural Emergency Response Plan
<b>BCAC</b>	British Columbia Agriculture Council
<b>BCCA</b>	British Columbia Cattlemen's Association
<b>BCCDC</b>	British Columbia Centre for Disease Control
<b>BCEMS</b>	British Columbia Emergency Management System
<b>BCWS</b>	British Columbia Wildfire Service
<b>CEMRS</b>	Canadian Emergency Management Response System
<b>CFIA</b>	Canadian Food Inspection Agency
<b>DFAA</b>	Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements
<b>DMCEM</b>	Deputy Ministers' Committee on Emergency Management (BC)
<b>ECC</b>	Emergency Coordination Centre (BC)
<b>EMBC</b>	Emergency Management BC (EMCR's previous name)
<b>EMCR</b>	Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (BC)
<b>ENV</b>	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (BC)
<b>EOC</b>	Emergency Operations Centre
<b>ESS</b>	Emergency Support Services
<b>FADES</b>	Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support
<b>FPT</b>	Federal, Provincial, and Territorial Governments
<b>GIS</b>	Geographical Information System
<b>HLTH</b>	Ministry of Health (BC)
<b>HSP</b>	Hazard Specific Plan
<b>IAP</b>	Incident Action Plan
<b>IC</b>	Incident Commander
<b>ICS</b>	Incident Command System
<b>ISC</b>	Indigenous Services Canada
<b>JEOC</b>	Joint Emergency Operations Centre
<b>JIC</b>	Joint Information Centre
<b>LMIS</b>	Livestock Market Interruption Strategy
<b>MAF</b>	Ministry of Agriculture and Food (BC)
<b>MOF</b>	Ministry of Forests (BC)
<b>MOTI</b>	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (BC)
<b>N/A</b>	Not Applicable
<b>NCFAD</b>	National Centre for Foreign Animal Diseases
<b>PHAC</b>	Public Health Agency of Canada
<b>PECC</b>	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (BC)
<b>PREOC</b>	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (BC)
<b>PRRD</b>	Peace River Regional District

## How to use this plan

The AERP provides a framework for all individuals and entities involved in the management of emergencies impacting the agricultural sector in the PRRD, in particular the PRRD EOC staff and the agriculture sector within the PRRD. For the purposes of this plan, agriculture farmers/ranchers will be referred to as “producers” and agriculture processors will be referred to as “processors”, and the “agriculture sector” will refer to both producers and processors. The AERP:

- Provides unique considerations for the agriculture sector in the PRRD.
- Provides guidance for EOC personnel.
- Is intended to work in conjunction with the PRRD's Emergency Management Plan (EMP).
- Is designed to work with First Nations, municipal, and provincial plans.
- Integrates agricultural emergency needs into broader emergency management; and
- Covers the 4-phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery.

The AERP is not a standalone document, as it is part of a comprehensive approach to emergency management in the PRRD. It ensures that the diverse requirements of the agriculture sector are considered effectively during emergencies. This AERP is intended to be used primarily by the agriculture sector and PRRD EOC personnel and is divided into the following three primary sections (see Table 1). Each section and sub-section contains recommended actions and guidance that may serve the agriculture sector.

Section	Contents
<b>1. Before Emergencies</b> (Planning and Mitigation)	1.1 Assess and Understand Risk 1.2 Mitigate Hazards and Lower Risk 1.3 Develop Emergency Plans 1.4 Train Personnel and Test Plans 1.5 Review and Update Plans
<b>2. During Emergencies</b> (Response)	2.1 Activate Response Personnel 2.2 Coordinate and Communicate 2.3 Implement Response Strategies
<b>3. After Emergencies</b> (Recovery)	3.1 Activate Recovery Structures 3.2 Conduct Damage Assessments 3.3 Re-Entry 3.4 Reimbursement 3.5 Rehabilitation

*Table 1: AERP Contents*

The AERP also includes additional information, resources, and tools within the Appendices, including:

- Key acronyms and definitions (Appendix A)
- Key contact information (Appendix B)
- Information regarding relevant authorities, legislation, and policies (Appendix C)
- Hazard-specific considerations (Appendix D);
- Guidance specific to various parts of the agriculture sector (Appendix E); and
- Key resources and links (Appendix F).

## Regional Agricultural Profile

The PRRD is a vital agricultural area in British Columbia, characterized by a diverse and robust farming landscape encompassing nearly 825,000 hectares of farmland. This represents 32.5% of BC's total farmland area. This profile is based on census data, engagement with local subject matter experts and contributions from local agricultural associations. The PRRD's distinct climate, featuring long daylight hours and a shorter growing season, combined with a large average farm size of 537.5 hectares, underscores the crucial importance of emergency preparedness for maintaining agricultural productivity and economic stability<sup>1</sup>.

The region's agricultural output is diverse, with approximately 348,065 hectares (46.8%) of farmland dedicated to various crops. Key crops include hay, field crops, field vegetables, fruits and nuts, sod, and nursery products. Livestock production is also significant, particularly cattle and calves, with 116,328 reported (14.4% of BC's total), including 53,463 beef cows (18.1% of the provincial total). Other livestock contribute to the region's agricultural diversity, including sheep (13,080), goats (1,302), horses (3,301), poultry (chickens [215,000], turkeys [3,127], and other [26,247]), bison (13,402) and honeybees (2,048 colonies) which contribute to the region's agricultural diversity as of 2021<sup>2</sup>.



*Figure 1: Peace River Regional District Map*

Overall, the agricultural profile of the PRRD reflects a diverse and evolving farming community, characterized by a mix of traditional and modern practices, a strong emphasis on crop and livestock production, and a growing interest in food sustainability and environmentally conscious farming practices<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> Peace River Regional District Regional Agricultural Plan

<sup>2</sup> [2021 Agriculture in Brief – Peace River Census Agriculture Region](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Regional Guidebook to the Peace](#)



# Emergency Management in British Columbia

## Authority & Legislation

BC's *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) outlines the emergency powers, authorities, and responsibilities of the provincial government, local authorities and other parties. The PRRD serves as the local authority for the unincorporated areas of the Peace River region. To review a full list of relevant legislation and policies, see Appendix C. In summary, with respect to emergency management, the PRRD is responsible for:

- Planning for and responding to emergencies in the unincorporated rural areas (Electoral Areas B, C, D and E).
- Activating and managing the PRRD's EOC.
- Coordinating local/regional resources during response and recovery efforts.
- Liaising and coordinating with First Nations, local governments, the provincial government and other partners before, during and after emergencies.

## The 4-Phase Emergency Cycle

Each phase serves an important role for effective emergency management in the agriculture sector.

- **Preparedness** ensures readiness,
- **Mitigation** reduces potential impacts,
- **Response** minimizes immediate damage, and
- **Recovery** helps return to normal operations while improving future resilience.

By integrating these phases into their operations, producers and processors can better protect their employees, products, and business continuity in the face of emergencies and disasters.

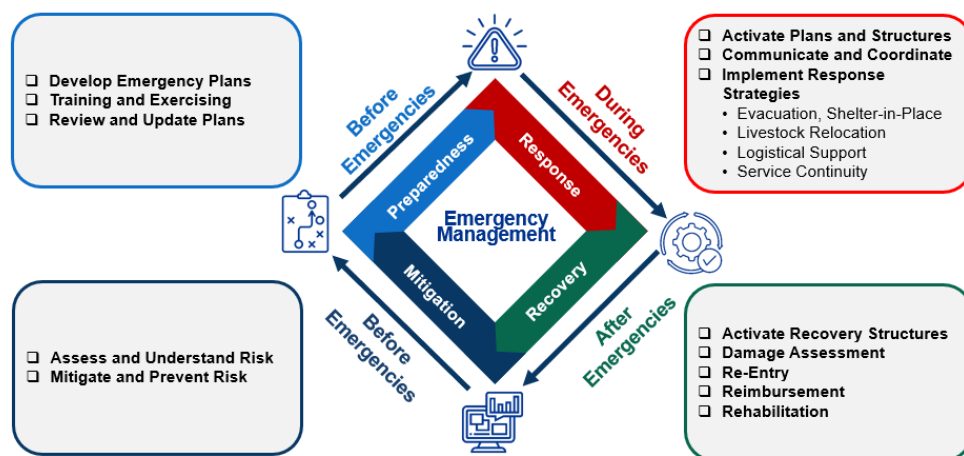


Figure 2: Phases of Emergency Management

## Roles in Emergency Management

[Emergency Management in British Columbia](#) involves collaboration between government agencies, businesses, non-profit organizations and the public. Table 1 provides a summary of roles across emergency management actors in BC, as described by the Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness.

Within the broader agriculture sector, **farmers and ranchers** are the foundation of agriculture production. **Producers** are the individuals and families who grow crops and food for human and livestock consumption and raise livestock. **Processors** transform raw agriculture products into consumable food or feed products. In the agriculture sector, both the producer and processor play a crucial role in emergency management. Their actions are essential for protecting their operations, livestock and the broader food supply chain, with “Food” being one of the ten Critical Infrastructure Sectors acknowledged in Canada.

Role	Description
Governments	All levels of government play an important role by creating policies, plans and partnerships, including investing in tools and strategies.  In accordance with the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> , the PRRD is a local authority. Local authorities play an important role in coordinating emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts for the agriculture sector within their jurisdiction. Local authorities act as a bridge between the agriculture sector, provincial authorities and federal agencies, ensuring effective communication and resource allocation during emergencies.
Indigenous Communities	Indigenous communities can use traditional and local knowledge to support risk reduction and preparedness in their communities. This invaluable knowledge can also inform best practices on approaching disaster risk reduction across British Columbia.
Private Sector and Critical Infrastructure	It's important that the private sector and critical infrastructure operators promote awareness of disaster risk reduction to their employees, while also having business continuity plans. Planning helps ensure service interruptions, restoration and recovery periods are as short as possible. Operators can also undertake risk-informed investment and practices to support national and community resilience to disasters.
Volunteer and Non-Profits	Non-profit organizations, are critical in promoting awareness and preparedness through partnerships, research, expertise and public education. Together with our valued volunteers, they also play a vital role in response and shortening the recovery period.
Individuals	Individuals must be responsible for their personal readiness including learning about disaster risks and taking steps to increase household, neighbourhood and community preparedness.
Science, Technology, and Academia	Researching the successes and benefits of the emergency management cycle provides scientific evidence of how it works and can be effectively implemented. It also exposes areas for improvement and cost-effectiveness.

Table 2: Roles in emergency management in BC

## Evacuations

Evacuations are a crucial procedure for ensuring safety during emergencies. Evacuations protect people from imminent threats or hazards by moving the at-risk population to a safe location. The PRRD has established comprehensive guidelines for evacuation and shelter-in-place procedures, recognizing the diverse hazards present in the area, including extensive oil and gas industrial development, transportation of dangerous goods, seasonal wildfire and flood threats and severe winter weather.

Severe emergency events may force members of the agriculture sector, including people and animals, to evacuate. This may require the relocation of livestock to safer areas, such as another farm location, auction marts, fairgrounds or other places deemed safe for animals. The BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness and the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food have developed a policy ([Policy 2.01 – Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency](#)) to support livestock relocation under specific conditions. Those within the agriculture sector who need assistance can contact their local authorities or the PRRD's Emergency Operations Centre.

In BC, certain key terminology is used across the province in relation to various types and stages of evacuations. This includes the following:

<b>Evacuation Alert</b>	The event has escalated, be ready to leave on short notice.
<b>Evacuation Order</b>	You are at risk. Leave the area immediately.
<b>Tactical Evacuation</b>	This happens when a sudden threat to life requires immediate action and there is no time to prepare or issue written warnings. These types of evacuations are often coordinated by BC Wildfire Service and/or the RCMP or local police, with assistance from other agencies.
<b>Evacuation Rescinded</b>	The risk to life and safety has now passed.

*Table 3: Evacuation Terminology*

## Shelter-in-Place

During certain emergencies, direction may be provided by emergency management officials to stay indoors. Shelter-in-place is a critical emergency response strategy that can be used when evacuation may be more dangerous than remaining in place. This protective action is typically used during short-term emergencies such as hazardous material releases, public health emergencies, severe weather events or situations involving criminal activity. The goal is to create a safe indoor environment until the threat has passed or authorities deem it safe to leave.

## Communication During Evacuations and/or Sheltering-in-Place

The approach to communicating information regarding anticipated or ongoing evacuations and/or following direction to shelter-in-place will be dependent on the issuing authority. In BC, the Emergency and Disaster Management Act enables local authorities (including the PRRD) and the Province to issue Evacuation Orders.

If the PRRD issues an Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order, several methods may be used to communicate the information:

- Radio and television bulletins
- Alert Systems ([NEBC Alerts](#))
- Websites and Social Media
- Door-to-door contact by BCWS, RCMP or Search & Rescue for evacuations (if safe)

The table below highlights useful emergency communication and information sources to be referenced by the agriculture sector. There are regionally-specific radio stations such as Fort St. John (FSJ), Dawson Creek (DC) and Chetwynd (CW).

Type	Network	Contact / Source / Link
Radio	CBC Radio One	1-(888) 416-8333
	Radio One (FSJ)	88.3 FM
	Move (FSJ)	98.5 FM
	Moose FM (FSJ)	100.1 FM
	The GOAT (FSJ)	101.5 FM
	Radio One (DC)	89.7 FM
Alert Systems	CJDC (DC)	890 AM
	ICI Radio – Canada Premiere	93.7 FM
Alert Systems	CHET FM (CW)	94.5 FM
	North East BC Emergency & Public Alerts	<a href="#">NEBC Alerts</a>
Websites	Province of BC Emergency Alerts	<a href="#">BC Emergency Alerts</a>
	EmergencyInfoBC Web Page	<a href="#">EmergencyInfoBC</a>
Social Media	PRRD Emergency Services Web Page	<a href="#">PRRD Emergency Services</a>
	PRRD Facebook Page	<a href="#">PRRD's Facebook page</a>
	X (Twitter)	<a href="#">@EmergencyInfoBC</a>
	Facebook	<a href="#">PreparedBC</a>
	Instagram	<a href="#">Prepared BC</a>

Table 4: Expanded Emergency Information Sources

## 1. Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness)

Planning before emergencies is an essential aspect of emergency management across all organizations. These efforts are often categorized into two of the four phases of emergency management: **Mitigation and Preparedness**. Mitigation focuses on reducing the impact of potential disasters through strategic planning and actions to assess, understand, mitigate and prevent risk. Preparedness involves planning and organizing to ensure readiness for potential emergencies, which includes developing plans, updating contact lists, training and exercising emergency plans. Planning before emergencies involves many variables and accounts that consider a variety of scenarios to ensure that each possibility has been addressed properly to maximize the effectiveness of the plan.

Table 5 outlines a series of key steps for mitigation and preparedness before emergencies. Each step contains recommended and/or required actions specific to the Agriculture Sector and/or the PRRD.

Step	Purpose
<b>1.1 Assess and Understand Risk</b>	To prioritize future mitigation and preparedness efforts.
<b>1.2 Mitigate Hazards and Lower Risk</b>	To reduce the occurrence and anticipated consequences of emergencies and disasters.
<b>1.3 Develop Emergency Plans</b>	To have processes, guidance and critical information ready to be used during an active emergency.
<b>1.4 Train Personnel and Test Plans</b>	To ensure that responding personnel understand how to respond accordingly, and plans are suited for various emergencies
<b>1.5 Review and Update Plans</b>	To continuously improve and incorporate lessons learned from recent events, exercises and advancements.

*Table 5: Summary of steps to take before emergencies.*

## 1.1 Assess and Understand Risk

To effectively mitigate and prepare for emergencies and disasters, it is necessary to first assess and understand risk. This process includes:

- Identifying potential hazards and threats specific to the organization or region.
- Evaluating the likelihood and potential impact of each identified risk.
- Prioritizing risks based on their severity and probability.

In BC, the primary approach for conducting risk assessments is through a Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA), a systematic process used to identify potential hazards and assess their likelihood and potential impacts on a community or region. The PRRD conducted an official HRVA as part of its 2014 Emergency Response Plan (ERP).

Utilizing the original 2014 ERP and HRVA, updated research, and engagement with subject matter experts (including members of the PRRD's agriculture sector), an amended assessment and HRVA has been produced for the following key hazards presenting risks to the agricultural sector in the PRRD:

<b>Wildfire</b>	<b>Extreme Weather</b>	<b>Flood</b>
<b>Drought</b>	<b>Critical Service Disruption</b>	<b>Disease Outbreak</b>

Below is a summary of the recommended and required actions in relation to this step.

<b>Recommended Actions</b>	<b>Recommended Approach</b>
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Assess hazards that may present risks to your specific operations and assets.	Using the PRRD HRVA (provided in Appendix D) as a baseline, identify which hazards are most likely to impact operational assets, identify the potential consequences of each impact and prioritize the hazards/risks accordingly.
<b>Required Actions</b>	<b>Applicable Legislation</b>
<b>PRRD:</b> Prepare and maintain an assessment of all hazards that may present risks to the Region.	<i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act (51: Risk Assessments)</i>

Table 6: Before Emergencies – Step 1.1 Actions

## 1.2 Mitigate Hazards and Lower Risk

After identifying significant and relevant hazards, the next step is to **develop strategies to mitigate and prevent the identified high priority risks**. Table 7 provides example mitigation and prevention measures that may be considered/implemented. Members of the agriculture sector should use their own critical judgement regarding how best to mitigate and prevent risk for their own unique circumstances. For hazard-specific measures for mitigation and prevention, see Appendix D: Hazard-Specific Considerations.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Register for notifications and register for early warning systems.	Register for <a href="#">North East BC Emergency &amp; Public Alerts</a> .
<b>Agriculture Sector Associations:</b> Provide relevant materials to agriculture sector members.	<b>Associations:</b> Distribute relevant emergency management resources / guidance to members, in advance of high-risk seasons (e.g., wildfire season). <b>Association Members:</b> Contact local agriculture associations to gain access to any relevant emergency management resources / guidance.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Consider the implementation of infrastructure protection measures.	Establish a schedule for assessing current and potential mitigation measures. This may include using FireSmart guidance, conducting regular maintenance of buildings and equipment and elevating critical equipment in flood-prone areas.  <b>Key Resource:</b> <a href="#">FireSmart: Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness</a>
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Prepare adequate stockpiles of critical resources.	Store emergency supplies to sustain operations and assets for an extended period of time (e.g., 1-2 weeks). This may include fuel reserves for equipment and vehicles or extra feed and water for livestock.

Table 7: Before Emergencies – Step 1.2 Actions

### 1.3 Develop Emergency Plans

As per the guidance of the [BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness](#), everyone has a part to play in every stage of emergency management. Individuals in BC are responsible for their personal readiness, and it is important for the private sector and critical infrastructure to have plans to manage emergencies and services disruptions. The diversity of the agriculture sector suggests that there will be variation in the approaches used to prepare emergency plans – however, the recommended actions in Table 8 may be considered to support planning efforts.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Prepare an emergency management plan to respond to risks that are relevant to each unique circumstance.	Start with a simple plan that includes the most important information, such as contact information, procedures for communications (i.e., who will you be communicating with and how) and evacuations procedures. Consider BC government resources, including those available on the <a href="#">Emergency management for agriculture</a> web page.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> If applicable, add information that's relevant to the evacuation of livestock.	Consider including the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evacuation transportation resources (e.g., trucks, trailers);</li> <li>• Pre-arranged evacuation routes and destinations;</li> <li>• Time required to load/unload livestock;</li> <li>• Any special feed/care considerations at evacuation locations;</li> <li>• Map(s) of the location(s), including details such as fences, gates, and water sources;</li> <li>• Animal identification information.</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Incorporate business continuity and industry-specific information.	Consider including aspects that correspond to specific industry and context – this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Procedures to maintain critical power supplies (e.g., generators) and other services;</li> <li>• Procedures to manage equipment malfunctions;</li> <li>• Contact information for local institutions that are relevant to the scope of the plan;</li> <li>• Any agreements with other members of the agriculture sector to provide mutual support during emergencies.</li> </ul>
Required Actions	Applicable Legislation
<b>Agriculture Sector (Poultry and Livestock Owners):</b> Ensure registration with the BC Premises Identification (BCPID) program for all lands where animals are kept, assembled or disposed of.	<i>BC Animal Health Act</i> Note: Limitations of the BCPID prevent owners from selecting multiple locations. Consider including the BCPID login information in the plan and review the data on a regular basis to ensure livestock types, numbers and location is current.
<b>PRRD:</b> Maintain an emergency management plan	<i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i> (52 – Emergency management plans).

Table 8: Before Emergencies – Step 1.3 Actions – Develop Emergency Plans

## 1.4 Training and Exercising

Effective training, exercising and capacity-building supports readiness for all individuals and organizations involved in managing emergencies. A comprehensive training and exercise schedule allows individuals and organizations to become familiar with plans, procedures and roles, while also practicing responses to real-world scenarios. This builds competence and confidence among personnel that may be involved in responding to emergencies. Table 9 summarizes the recommended actions in relation to this step.



Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<p><b>PRRD:</b> Apply for funding to conduct annual agriculture sector-related training and exercising (e.g., Agriculture Coordinator training on Expenditure Authorization Forms and Livestock Relocation Worksheets).</p> <p>Pending approvals, develop and implement an annual training and exercise approach that aligns with known risks and available resources.</p>	<p>Consider incorporating one or more of the following in the training and exercise approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role-specific training sessions</li> <li>• Evacuation drills</li> <li>• Discussion-based exercises (e.g., tabletop exercises)</li> <li>• Regular reviews of emergency management plans and documentation</li> </ul>
Required Actions	Applicable Legislation
<p><b>PRRD:</b> Emergency management plans developed and maintained by local authorities (including the PRRD) are required to describe “the emergency management training and exercise programs that will be conducted” (e.g., a training and exercise plan to test the activation and operation of the local authority’s EOC).</p>	<p><i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act (52(2)(e) – Emergency Management Plans).</i></p>

*Table 9: Before Emergencies – Step 1.4 Actions – Training and Exercising*

## 1.5 Review and Update Plans

The AERP has been created as a living document with the intention of regular updates when new information becomes available. The role of review, evaluation and updating is the responsibility of the General Manager of Protective Services or designate within the PRRD. Table 10 summarizes the recommended actions in relation to this step.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<p><b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Establish an “owner” of the emergency management planning documents and update the documentation as appropriate.</p>	<p>Based on industry standards, the recommended timing for plan updates includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual plan review during the "slow" season;</li> <li>• Updates after significant events, exercises; and</li> <li>• Regular reviews to align with changes in contact information, legislation, policies, or organizational structures.</li> </ul>

*Table 10: Before Emergencies – Step 1.5 Actions – Review and Update Plans*

## 2. During Emergencies (Response)

This section is intended to support plan users with information, processes and strategies during active emergencies impacting the agriculture sector in the PRRD. "**Response**" in the context of emergency management in BC refers to the "actions taken in direct response to an imminent or occurring emergency/disaster in order to manage its consequences". This phase of emergency management involves measures to limit loss of life, minimize suffering and reduce personal injury and property damage. It also includes the initiation of plans and actions to support recovery.

The PRRD EMP outlines the full scope of actions that the PRRD and relevant responding organizations may take to manage the response to emergencies. To respond to emergencies impacting the agriculture sector, the following key steps in Table 11 are outlined within this section. Each step contains recommended and/or required actions specific to the Agriculture Sector and/or the PRRD.

Step	Purpose
<b>2.1 Activate Response Personnel</b>	To notify and mobilize personnel that will be involved in managing the emergency and establish appropriate response structures.
<b>2.2 Coordinate and Communicate</b>	To establish clear coordination and communication structures leading to a more informed and organized response effort across individuals and organizations.
<b>2.3 Implement Response Strategies</b>	To take specific actions that will reduce or eliminate the consequences of an active emergency.
<b>2.4 Activate Recovery Personnel</b>	To consider the activation of recovery personnel early on, and, if required, initiate the deployment of the appropriate personnel to begin managing recovery efforts.

Table 11: Summary of steps to take during emergencies.

### 2.1 Activate Response Personnel

The first critical step in responding to emergencies impacting the agriculture sector in the PRRD involves the activation of appropriate response personnel and structures. Recommended actions specific to the activation of response personnel are described within Table 13.

#### 2.1.1 Activating the PRRD's Response Personnel and Structure

The primary emergency response structure for the PRRD is the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The PRRD will utilize "Activation Triggers" defined within the PRRD Emergency Management Plan to determine when to activate the EOC at an appropriate response level. Standard activation levels are included in Table 12.

Activation Level	Description
<b>Level 1: Standby</b>	Key personnel are alerted for potential deployment to the EOC.
<b>Level 2: Partial Activation</b>	Some personnel within the EOC are activated to respond.
<b>Level 3: Full Activation</b>	The EOC is fully staffed across EOC Sections and Branches.

Table 12: PRRD EOC Activation Levels

In the context of emergencies impacting the agriculture sector, the PRRD's EOC may deploy one or more **Agriculture Coordinator(s)** within the Operations Section (see Figure 3) to support regional-level coordination. The **Agriculture Coordinator** serves as the bridge between the agriculture sector and emergency management structures and will maintain the following key responsibilities:

- **Agriculture Sector Communication and Information Sharing:** Serve as the primary point of contact between the PRRD and representatives of the affected agriculture sector within the PRRD. In the context of available tools and resources, the Agriculture Coordinator will make best efforts to keep the agriculture sector informed about the emergency, response objectives and other key information.
- **Agriculture Sector Coordination:** Coordinate with other personnel actively involved in response activities relating to the agriculture sector, including producer and processor associations, government Agriculture Coordinator and emergency managers across responding organizations.
- **Response Strategy Implementation:** Support the implementation and coordination of agriculture sector-specific response strategies, including livestock-specific evacuations.

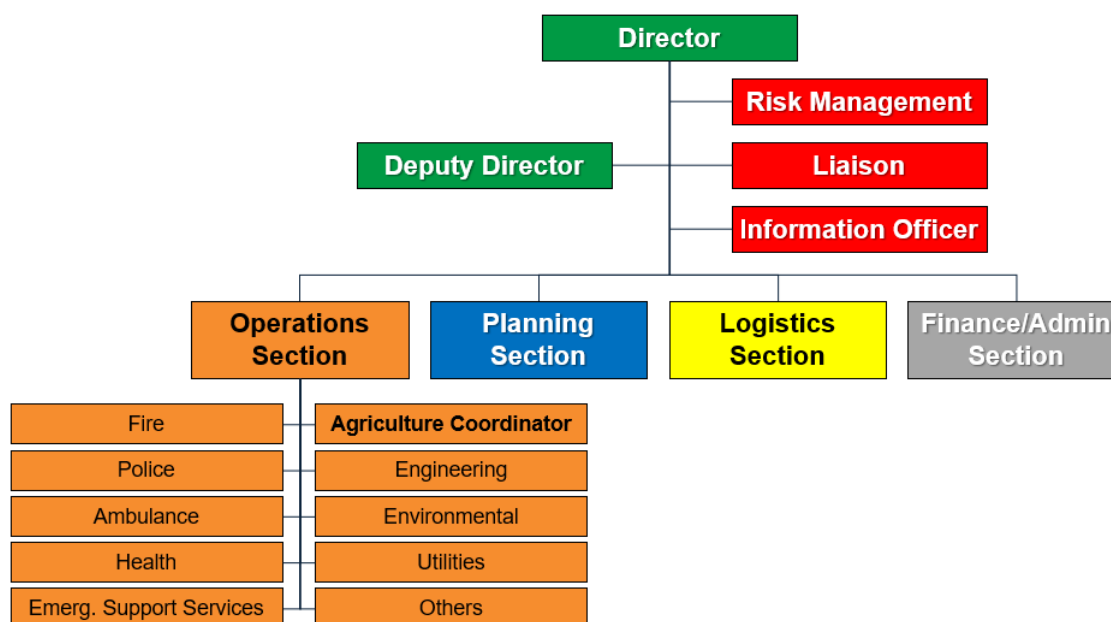


Figure 3: Adapted PRRD EOC organizational structure highlighting the **Agriculture Coordinator**

## 2.1.2 Activating the Agriculture Sector's Response Personnel and Structure

Outside of the PRRD's EOC activation, each individual and organization operating within the PRRD's agriculture sector will have a unique set of personnel that may be "activated" to respond to an active emergency. The extent of personnel and their respective roles may depend on many factors, including, and not limited to:

- Proximity, severity and/or immediacy of the emergency to the individual/organization.
- Official warnings, notifications and/or Evacuation Orders issued by responding organizations.
- Available resources and support to activate.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Notify all individuals that are or are anticipated to be involved in responding to the emergency.	Contact all appropriate individuals that may be involved in the emergency using available communications tools. Verbal notifications (i.e., phone calls) help to ensure that that recipient is aware of the situation relative to other approaches (e.g., email).
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Ensure that all responding personnel have access to plans, procedures and critical information (e.g., key contact information).	Consider having both physical and digital copies of critical documentation and information available to support their response efforts. Share the most recent versions of documentation, and any relevant information about the current situation.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Notify the appropriate contacts of your decision to activate your personnel, and the rationale for activation.	Consider notifying the following: the PRRD EOC, partner organizations and associations within the agriculture sector and other persons/organizations that may benefit from this information.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Plan for the potential duration of the activation, and what support resources may be required to sustain the response effort.	Consider what the anticipated duration of the event may be, and if the current activated personnel will be sufficient to sustain response efforts throughout the duration.

*Table 13: During Emergencies – Step 2.1 Actions – Activate Response Personnel*

## 2.2 Communicate and Coordinate

The second critical step is to communicate and coordinate throughout the duration of the emergency. Communication may begin even before an emergency occurs (e.g., a dry lightning storm or severe flood is forecasted) and communication and coordination should persist until the response effort concludes.

Effective communication is a cornerstone of managing all emergencies, including those that impact the agricultural sector. Communication and coordination during emergencies can be complex due to the large number of responding individuals and organizations. Some key responding organizations and personnel that may activate in response to an emergency impacting the agricultural sector include the following in Table 14.

<b>Agriculture Sector Members</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Individual farms, ranches, and/or businesses</li> <li>• Agriculture sector associations (e.g., BC Cattleman's Association, Peace River Forage Association, BC Grain Producers)</li> </ul>
<b>Local Governments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PRRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)</li> <li>• First Nation EOCs</li> <li>• Other Local Authority having jurisdiction EOCs</li> <li>• Agriculture Coordinators (ACs) deployed into an active EOC</li> </ul>
<b>Provincial Entities</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)</li> <li>- The North East (NEA) Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC)</li> <li>- The 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Provincial Wildfire Control Centre (PWCC)</li> <li>- The Prince George (PG) Fire Centre</li> <li>- Incident Management Team(s) (IMTs)</li> <li>- Rancher Liaison(s) (deploy within IMTs to focus on rancher-specific response efforts)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) Agriculture and Food Sector Liaisons</li> <li>• Hazard Experts (e.g., Ministry of Forests – Landslides; Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship – Flooding/Drought)</li> </ul>

*Table 14: Entities involved in coordinating during emergencies impacting the agriculture sector*

On the following pages, *Figure 4: All-Hazards Coordination Structure* and *Figure 5: Wildfire-Specific Coordination Structure* provide simplified illustrations for how the above organizations and personnel are anticipated to interact and coordinate during emergencies.

## 2.2.1 All-Hazards Coordination Structure

Figure 4 below is a simplified illustration for how key responding personnel and organizations may be anticipated to interact during an emergency that impacts the agriculture sector in the PRRD. This illustration is intended for “All-Hazards” (e.g., any type of emergency, such as a flood, storm or major infrastructure-related event) – this coordination structure may apply in most circumstances.

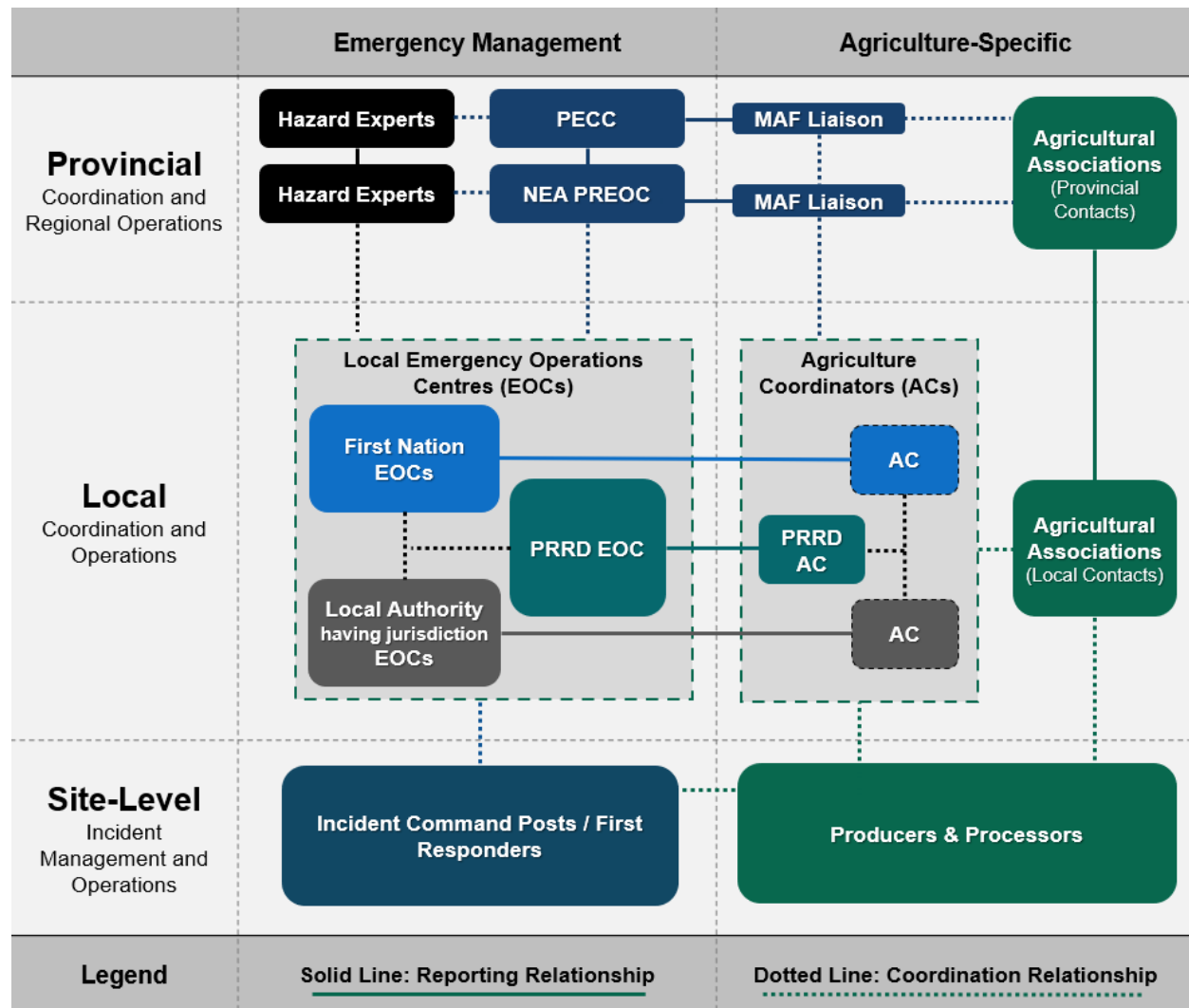


Figure 4: All-Hazards Coordination Structure

## 2.2.2 Wildfire-Specific Coordination Structure

For certain hazards/emergencies, such as wildfires, additional key organizations and personnel may be incorporated into the coordination structure. Key responding entities within BC Wildfire's response structure are illustrated below in Figure 5 to provide insight into how their response structure is anticipated to interact with the broader response structure. Depending on the scope and scale of the emergency this is not an exhaustive set of personnel/organizations that may be involved in the response effort.

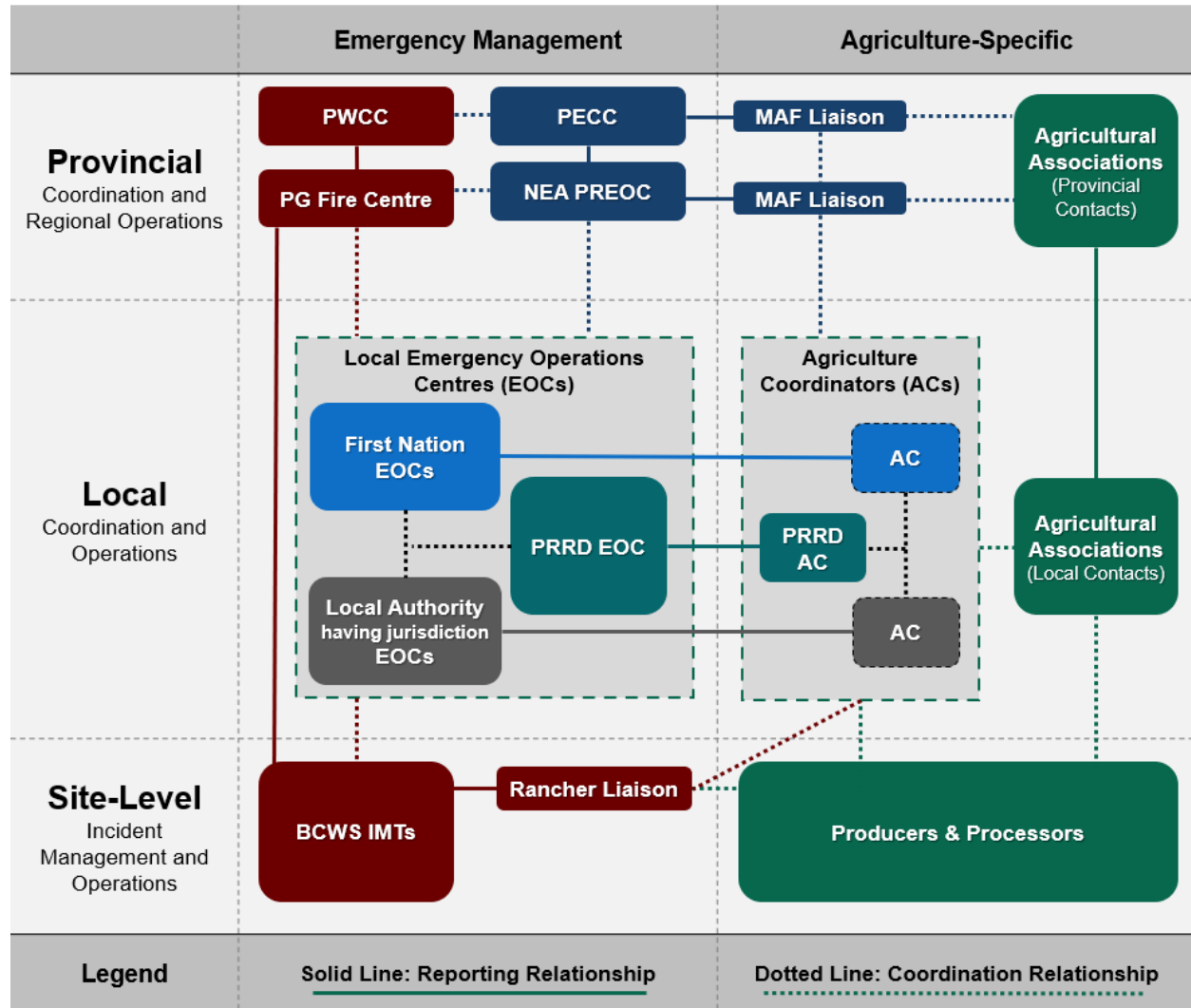


Figure 5: Wildfire-Specific Coordination Structure

## 2.2.3 Agriculture Sector Communication and Coordination

This section outlines key considerations and recommended actions (described within Table 15) to support the agriculture sector with staying informed, connected and able to respond effectively to the evolving situation. Leading practices in emergency management indicate that communication and coordination is a shared responsibility, requiring each responding individual and organization to actively contribute to this effort. Utilizing the recommendations can support a coordinated response across all individuals and organizations involved.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Designate a primary point of contact to communicate with emergency responders and authorities, including the PRRD EOC (if/when activated).	Designate an individual to serve as the primary point of contact for emergency management efforts. Provide the contact information of this individual and any other relevant information to key responding organizations (e.g., the PRRD EOC).
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Regularly monitor official communication channels (e.g., see Table 16) for updates.	Utilize the Communications Resources provided below to stay informed of any significant updates on the situation.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Report any significant information to the PRRD EOC and other critical responding personnel/organizations.	Communicate any emerging information and actions to the emergency management personnel/organizations (e.g., the PRRD EOC) – this may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Significant escalation of risk;</li> <li>• Significant impacts to personnel/operations; or</li> <li>• Decisions to plan for or implement evacuation procedures.</li> </ul>

Table 15: During Emergencies – Step 2.2 Actions – Agriculture Sector Communication and Coordination

Table 16 below provides a non-exhaustive list of communication resources which can be used for updates on active emergencies.

Type	Network	Contact / Source / Link
<b>Radio</b>	CBC Radio One	1-(888) 416-8333
	Radio One (FSJ)	88.3 FM
	Move (FSJ)	98.5 FM
	Moose FM (FSJ)	100.1 FM
	The GOAT (FSJ)	101.5 FM
	Radio One (DC)	89.7 FM
	CJDC (DC)	890 AM
	ICI Radio – Canada Premiere	93.7 FM
<b>Websites</b>	CHET FM (CW)	94.5 FM
	EmergencyInfoBC Web Page	<a href="#">EmergencyInfoBC</a>
	PRRD Emergency Services Web Page	<a href="#">PRRD Emergency Services</a>
<b>Social Media</b>	PRRD Facebook Page	<a href="#">PRRD's Facebook page</a>
	X (Twitter)	<a href="#">@EmergencyInfoBC</a>
	Facebook	<a href="#">PreparedBC</a>
	Instagram	<a href="#">Prepared BC</a>

Table 16: Abbreviated list of communications resources



## 2.2.4 PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator(s)

Table 17 details the anticipated actions and responsibilities that the Agriculture Coordinator(s) may undertake to enhance communications, coordinate response actions and support the needs of the agriculture sector.

Recommended Actions	Expected Approach
<b>PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator:</b> Establish and maintain regular communication with key agriculture sector representatives.	Utilizing available contact information via BC Premises ID and other sources (such as the BC Cattlemen's Rancher Liaison) to contact at-risk producers within the agriculture sector.
<b>PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator:</b> Liaise between the PRRD EOC and the agriculture sector to support two-way information sharing.	Gathering and sharing information using the PRRD EOC Agriculture Communication Tools listed below.
<b>PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator:</b> Provide situation reports to the PRRD EOC regarding the status of the agriculture sector.	Reporting significant information to the appropriate PRRD EOC personnel.
<b>PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator:</b> Identify and communicate the needs of the agriculture sector to PRRD EOC personnel.	Reporting any significant needs/requests to the appropriate PRRD EOC personnel.

Table 17: PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator Actions

### PRRD EOC Agriculture Communication Tools

The following communication tools outlined in Table 18 are anticipated to be leveraged by the PRRD Agriculture Coordinator(s) during emergencies.

Tool / Medium	Use
<b>Phone Calls</b>	Primarily engaging with the following entities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food Agriculture Liaison.</li> <li>• The agriculture sector (farmers, ranchers, producers, processors, etc.).</li> <li>• Agriculture sector associations.</li> <li>• Rancher Liaisons and other Agriculture Coordinators.</li> </ul>
<b>Emails</b>	Communicating with PRRD EOC personnel and Provincial authorities.
<b>Public Messaging &amp; Social Media</b>	Coordinating with the PRRD EOC Information Officer to prepare and post public-facing messaging relevant to PRRD's agriculture sector.

Table 18: PRRD EOC Agriculture Coordinator Communication Tools

## 2.3 Implement Response Strategies

The third critical step during a response effort is to implement response strategies as deemed appropriate – this will persist throughout the response phase, like maintaining communication and coordination efforts. Once response personnel have been activated and communication channels are established, the focus shifts to implementing specific response strategies. Table 19 outlines key actions that may be taken by the PRRD's EOC and the broader agriculture sector to implement response strategies.

Response Strategy	Purpose
<b>2.3.1 Livestock Evacuation/Relocation or Sheltering-in-Place</b>	To coordinate the movement of livestock out of Evacuation Alert and/or Evacuation Order areas in response to an imminent or active emergency; or to coordinate the sheltering-in-place of livestock.
<b>2.3.2 Temporary Access to Evacuated Areas</b>	To coordinate the issuance of Temporary Access Passes for individuals/organizations requesting to enter an area under Evacuation Order to facilitate essential maintenance of critical infrastructure and/or livestock management.
<b>2.3.3 Critical Resource Management</b>	To identify critical resource needs in relation to protecting livestock and agricultural assets and consider options to procure and deploy these resources.

Table 19: During Emergencies – Step 2.3 Actions – Implement Response Strategies

### 2.3.1 Response Strategy: Livestock Evacuation/Relocation or Sheltering-in-Place

Livestock evacuation/relocation and sheltering-in-place requires coordination across responding organizations, including the agriculture sector and governments. During an imminent or active emergency, a local authority having jurisdiction and/or the Province may issue an Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order, or may provide direction to shelter-in-place (see page 11 of this document for potential information sources).

**Shelter-in-place guidance** may vary depending on the risk/emergency, so it is important to base response efforts based on the guidance provided by official sources.

In the context of **livestock evacuation/relocation** in British Columbia, Evacuation Alerts and Orders carry additional meanings as defined below:

**Evacuation Alert:** A warning is issued about an imminent threat to life and property, and people are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. This is the best time to relocate livestock and other animals before roads are needed for human evacuation.

**Evacuation Order:** When the population is determined to be at imminent risk, an evacuation order is issued and people must leave the area immediately. In the PRRD, the RCMP enforces evacuation orders. Transportation routes may be restricted for the use of human evacuation and may not be available for livestock transport.

**Evacuation Rescind:** An evacuation order or alert is rescinded when it is determined to be safe for residents to return home. This is the time to return animals, as well.

Recommendations from on-site first responders and issuers of Evacuation Alerts and Evacuation Orders will indicate need to relocate – however, the sole responsibility for the decision of whether to evacuate livestock (and pets) will be borne by the livestock owners. Emergency responders will always prioritize people over business operations and livestock. The evacuation of livestock should not interfere with the movement of people or emergency services, and therefore requires pre-planning and early decision making.

During an emergency, the following recommended actions in Table 19 should be considered in relation to evacuating/relocating livestock.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Monitor the situation and PRRD communication channels for any formal escalations of risk by local authority having jurisdictions and the Province.	Review the Communications Resources provided within this plan (During Emergencies – Step 2: Communication and Coordination).
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Provide information regarding at-risk populations of livestock/animals to the appropriate emergency management authorities.	Determine if the PRRD has activated it's EOC. Contact the EOC and provide any relevant information that may support pre-planning efforts regarding evacuation of livestock/animals.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> If an Evacuation Alert or Order is issued, obtain any key information that may support livestock/animal relocation efforts.	Contact the local authority having jurisdiction that is responsible for issuing the Evacuation Alert or Order to obtain and share any key information, including, but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique considerations relating to the livestock/animal population(s) at risk;</li> <li>• Livestock/animal evacuation routes;</li> <li>• Livestock/animal evacuation destinations.</li> </ul>

Table 20:: During Emergencies – Step 2.3.1 Actions – Livestock Evacuation/Relocation

## 2.3.2 Response Strategy: Temporary Access

“Temporary Access Passes” may be granted by a local authority having jurisdiction in collaboration with the Incident Commander (who has final decision authority on entry) on a case-by-case basis so that select individuals or organizations may access active response areas to complete specific tasks deemed necessary. These Temporary Access Passes replace the Entry Permits which have been used in previous emergencies. Examples prompting the request of a Temporary Access Pass may include critical transportation services, restoration of critical infrastructure or services, or livestock management. [Managing Temporary Access to Areas under Evacuation Order](#) is a provincial guide developed to assist local authorities in British Columbia when allowing individuals and agencies into evacuated areas. Temporary Access Passes may be revoked at any point should the situation change, and the lead authority and hazard expert (e.g., BC Wildfire Service) will provide the final decision regarding entry. Recommended actions for the agriculture sector are provided below in Table 21.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> If necessary, request a Temporary Access Pass from the local authority having jurisdiction that has issued the Evacuation Order that is applicable to the request.	Contact the local authority having jurisdiction EOC directly to place the request at least 24 hours in advance. Provide specific reasons for access such as critical infrastructure maintenance or livestock care.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
	<b>DO NOT</b> enter active response areas without explicit permission.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> If a Temporary Access Pass is issued, follow the instructions provided to reduce risk to all responders.	Be prepared to present your Temporary Access Pass, a driver's license or other permissible ID at the entry checkpoint(s). Follow designated routes and purposes as specified in the access pass. Exit the area by the specified time and comply with all conditions set by the EOC for temporary access. Report immediately to the EOC if conditions worsen or new hazards are observed.

Table 21: During Emergencies – Step 2.3.2 Actions – Temporary Access

### 2.3.3 Response Strategy: Logistics Management

Emergencies often present constraints and an enhanced need for critical resources and supplies. Should there be any extraordinary resource requirements that are necessary to protect agricultural livestock and/or assets, requests may be made to activated local authority having jurisdiction EOCs (e.g., the PRRD EOC). **However, there is no guarantee that these requests will be fulfilled as there may be limitations such as resource availability, inaccessibility, and funding constraints.** Recommended actions for the agriculture sector are provided below in Table 22.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Identify critical resource requirements that are necessary to protect livestock/animals and/or agricultural assets and communicate these requirements to the appropriate local authority having jurisdiction EOC.	Communicate critical resource requirements as early as they are known to support planning and response efforts. Examples may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock transportation resources</li> <li>• Flood defense assets (e.g., sandbags)</li> </ul>

Table 22: During Emergencies – Step 2.3.3 Actions – Logistics Management

## 2.4 Activate Recovery Personnel

One additional step within the response phase is to consider the activation of recovery personnel early on, and, if required, initiate the deployment of the appropriate personnel to begin managing recovery efforts. Once time allows, organizations responding to an emergency may consider the current and/or anticipated impacts due to the active emergency and whether it may be appropriate to begin recovery planning efforts. Leading practice in emergency management is to initiate recovery as soon as resourcing allows. The following section – “**3. After Emergencies (Recovery)**” – provides guidance and recommendations in relation to the recovery effort.

### 3. After Emergencies (Recovery)

Best practices suggest that the recovery phase of an emergency should be initiated as soon as practical once an emergency occurs. However, short-term recovery activities begin as soon as possible following a disaster, generally after life-saving actions are complete. The purpose is to restore affected areas to an acceptable level of normalcy and, when possible, improve upon pre-disaster conditions. This could include repairing and rebuilding destroyed property, re-establishing essential services and supporting a return to self-sufficiency.

Recovery efforts typically occur in three overlapping stages: short-term, medium-term and long-term, with activities ranging from the return of evacuees and debris removal to the reconstruction of infrastructure and implementation of measures to enhance future resilience. The recovery phase is characterized by a gradual transition from emergency operations to regular community functions, with an emphasis on reducing vulnerability to future disasters and increasing overall community resilience<sup>4</sup>. A useful resource is EMCR's [Disaster recovery information for the public](#) which provides guides, policies and general recovery information.

In the context of emergencies impacting the agriculture sector in the PRRD, Recovery efforts occur across five key steps, described below in Table 23. Each step contains recommended and/or required actions specific to the Agriculture Sector and/or the PRRD.

Step	Purpose
<b>3.1 Activate Recovery Personnel</b>	To activate and deploy dedicated personnel to coordinate local and/or individual recovery efforts.
<b>3.2 Confirm Re-Entry</b>	To confirm that the relevant Evacuation Order(s) have been rescinded, and it is safe to re-enter the area.
<b>3.3 Conduct Damage Assessments</b>	To conduct detailed assessments of damages and losses because of the emergency/disaster.
<b>3.4 Reimbursement</b>	To coordinate the provision of reimbursement and funding through various sources.
<b>3.5 Restoration</b>	To coordinate restoration efforts across communities and individuals, and to consider opportunities to increase future resilience and reduce disaster risk.

Table 23: After Emergencies – Step 3.1 Actions

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<sup>4</sup> [An Emergency Management Framework for Canada - Third Edition](#)

### 3.1 Activate Recovery Personnel

Recovery typically begins even as response efforts are ongoing. The first step involves activating the personnel that will be leading the recovery effort to foster a coordinated, efficient and aligned approach that considers short-term needs and long-term needs.

#### 3.1.1 The PRRD's Recovery Personnel

The primary recovery structure for the PRRD is the EOC's Recovery Unit, deployed within the Planning Section (see Figure 6). Should the event require the activation of a Recovery Unit, the PRRD EOC will activate as resourcing allows to ensure that proper documentation strategies are maintained and initial recovery activities begin. The PRRD EOC Recovery Unit will coordinate with the Province, those impacted by the emergency and other partners to coordinate local recovery efforts, including those pertaining to the agriculture sector.

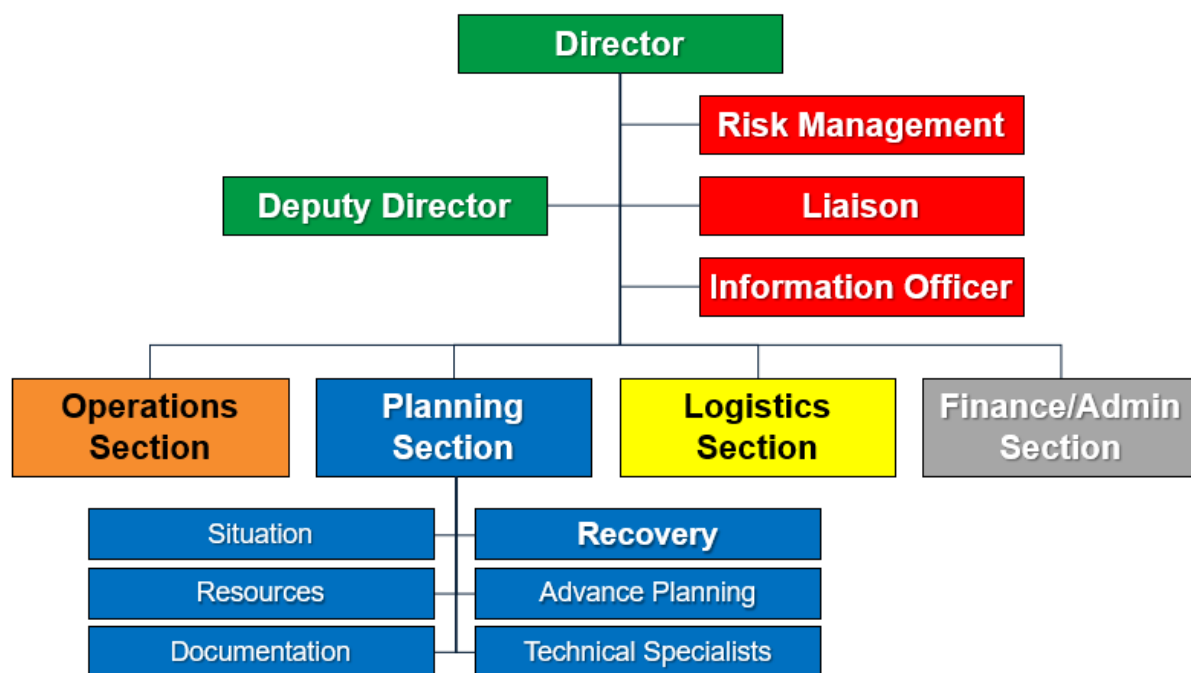


Figure 6: Adapted PRRD EOC organizational structure highlighting the **Recovery Unit**

#### 3.1.2 The Agriculture Sector's Recovery Personnel

Each individual and organization within the PRRD's agriculture sector has a unique context, and the involvement of personnel may be a single individual or a full team. The scope and scale of the structure will depend on many factors, including, but not limited to:

- Proximity, severity and/or immediacy of the emergency to the individual/organization.
- Extent of impacts/consequences endured.
- Available resources and support to activate.

Regardless of the scale of the recovery structure, processors and producers should consider the following recommendations in Table 24 when making the decision to “activate” recovery efforts:

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Designate one or more individual(s) to coordinate actions in relation to the recovery efforts.	<p>The individual(s) designated should have access to key asset and financial information (e.g., information documenting the value of damaged assets) and should maintain and document appropriate information throughout the recovery effort.</p> <p>The individual(s) should engage the PRRD EOC or appropriate activated EOC to coordinate on recovery efforts.</p>

Table 24: After Emergencies – Step 3.2 Actions

## 3.2 Confirm Re-Entry

The re-entry stage of an emergency involving Evacuation Orders signifies the transition from immediate response to the beginning of recovery. It involves the careful, phased return of residents to affected areas. This process relies on emphasizing safety, maintaining order and providing support to those returning to assess damage and begin rehabilitation efforts.

### 3.2.1 PRRD's Role in Re-Entry

During emergencies where the PRRD EOC has issued an Evacuation Order, the primary role for the PRRD EOC is to develop a phased re-entry plan based on safety assessments and infrastructure status. Staging re-entry with essential personnel and critical infrastructure and services is completed first, followed by businesses and finally the public. The PRRD EOC will coordinate this process, and if deployed, the PRRD EOC's Agriculture Coordinator will provide additional support to the agriculture sector and consider any unique re-entry considerations that are relevant to the sector.

### 3.2.2 Agriculture Sector's Role in Re-Entry

If evacuated because of an Evacuation Order, the agriculture sector should monitor communications channels (Table 4) for official direction that the Evacuation Order has been rescinded, and for guidance regarding the timing and any unique considerations relating to re-entry. Recommended actions for the agriculture sector are provided below in Table 25.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Await official direction from the appropriate EOC that the relevant Evacuation Order has been rescinded, and for information regarding the phased re-entry plan.	Do not enter any Evacuation Order area unless given permission. Adhere to the direction of the issuing authority for the Evacuation Order, which may include a local authority having jurisdiction (including the PRRD) or the Province.

Table 25: After Emergencies – Step 3.2 Actions – Confirm Re-Entry

### 3.3 Conduct Damage Assessments

Damage assessments will occur gradually as areas across the region are no longer actively affected by the emergency/disaster event. Damage assessments support the understanding of the impact that the emergency/disaster has had on the community. Damage assessments help to prioritize the recovery effort and provide the foundation for recovery planning, resource allocation and applications for disaster assistance.

#### 3.3.1 PRRD's Role in Damage Assessment

For emergencies impacting the PRRD, the PRRD EOC and their respective personnel will coordinate local recovery efforts, including providing guidance regarding local damage assessments. This may include:

- Providing guidance regarding the information to gather and record in relation to individual damage assessments.
- Distributing provincial guidance and policies regarding items/assets that are eligible and ineligible for reimbursement.
- Consolidating data and damage assessment information to support the development and implementation of recovery plans and efforts.

#### 3.3.2 Agriculture Sector's Role in Damage Assessment

The primary role for those within the agriculture sector is to maintain personal safety, then to adhere to the guidance and messaging shared by the PRRD's EOC. Once the relevant Evacuation Order has been rescinded, self-assessments of damage to agricultural assets (e.g., crops, livestock, equipment, facilities, etc.) can be completed and should be communicated with the PRRD EOC. Individuals involved in performing damage assessments should continuously prioritize their safety, the safety of those involved and should consider all potential risks prior to undertaking the assessment. Recommended actions for the agriculture sector are provided below in Table 26.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Confirm that the relevant Evacuation Order has been rescinded, and access to the area requiring damage assessment has been permitted.	Do not enter any Evacuation Order area unless given permission. Adhere to the direction of the issuing authority for the Evacuation Order, which may include a local authority having jurisdiction or the Province.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Request the PRRD's self-assessment form (this form is used to support local/individual rapid damage assessment efforts).	Utilize the <a href="#">PRRD Emergency Services Page</a> or contact the PRRD EOC directly.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Complete damage assessments of the relevant assets/property and communicate the relevant information to the PRRD EOC.	Document all damages with photos, videos and written descriptions.  *Any hazardous conditions or immediate threats should be immediately reported to the EOC.

Table 26: After Emergencies – Step 3.3 Actions – Agriculture Sector's Role in Damage Assessment



## 3.4 Reimbursement

Reimbursement following disasters involves the navigation of insurance claims, government disaster financial assistance programs and other potential funding sources. Effective documentation management is critical for the reimbursement process, which supports both individual and region-wide recovery efforts.

### 3.4.1 PRRD's Role in Reimbursement

The PPRD EOC's responsibilities in this phase involve coordinating with various levels of government, managing documentation and providing guidance to those impacted by the emergency/disaster. Specific activities may include:

- Establishing dedicated personnel to support the coordination of recovery efforts.
- Compiling documentation for emergency-related expenses and losses.
- Communicating applicable provincial and federal disaster financial assistance and funding programs to producers and processors.
- Contributing to the coordination of recovery efforts with First Nations, other local authority having jurisdictions and the Province.
- Maintaining a system to track the progress of recovery efforts, including reimbursement claims.

### 3.4.2 Producers and Processors' Role in Reimbursement

Those within the agriculture sector that have sustained losses due to the emergency/disaster should consider the following actions described in Table 27 in relation to reimbursement.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Gather all documentation related to disaster losses and recovery expenses.	Maintain organized and comprehensive documentation (e.g., receipts/invoices denoting the value of specific assets) should it be required for reimbursement submissions and applications.  Detailed documentation is critical to support the efforts of disaster financial assistance personnel/teams.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Review applicable insurance policies, provincial and federal disaster financial assistance funding information and requirements, and other funding sources.	Review messaging provided by the appropriate EOC, including the <a href="#">PRRD's Emergency Services Page</a> , for information regarding provincial and federal disaster financial assistance programs and other funding/reimbursement sources.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Submit claims and applications to the appropriate recipient(s).	Submit claims to insurance providers and government assistance programs in a timely manner. Engage the appropriate EOC as required for assistance with the process.

Table 27: After Emergencies – Step 3.4 Actions – Producer and Processors' Role in Reimbursement

## 3.5 Restoration

Long-term recovery efforts involve the restoration and improvement of affected areas and systems. This stage of recovery often includes consideration for how to reduce future disaster risk and increase resilience. For the agricultural sector, restoration efforts include restoring pre-disaster productivity and considering opportunities to enhance sustainability and adaptability.

### 3.5.1 PRRD's Role in Restoration

In BC, recovery efforts are community-led and supported by the Province. For emergencies impacting the PRRD, the PRRD EOC will lead recovery efforts which may include:

- Strategic recovery planning;
- Providing guidance and coordination in relation to damage assessments;
- Coordinating the restoration of critical services;
- Coordinating local engagement on recovery efforts;
- Coordinating with First Nations, local authority having jurisdictions, and provincial and federal ministries/agencies on recovery efforts; and
- Local recovery project coordination.

### 3.5.2 Producers and Processors' Role in Restoration

For those in the agriculture sector, the restoration phase presents an opportunity to reassess and potentially redesign their operations for improved resilience and sustainability. Although restoration is not a “one-size-fits-all” approach, there are certain generalized recommendations that may be considered such as shown in Table 28.

Recommended Actions	Recommended Approach
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Consider short-term restoration opportunities, including those relating to safety and productivity.	Stay informed of local/regional recovery efforts.  Engage with relevant agriculture sector-specific associations for information and resources that may support short-term or long-term restoration opportunities.
<b>Agriculture Sector:</b> Consider long-term restoration opportunities, including those relating to sustainability, resilience and disaster risk reduction.	Engage with neighboring organizations and peers to identify opportunities to accelerate restoration efforts.  Leverage any applicable funding programs to support the advancement of sustainability, resilience and disaster risk reduction.

Table 28: After Emergencies – Step 3.5 Actions – Producers and Processors' Role in Restoration

## Appendix A –Definitions

The following definitions included within the AERP are important in understanding the management of agricultural emergencies.

Term	Definition
<b>Biosecurity</b>	Measures taken to protect against the spread of disease or pests.
<b>Contingency Plan</b>	A plan designed to take account of potential future events or circumstances.
<b>Disaster</b>	A severe disruption to a community or society's normal functioning, caused by hazardous events interacting with conditions of exposure, vulnerability and capacity. It results in human, material, economic and/or environmental losses and impacts <sup>5</sup> .
<b>Emergency</b>	A present or imminent event or circumstance that is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure or by the forces of nature, and requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety, or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property <sup>6</sup> .
<b>Emergency Alert</b>	A notification issued to inform the public of an imminent threat or emergency situation.
<b>Emergency Management</b>	The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with all aspects of emergencies.
<b>Evacuation</b>	The process of moving people and animals from a dangerous area to a safer location.
<b>Evacuation Alert</b>	A directive issued by authorities placing individuals on alert to leave an area due to imminent danger.
<b>Evacuation Order</b>	A directive issued by authorities requiring individuals to leave an area due to imminent danger.
<b>Infrastructure</b>	The basic physical and organizational structures and facilities needed for the operation of a society or enterprise.
<b>Livestock</b>	Animals raised for agricultural purposes, including cattle, sheep, goats and poultry.
<b>Local Authority</b>	A governing body responsible for managing emergency services and response within a specific jurisdiction.
<b>Mitigation</b>	Efforts to reduce the impact of potential disasters through proactive measures.

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<sup>5</sup> [Definition: Disaster | UNDRR](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#)

<b>Preparedness</b>	The state of being ready for potential emergencies through planning and training.
<b>Public Health</b>	The health of the population as a whole, especially as monitored, regulated and promoted by the state.
<b>Recovery</b>	The phase following an emergency focused on restoring normal operations and rebuilding affected areas.
<b>Recovery Plan</b>	A plan that outlines the steps to be taken to restore normal operations after an emergency.
<b>Resilience</b>	The capacity to recover quickly from difficulties; toughness.
<b>Response</b>	Immediate actions taken during an emergency to protect life, property and the environment.
<b>Shelter-in-Place</b>	A protective action taken during an emergency where individuals remain indoors to avoid exposure to hazards.
<b>Stakeholders</b>	Individuals or groups that have an interest in the outcome of a project or decision.

*Table 29: Definitions*

## Appendix B – Contact Information

This table includes a compiled list of key contacts for rapid reference during emergency response.

Key Contacts	Phone Number	Additional Contact Information
<b>First Responders</b>		
Fire Departments	<b>911</b>	Arras Fire: 1-(250) 784-5730 Charlie Lake Fire: 1-(250) 785-1424 Chetwynd Fire: 1-(250) 788-2424 Dawson Creek Fire: 1-(250) 782-9898 Fort St. John Fire: 1-(250) 996-8670 Hudson's Hope Fire: 1-(250) 783-9901 Moberly Lake Fire: 1-(250) 219-8245 Pouce Coupe Fire: 1-(250) 219-9205 Taylor Fire: 1-(250) 789-3392 Tomslake & District Fire: 1-(250) 786-5330 Tumbler Ridge Fire: 1-(250) 242-3939
RCMP	<b>911</b>	Chetwynd: 1-(250) 788-9221 Dawson Creek: 1-(250) 784-3700 Fort St. John: 1-(250) 787-8140 Hudson's Hope: 1-(250) 783-5241 Tumbler Ridge: 1-(250) 242-5252
BC Ambulance	<b>911</b>	Chetwynd: 1-(250) 788-3522 Dawson Creek: 1-(250) 782-9768 Fort St. John: 1-(250) 996-7768 Hudson's Hope: 1-(250) 783-5252 Tumbler Ridge: 1-(250) 242-4176
<b>Peace River Regional District</b>		
Peace River Regional District (PRRD)	1-(250) 784-3200	<a href="#">Contact Us - Peace River Regional District</a>
PRRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	1-(250) 784-3200	<a href="#">Emergency Services - Peace River Regional District</a>
PRRD Emergency Support Services	1-(250) 784-3200	<a href="#">Volunteer Emergency Services - Peace River Regional District</a>
<b>Provincial and Federal Contacts</b>		
BC Non-Emergency Line	<b>811</b>	<a href="#">HealthLink BC - 24/7 Health Advice You Can Trust</a>
Northern Health Authority	1-(250) 565-2649	<a href="#">Northern Health</a>
BC Wildfire Management Branch	1-(800) 663-5555 <b>*5555</b>	<a href="#">Wildfire Service - Province of British Columbia</a>
Ministry of Emergency Management & Climate Readiness (EMCR)	Emergency: 1-(800) 663-3456 Daytime/Office: 1-(250) 612-4172	<a href="mailto:EMBC.NEAdmin@gov.bc.ca">EMBC.NEAdmin@gov.bc.ca</a>

Key Contacts	Phone Number	Additional Contact Information
Emergency Support Services (ESS)	1-(250) 784-3200	<a href="#">Emergency Support Service program - Province of British Columbia</a> <a href="#">Emergency Support Services Homepage</a> <a href="#">Emergency Support Services Homepage - Emergency Support Services</a>
Animal Health Canada	N/A	<a href="#">Contact - Animal Health Canada</a>
Poison Control Center	<b>911</b> 1-(844) 764-7669	<a href="#">Welcome to the BC Drug and Poison Information Centre</a>
Environment Canada	1-(800) 667-1105	<a href="#">Weather Information - Environment Canada</a>
Ministry of Agriculture and Food	1-(888) 221-7141 1-(250) 356-1674	<a href="mailto:AF.Emergency.Management@gov.bc.ca">AF.Emergency.Management@gov.bc.ca</a>
DriveBC	1-(800) 550-4997	<a href="#">DriveBC Traveler Information System</a>
Provincial Highways Condition Center	1-(604) 660-9770	N/A
Ministry of Transportation	1-(250) 387-3198	<a href="#">Ministry of Transportation and Transit contacts - Province of British Columbia</a>
<b>Search and Rescue</b>		
<b>Critical Services</b>		
Argo Road Maintenance	1-(800) 663-7623	<a href="#">Welcome to Argo Road Maintenance</a>
BC Energy Regulator	1-(250) 794-5200 (FSJ) 1-(250) 795-2140 (DC)	<a href="#">BC Energy Regulator - Province of British Columbia</a>
BC Hydro	1-(250) 267-5187 (FSJ) 1-(250) 782-9834 (DC) 1-(800) 224-9376	<a href="#">Contact us</a>

Key Contacts	Phone Number	Additional Contact Information
Dawson Road Maintenance	1-(800) 842-4122	<a href="#">Responsive and Reliable Highway Maintenance in British Columbia</a>
FortisBC (Terasen Gas)	1-(800) 663-9911	<a href="#">FortisBC - delivering renewable energy, gas and electricity</a>
Oil & Gas Incident Reporting	911 1-(800) 663-3456	<a href="#">BC Energy Regulator - Province of British Columbia</a>
Pacific Northern Gas	1-(800) 663-1173 (Emergency) 1-(800) 627-2836 (DC)	<a href="#">Contact – Pacific Northern Gas</a>
<b>Agriculture Sector Resources</b>		
AgriService BC	1-(888) 221-7141	<a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a> <a href="http://www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc">www.gov.bc.ca/agriservicebc</a>
AgSafe	1-(877) 533-1789 1-(604) 881-6078	<a href="#">Have questions? Contact Us   AgSafe</a>
BC Agriculture Council (BCAC)	1-(866) 522-3447 1-(604) 854-4454	<a href="mailto:communications@bcac.ca">communications@bcac.ca</a>
Ministry of Agriculture Emergency Management Branch	1-(800) 663-3456	<a href="#">Emergency management for agriculture - Province of British Columbia</a>
<b>Agriculture Associations</b>		
BC Grain Producers Association	1-(250) 785-5774	<a href="mailto:admin@bcgrain.com">admin@bcgrain.com</a>
Dawson Creek Vet clinic	1-(250) 782-1080	<a href="mailto:zross@dcvet.ca">zross@dcvet.ca</a> <a href="mailto:Charder@dcvet.ca">Charder@dcvet.ca</a>
North Peace Cattleman's Association	1-(250) 263-7997	<a href="mailto:ardillsranch@xplornet.com">ardillsranch@xplornet.com</a>
Peace River District Cattleman's Association	1-(250) 263-1822	<a href="mailto:klmckean@hotmail.com">klmckean@hotmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:Dhharris@pris.ca">Dhharris@pris.ca</a>
South Peace River Stockmen's Association	1-(250) 782-7875	<a href="mailto:cattlemen@spstockmen.com">cattlemen@spstockmen.com</a>
Peace Region Farmers Institute	250-793-6691	<a href="mailto:peaceregionfi@gmail.com">peaceregionfi@gmail.com</a>
Peace River Forage Association	1-(250) 263-8802	<a href="mailto:coordinator@peaceforage.bc.ca">coordinator@peaceforage.bc.ca</a>
Peace Region Forage Seed Association	1-(250) 782-9445	<a href="mailto:pwfarms@protonmail.com">pwfarms@protonmail.com</a> <a href="mailto:coordinator@peaceforageseed.ca">coordinator@peaceforageseed.ca</a>
North Peace Veterinary Clinic	1-(250) 785-4578	<a href="mailto:reception@npvc.ca">reception@npvc.ca</a> <a href="mailto:pspitzer@npvc.ca">pspitzer@npvc.ca</a>
North Pine Farmers Institute	N/A	<a href="mailto:northpinefarmersinstitute@gmail.com">northpinefarmersinstitute@gmail.com</a>
<b>First Nations</b>		

Key Contacts	Phone Number	Additional Contact Information
Local Authority having Jurisdictions		
Fort St. John	1-(250) 787-8150	
Dawson Creek	1-(250) 784-3600	
Chetwynd	1-(250) 401-4100	
Tumbler Ridge	1-(250) 242-4242	
Taylor	1-(250) 789-3392	
Hudson's Hope	1-(250) 783-9901	
Pouce Coupe	1-(250) 786-5794	

*Table 30: Contact Information*



## Appendix C – Authority & Legislation

### Provincial Policies & Bulletins

This table outlines the provincial policies that are relevant to the AERP. To see a list of [terms and definitions \(PDF, 186KB\)](#) used in policies please follow the embedded link.

To access each of these complete policies, documents, and bulletins, please follow this link [Emergency management policies - Province of British Columbia](#).

Policy	Description
<b>2.01</b> <a href="#">Provincial Support for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency</a>	<p>This policy allows for the reimbursement of eligible response costs incurred by local authorities engaged in relocating livestock from “qualifying farm businesses” during an evacuation alert, or during an evacuation order, if safe to do so.</p> <p>Farm businesses are an important source of livelihood in many communities across British Columbia. During emergencies, high levels of logistics and time are required to relocate agricultural livestock, and this process is ideally initiated as soon as a potential threat is identified as imminent. In recognition of the time and resources required to relocate livestock, this policy allows for the relocation of livestock for eligible farm businesses during an evacuation alert stage. It also allows for the reimbursement of response costs incurred by the local authorities in order to relocate livestock.</p>
<b>2.15</b> <a href="#">Cultural Activity Locations Support</a>	<p>Emergency Management BC (now EMCR) and First Nations Health Authority (FNHA) have a signed Declaration of Commitment that highlights a shared intention to embed cultural safety and cultural humility across all four pillars of emergency management including mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. This shared intention recognizes that the manner, in which emergency management is conducted can have a lasting impact on First Nations health and wellness.</p>
<b>5.02</b> <a href="#">Expense Reimbursement</a>	<p>EMBC (now EMCR) will reimburse volunteers, volunteer groups and local government for defined expenses incurred for eligible emergency response and training tasks. To receive reimbursement an Expense Reimbursement Request will be used to support all such requests.</p>
<b>5.03</b> <a href="#">Evacuee Living Assistance</a>	<p>It is expected that all residents will make every effort to be self-sufficient in emergencies or disasters. Evacuee living assistance may be available to support those who are in immediate need of assistance with some of the basic living supports available through the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program of the province.</p> <p>Evacuee living assistance may be provided to evacuees when a residence becomes uninhabitable due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• being directly impacted by an emergency or disaster;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>when an imminent emergency results in an evacuation order being issued by a legislated authority.</li> </ul>
<b>5.09</b> <a href="#">Disaster Financial Assistance Declaration</a>	<p>BC's Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) program provides financial assistance to local government bodies and private persons that suffer uninsurable losses from disasters.</p> <p>The DFA program is also administered to First Nations bands through an agreement with Indigenous Services Canada.</p> <p>The DFA's intent is to provide assistance in the aftermath of large-scale, unforeseen disasters that affect multitudes of individuals, businesses, farms, and non-profits and/or which impose a significant financial burden on local government bodies or First Nations bands.</p>
<b>5.11</b> <a href="#">Provincial support for deploying 'Out of Jurisdiction' First Nations and local authority staff to an emergency operations centre (EOC)</a>	<p>This policy relates to deploying trained or competent emergency management staff from one jurisdiction to an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) in a jurisdiction requiring surge support in response to an emergency/disaster, or in preparation for a potential emergency/disaster.</p> <p>First Nations and local authorities initiate emergency response actions necessary to provide the appropriate resources, including personnel, to respond to an emergency/disaster. In some cases, these requirements go beyond the internal resources available and assistance from outside the affected jurisdiction is needed. Policy 5.11 provides a framework for deployment of emergency management staff identified directly by the EOC or via the province. Policy 5.11 also describes cost reimbursement for deployed staff.</p>

Table 31: Provincial Policies & Bulletins

## Regional, Provincial, and Federal Authorities

The table below outlines the various layers of Bylaws, Regulations, Acts and Legislation set by the respective levels of government that this plans' content is guided by and conforms to.

Category	Legal Authority	Description
Regional	Emergency & Disaster Services Establishment Bylaw No. 1599 <sup>7</sup>	Establishes the framework for emergency and disaster services management within the PRRD.
	Bylaw – 2504 <sup>8</sup> , 2441 <sup>9</sup> , 2442 <sup>Error! Bookmark not defined.</sup> , & 710 <sup>10</sup> ; Fire Protection	Regulates fire prevention and safety within the PRRD.
Provincial	Emergency and Disaster Management Act (2023) <sup>11</sup>	Establishes the legislative framework for emergency management in BC, including powers, authorities, and responsibilities in relation to preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation.
	Wildfire Act (2004) <sup>12</sup>	Establishes the legislative framework for wildfire management in BC, including regulations for fire prevention and response, particularly relevant in areas prone to wildfires.
	Health of Animals Act (2014) <sup>13</sup>	Provides a legislative framework in BC to protect animal health, prevent the spread of diseases, and safeguard public health. It outlines various measures, responsibilities and powers related to animal health management.
	Livestock Act (1996) <sup>14</sup>	Provides a legislative framework for the management and control of livestock in British Columbia. It addresses issues related to livestock districts, bull control areas, pound districts and the responsibilities of livestock owners.

<sup>7</sup> [BL\\_1598\\_Emergency-Service-Establishment.pdf](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Fire Protection - Charlie Lake Bylaws - Peace River Regional District](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Fire Protection - Moberly Lake Bylaws - Peace River Regional District](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Fire Protection-Dawson Creek and Pouce Coupe Rural - Peace River Regional District](#)

<sup>11</sup> [Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#)

<sup>12</sup> [Wildfire Act](#)

<sup>13</sup> [Animal Health Act](#)

<sup>14</sup> [Livestock Act](#)

	Environmental Management Act (2003) <sup>15</sup>	Provides the legislative framework for waste management and environmental protection, which is essential during agricultural emergencies involving hazardous materials.
<b>Federal</b>	Emergency Management Act (2007) <sup>16</sup>	Establishes the federal legislative framework for an integrated approach to federal emergency management activities.

Table 32: Regional, Provincial, and Federal Authorities and Legislation

## Provincial and Federal Frameworks, Plans, & Standards

Highlights relevant frameworks, plans, and standards applicable to the sector and emergency response.

Category	Legal Authority	Description
<b>Provincial</b>	British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS) <sup>17</sup>	Provides a standardized approach to developing, coordinating, and implementing emergency management programs across the province.
	EMCR Financial Assistance for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs <sup>18</sup>	Provides guidance on emergency-related financial assistance for local authorities and First Nations in BC.
	BC Tourism Emergency Management Framework <sup>19</sup>	Provides a unified structure to support tourism partners and visitors in emergency management.
	Emergency Management Guide for BC Pork Producers <sup>20</sup>	A farm-specific emergency plan template providing information on evacuation procedures for BC pork producers.

<sup>15</sup> [Environmental Management Act](#)

<sup>16</sup> [Emergency Management Act](#)

<sup>17</sup> [bcems\\_guide.pdf](#)

<sup>18</sup> [Financial Assistance Guide for Emergency Response and Recovery Costs \(PDF, 971 KB\)](#)

<sup>19</sup> [Tourism-Emergency-Management-Framework-May-2022-FINAL-2.pdf](#)

<sup>20</sup> [bc\\_pork\\_emergency\\_management\\_guide.pdf](#)

	Livestock Market Interruption Strategy (LMIS) <sup>21</sup>	Enhances preparedness to manage large-scale livestock market interruptions.
	Foreign Animal Disease Emergency Support (FADES) Plan <sup>22</sup>	FADES is a comprehensive plan designed to coordinate the response to foreign animal disease outbreaks across different levels of government and with private sector involvement.
<b>Federal</b>	Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture in Canada <sup>23</sup>	Covers emergencies impacting Canadian agriculture, agricultural products, primary inputs, animals and plants.
	An Emergency Management Framework for Canada - Third Edition <sup>24</sup>	Guides the way governments and partners assess risks and work together to prevent/mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from the threats and hazards that pose the greatest risk to Canadians.
	Federal Emergency Response Plan (FERP) (2010-2011) <sup>25</sup>	Description: Identifies and describes mechanisms and processes for federal emergency response. Aims to harmonize federal efforts with those of provinces, territories, NGOs and the private sector.
	National On-reserve Emergency Management Plan <sup>26</sup>	Overview of federal authorities and jurisdictions related to emergency management on reserves.

Table 33: Provincial and Federal Frameworks, Plans & Standards

<sup>21</sup> [Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture in Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/emergency-management-framework-for-agriculture-in-canada)

<sup>22</sup> [bc-fades-2019-signed-copy.pdf](#)

<sup>23</sup> [Emergency Management Framework for Agriculture in Canada - agriculture.canada.ca](https://agriculture.canada.ca/emergency-management-framework-for-agriculture-in-canada)

<sup>24</sup> [An Emergency Management Framework for Canada - Third Edition](#)

<sup>25</sup> [Emergency Management Planning Guide](#)

<sup>26</sup> [Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada \(INAC\) National On-reserve Emergency Management Plan](#)

## Appendix D – Hazard-Specific Considerations

This appendix provides a summary of the key agriculture-related hazards identified in the PRRD’s “Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis” (HRVA), as well as strategies and considerations for mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from these hazards and the unique challenges they pose. These strategies aim to enhance community resilience by identifying specific risks and implementation measures to reduce their impacts. The hazards highlighted in this Appendix include:

**Wildfire**

**Disease**

**Flood**

**Extreme Weather**

**Drought**

**Service Outages**

Each hazard presents distinct threats to public safety, infrastructure, and the environment, necessitating specialized preparedness and mitigation efforts. Each hazard-specific section includes:

- Hazard background;
- Roles and responsibilities for managing the hazard;
- Key contact information;
- Mitigation and Preparedness strategies; and
- Key response actions and considerations.

While some sections of “Appendix D: Hazard-Specific Considerations” address evacuation and livestock relocation, please refer to page 9 on Evacuation and Shelter-in-Place or Livestock Evacuation/Relocation for specific guidelines.

The table below summarizes the PRRD’s HRVA in relation to the above six hazards and this AERP. This excerpt of the HRVA is expected to evolve over time as additional data and information becomes available.

<b>Consequences</b>	<b>Very High</b>				<b>Interface Fire</b>	<b>Service Outages</b>
	<b>High</b>			<b>Drought</b>	<b>Animal Disease</b>	<b>Flooding Wildfire</b>
	<b>Moderate</b>				<b>Extreme Weather</b>	
	<b>Low</b>					
	<b>Very Low</b>					
		<b>Very Low</b>	<b>Low</b>	<b>Moderate</b>	<b>High</b>	<b>Very high</b>
<b>Likelihood</b>						

Figure 7: Summary of PRRD HRVA

**\*Using the PRRD HRVA as a baseline, it is recommended that each producer and processor conduct a risk assessment to determine the highest priority risks for their own operations.**

## Wildfire



### Hazard Background

In BC, an average of 1,483 wildfires occurred each year between 2012 to 2022, approximately 42% of which were caused by human activities and 58% occur naturally from lightning strikes<sup>27</sup>.

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

The BC Wildfire Service is tasked with managing wildfires through a combination of wildfire prevention, mitigation, and suppression strategies.<sup>28</sup>

During a wildfire event, the first point of contact for coordination regarding wildfire response, including evacuation or livestock relocation, is the municipal or regional district EOC.

To report a wildfire, call **1 800 663-5555** toll-free, or **\*5555** on a cell phone.

To get up-to-date information on wildfire activity, you can contact BCWS at **1 888 336-7378 (3FOREST)** or visit the [BC Wildfire Dashboard](#).

Find [contact information for BCWS](#).

For immediate assistance related to evacuation or livestock relocation, contact **EMCR's 24/7 Emergency Coordination Centre** at **1-800-663-3456**.

Check the [FireWork Forecast](#), which shows maps of predicted smoke impacts over the next 72 hours.

Monitor the [impacts of wildfires on highways](#).

### Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to wildfires. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

#### Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness):

- ☐ Review the wildfire history in the area and conduct a [FireSmart BC Wildfire Exposure Assessment](#).
- ☐ Develop a [FireSmart Plan](#) for your property and operation.
- ☐ Review information on [Wildfire Loss Prevention](#).
- ☐ Understand and incorporate WorkSafeBC requirements where appropriate (e.g., evacuation planning; management of smoke-related risks).
- ☐ Maintain awareness of local fire restrictions and bans.

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<sup>27</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/about-bcws/wildfire-statistics/wildfire-averages>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/wildfire-management>

- ☐ Identify any alternative locations where workers and animals avoid smoke exposure.
- ☐ Provide workers with information regarding the potential health impacts of smoke.
- ☐ Prepare plans to reduce or stop operations when the health risks associated with smoke exposure is too high.
- ☐ Prepare plans to communicate wildfire risk information to workers.
- ☐ Prepare plans to safely shut down operations in the case of evacuation.
- ☐ Where appropriate, prepare a business continuity plan to prevent or mitigate impacts and disruptions to business operations.
- ☐ Where appropriate, prepare maps inclusive of relevant infrastructure, property boundaries, fuel-reduced areas where animals can be sheltered, pipelines, railways, roads, watercourses and wells. Keep this map available to share with first responders as needed.
- ☐ Prepare a list of important information about your operations to share with first responders, including your address, number of people, any specific needs of people (disability), number of buildings, number of livestock, inventory of hazardous goods, information on locations and types of emergency water supplies and location of emergency equipment and supplies.
- ☐ Prepare “grab-and-go” emergency supply kits to prepare for evacuations (e.g., flashlights, battery-powered radios, extra batteries, first aid kits, non-perishable food, and water).
- ☐ Regularly monitor the [Air Quality and Health Index](#) and register for the Air Quality Subscription Services [Outside the Lower Mainland](#).
- ☐ If you are an industry or commercial operator, ensure your operations comply with the *Wildfire Act*<sup>29</sup> and *Wildfire Regulation* with respect to fire use, prevention, control and rehabilitation. This includes hazard assessment and hazard abatement.<sup>30</sup>
- ☐ As appropriate, obtain insurance coverage for all resources at risk, as government assistance is limited and only covers uninsurable losses. Private insurance may be available for livestock injuries mortalities, temporary livestock relocations, infrastructure losses and other farm losses.

#### **During Emergencies (Response):**

- ☐ Follow the guidance issued by emergency and wildfire management authorities (e.g., BC Wildfire Service, BC Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness, PRRD EOC, etc.).
- ☐ See the sections on “Evacuations” and “Shelter-in-Place” (page 9 of this plan) for information and guidance.
- ☐ Do not shut off your natural gas when you receive an Evacuation Order unless directed to do so.
- ☐ If a fire has recently ignited in an area where you have livestock grazing, you may receive a notification advising you to relocate your animals. If you are contemplating livestock relocation in response to a wildfire, please advise the Wildfire Incident Command Post and the PRRD EOC emergency hotline (+1-(250) 784-3200) to coordinate on relocation efforts. See the Section 2.3.1 Livestock Evacuation/Relocation for additional information.

If an Evacuation Alert is in place, be ready to leave on short notice. Take the following steps:

- ☐ Pack a “Go-Bag” (if not already done).
- ☐ Consider options to reduce fire risk, including the removal of fuels (i.e., flammable materials).
- ☐ Ensure your house number is visible. This will help firefighters locate your home quickly.

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<sup>29</sup> [Wildfire Act](#)

<sup>30</sup> <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/for-industry-commercial-operators>



## Flood



### Hazard Background

Flooding is common across many parts of the province and can affect animal and human health, and can disrupt business operations, supply chains and damage property. Flooding in B.C. is most common during freshet when both snowmelt and seasonal rains occur.

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of local governments to determine if flooding is an imminent threat to people or property, but the public also plays an important role in identifying risks and notifying the PRRD EOC. Local governments often work closely with the BC River Forecast Centre. For the latest flood information and forecasts, businesses check information posts on the local government website. In regions where flooding is likely or imminent, local authorities may issue a Flood Warning or Evacuation Alert/Order. Flood Warnings and advisory notifications across the province are also available through the [BC River Forecast Centre](#). The province may provide support to local governments through coordination support and shared resources, including sandbag machines, gabions and tiger dams.

### Common Flooding Terms

**High Streamflow Advisory:** River levels are rising or expected to rise rapidly, but no major flooding is expected. Minor flooding is possible.

**Flood Watch:** River levels are rising and will approach or may exceed the banks. Flooding of areas adjacent to affected rivers may occur.

**Flood Warning:** River levels have exceeded the top of the bank or will exceed it imminently. Flooding will occur in areas near affected rivers.

Visit the BC government [River Forecast Centre](#) to review potential flood risk in the area of your operations.

### Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to flooding. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

#### Before Emergencies (Mitigation and Preparedness):

- ☐ Visit the BC government [River Forecast Centre](#) and [Floodplain Maps](#) to review potential flood risk in the area of your operations.
- ☐ Review BC government resources on [Freshet and Flood Preparedness](#), including the [Farm flood readiness toolkit](#).
- ☐ Identify a muster point for employees and visitors in the case of evacuation.

- ☐ Investigate and identify alternative livestock accommodation on higher ground if animals need to be moved quickly (if possible).
- ☐ Identify livestock haulers that could assist in the movement of animals on short notice.
- ☐ Develop a plan to move livestock to a pre-determined location as needed.
- ☐ Mark a specified height on local watercourse(s) to trigger response action when water reaches this point as necessary.
- ☐ Assess the equipment, infrastructure and other assets most vulnerable to potential flooding.
- ☐ Identify areas on your property that are higher ground, where equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and chemicals can be moved in the case of flooding to reduce damage, contamination, health impacts and injury.
- ☐ Develop a plan for sandbagging or other measures to protect infrastructure.
- ☐ Consider purchasing sandbags or other physical barriers to protect assets from flooding.
- ☐ Consider purchasing flood pumps.
- ☐ If applicable, ensure that adequate supplies for livestock (feed, medications, etc.) are available in the portion of the farm above the flood plain.

#### **During Emergencies (Response):**

- ☐ Monitor updates and situational developments through the [River Forecast Centre](#) and by monitoring local information sources (see page 10 on “Communication During Evacuations and/or Sheltering-in-Place” for local communications resources) .
- ☐ Follow evacuation orders and ensure family and worker safety first.
- ☐ Follow guidance regarding the evacuation/relocation of livestock (see section 2.3.1 Response Strategy: Livestock Evacuation/Relocation).
- ☐ If safe to do so, take pictures of the flood damage as it’s occurring for insurance purposes later.

#### **After Emergencies (Recovery):**

- ☐ If evacuated, do not return to your property until authorities confirm it is safe and have ensured your property is free from any structural, electrical or other hazards.
- ☐ Follow guidance regarding from local authorities regarding the re-entry, including risks associated with structures, persistent floodwaters and utilities.
- ☐ If any livestock feed has been spoiled, review the Province’s guidance on [Flood-Spoiled Feed Management](#).
- ☐ After some events, the local authority or Province may provide opportunities to apply for funding if impacted by flooding.

## Drought



### Hazard Background

Drought is a slow-onset emergency that can be accompanied by extreme heat. Drought and accompanying extreme heat can impact crop growth, animal health, and other business operations. It can also increase the risk of other hazards, such as wildfire.

Drought can arise from a combination of factors such as insufficient snow accumulation, hot and dry weather or delayed rainfall. The province uses a six-level classification to rate the severity of drought conditions, described below in Table 34.

Level	Impacts
0	There is sufficient water to meet socioeconomic and ecosystem needs.
1	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are rare.
2	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are unlikely.
3	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are possible.
4	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are likely.
5	Adverse impacts to socio-economic or ecosystem values are almost certain.

Table 34: BC Drought Levels, Impacts, and General Response Measures

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

Drought is a shared responsibility between First Nations, local authorities, and provincial and federal governments. The province is responsible for the overall management of water resources. This includes monitoring drought conditions, implementing water conservation measures and coordinating responses among different sectors. The province also provides guidance and support to local governments and communities in developing drought response plans. Several entities are involved in drought management in British Columbia:

- The BC Ministry of Forests (MOF) manages provincial drought response and water conservation efforts.
- The BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) provides support and guidance to farmers during drought conditions.
- The BC River Forecast Centre monitors river levels and issues drought advisories.
- Municipalities and regional districts have the responsibility to manage local water supplies and implement local conservation measures. They are tasked with developing and enforcing water use restrictions, educating the public about water conservation and preparing local drought response plans that align with provincial guidelines.

## Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to drought. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

### Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness):

- ☐ Review the Province's [Drought information web page](#) and the [BC Quick Guide to Drought Resources](#).
- ☐ Review the [BC Livestock Drought Management Guide](#).
- ☐ Review the [Livestock Tax Deferral provision](#), which allows farmers that carry on farming business in a prescribed area who sell all or part of their breeding herd due to drought, excess moisture or flooding to defer a portion of sale proceeds to the following year.
- ☐ Review the [BC Key Drought Management Tips](#).
- ☐ Plan for a water shortage by using the [BC Agriculture Water Calculator](#).
- ☐ Enroll in [AgriStability](#).
- ☐ Consider [purchasing insurance](#) to recover from losses.
- ☐ Consider applying for Provincial water management programs, including the [Beneficial Management Practices Program](#) or the [Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program](#).
- ☐ Monitor the [Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Drought Watch](#).
- ☐ Consider delivering water conservation training to educate workers on water-saving practices.
- ☐ Consider strategies to reduce dust and the respective impacts during dry conditions.
- ☐ Develop plans to prevent heat-related illnesses during hot, dry periods.
- ☐ Develop a plan to manage drought related impacts and communicate updates to stakeholders.

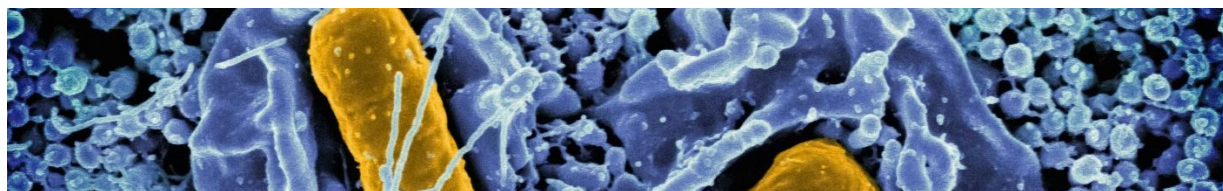
### During Emergencies (Response):

- ☐ Implement any drought management plans prepared, including water conservation measures.
- ☐ Monitor water usage closely and adjust operations to reduce consumption.
- ☐ Communicate regularly with employees about water conservation efforts and any operational changes.
- ☐ Stay informed about local water restrictions and drought severity levels.
- ☐ Monitor livestock closely for signs of dehydration or heat stress.
- ☐ Be prepared to implement alternative water sources or relocation plans if necessary.
- ☐ Collaborate with local authorities and neighboring businesses on water conservation efforts.

### After Emergencies (Recovery):

- ☐ Access [provincial resources for farmers recovery](#) from the effects of a disaster.
- ☐ Access [financial assistance for agricultural producers](#).

## Disease



### Hazard Background

Outbreaks of diseases among animals is a significant risk to the food producer and processing industry due to the potential impact on livestock as the influence on consumer preferences, public confidence, industry practices, supply chain impacts, disruption of trade and export capabilities and significant financial losses. In 2016, a national survey of livestock associations in Canada demonstrated that 97% of respondents identify their sector as being vulnerable to disease-related emergencies.<sup>31</sup>

Animal diseases can spread through direct contact (entry of diseases into open wounds, skin or contact with blood or saliva from an infected animal), indirect contact (transfer by inanimate objects), aerosol (droplets passed through the air from one animal to another), ingestion (consumption of contaminated feed or water) or vector-borne (spread by insects).

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

Under the [Health of Animals Act](#) and [Animal Health Act](#), livestock owners are legally required to report all suspected cases of certain diseases. Owners of livestock are also ultimately responsible for the disposal of livestock carcasses – guidance is available within the PRRD’s Mass Carcass Disposal Plan which established a framework for the region. When an animal shows signs of illness, it is important for livestock owners to respond to those indicators. Reporting any suspected disease is essential not only for minimizing impacts on animal and human health but also for safeguarding the industry.

In a disease-related, sector-wide emergency, the first response organizations are the BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food (MAF) and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA), supported by the Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, EMCR, and Public Safety Canada. Public health services will become involved if humans are also affected. For federally reportable animal diseases, CFIA is the lead agency. In BC, the steps for a disease outbreak include the following (described in Table 35):

Stage	Description
<b>1. Alert</b>	An <b>Unusual Animal Health</b> event has been reported. Industry may be asked to remain vigilant and to voluntarily adopt risk mitigation measures to safeguard against a potential <b>serious animal disease outbreak</b> .
<b>2. Suspicion</b>	A serious animal disease is suspected. A formal <b>Notice of Suspicion</b> may be issued by the CFIA or the provincial government (BCMA). Industry may be asked to adopt <b>Voluntary Movement Controls</b> .
<b>3. Confirmation</b>	A serious animal disease is confirmed. A formal <b>Notice of Confirmation</b> , may be announced by the Chief Veterinary Officer (Canada), Provincial Chief Veterinary Officer, or either federal or provincial Ministers. Mandatory containment strategies may follow.

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<sup>31</sup> BC Cattleman Association Handbook.

<b>4. Response</b>	Industry professionals, government and producers may all have a role to play in various key response components including: Containment, Investigation/Tracing, Vaccination, Depopulation/Disposal, Valuation/Compensation, Cleaning/Disinfection and Lifting of Restrictions.
<b>5. Recovery</b>	Immediate emergency has passed. Operators and industry may now focus on demonstrating absence of disease and regaining/resuming market access.
<b>6. Prevention</b>	BC production is unaffected by a disease incidence or occurrence, also known as 'peace time'. Industry must remain vigilant for Unusual Animal Health Events and adopt risk mitigation measures to safeguard against a potential serious animal disease outbreak.

*Table 35: Steps for a disease outbreak in BC*

## Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to disease. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

### Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness):

Early detection and reporting of disease are essential to minimize the impact of an animal disease outbreak. Consider taking the following actions:

- ☐ Review the [CFIA Reportable Diseases](#) and reporting processes.
- ☐ Review the Province's web page on [Invasive pets and biosecurity](#), including the [Biosecurity Guidelines for Farm Visitors](#) and [Disinfection and Sanitation Practices](#).
- ☐ Clarify the contact information of a veterinarian in the case of a diseases or suspicion of a disease ([College of Veterinarians of BC](#)).
- ☐ Review the reportable and notifiable diseases in BC and the [Report and Notifiable Diseases Regulation](#).

### During Emergencies (Response):

- ☐ If you suspect **animal disease** or have identified [CFIA Reportable Diseases](#), contact your [local veterinarian](#), the [BC Chief Veterinarian](#), or your [CFIA District Office](#).
- ☐ Follow guidance from veterinarians and public health officials.
- ☐ Follow regulations regarding the safe disposal of carcasses.
- ☐ Consult with a veterinarian and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food before Disposing of any carcass with suspected or confirmed disease.
- ☐ Ensure livestock disposal methods comply with appropriate local government bylaws, provincial and federal regulations. The PRRD maintains a Mass Carcass Disposal Plan which supports Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) response on a large and small scale through coordination with the CFIA. Non-Foreign Animal Disease (non-FAD) disposal is additionally supported through this plan. Producers are able to contact the PRRD to request support if the situation exceeds their physical or mental capacity to self-manage.



## Extreme Weather



### Hazard Background

British Columbia experiences a range of extreme weather conditions, including both severe heat waves and extreme cold events, and the frequency and intensity of these events is increasing. Extreme heat can lead to heat-related illnesses, increased wildfire risk and impacts to critical services. Extreme cold can cause hypothermia, frostbite and damage to infrastructure. Both conditions can significantly impact worker safety, livestock health and business operations.

For up-to-date weather information, visit [Environment Canada's website](#) or call 1-(900)-565-5555.

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

In British Columbia, several entities play a role in managing extreme weather events:

- Environment and Climate Change Canada issues weather warnings and forecasts.
- EMCR coordinates provincial-level response for major weather emergencies.
- Health authorities provide public health guidance during extreme weather.
- Local governments coordinate response efforts at the local-level, which may include activating cooling or warming centres during severe events.
- WorkSafe BC sets and enforces occupational health and safety standards.

### Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to extreme weather events. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

#### Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness):

- ☐ Implement a system to regularly monitor weather forecasts and warnings.
- ☐ Review the following resources: [WorkSafeBC - Working in Hot or Cold Environments](#) and [HealthLink BC - Extreme Heat and Cold](#).
- ☐ Educate workers on recognizing and responding to heat and cold stress.
- ☐ Adjust work schedules to avoid the hottest or coldest parts of the day.
- ☐ Consider any infrastructure improvements to minimize the impact of extreme heat/cold.

#### During Emergencies (Response):

- ☐ Monitor communications channels for updates and guidance regarding the extreme weather event (see page 10, Table 4: Expanded Emergency Information Sources).

## Service Interruptions



### Hazard Background

Service interruptions, including power outages, water supply disruptions and communication breakdowns, can significantly impact communities and businesses. These interruptions can be caused by various factors such as extreme weather events, equipment failures or human errors. The increasing reliance on technology and interconnected systems makes businesses and communities more vulnerable to these disruptions.

### Key Roles and Responsibilities

Critical infrastructure is owned and operated by entities within both the public and private sector, and responsibilities vary depending on the sector (e.g., energy & utilities, telecommunications, transportation, etc.). During major service disruptions, EMCR coordinates the provincial-level response, working closely with local governments. Local governments maintain the responsibility for local-level emergency coordination efforts within their jurisdictions.

### Recommended Actions for the Agriculture Sector

The below sections cover recommended actions specific to the agriculture sector in relation to service interruptions. These recommended actions are supplementary to those described within the main content of the AERP (Section 1. Before Emergencies; Section 2. During Emergencies; and Section 3. After Emergencies). Each recommended action below should be considered in relation to the unique circumstances of the individual/organization using this plan to determine its relevance and applicability.

#### Before Emergencies (Mitigation & Preparedness):

- ☐ Consider conducting a “business impact analysis” to identify any critical business functions and any relevant dependencies on critical services (e.g., power, telecommunications, water, etc.).
- ☐ Consider preparing business continuity strategies and a business continuity plan to prevent, mitigate, respond to and recovery from the impacts of critical service interruptions.

#### During Emergencies (Response):

- ☐ Utilize “Appendix B – Contact Information” for resources associated with certain critical service providers.
- ☐ Monitor official communications channels and resources for updates and guidance.



## Appendix E – Agriculture Sector Summary Sheets

A “Summary Sheet” is a condensed 2-page document designed to provide a snapshot of key information and resources for a specific topic. There are links to websites, specific considerations and information unique to the topic captured in a placemat style for ease of rapid understanding. In the following section there are Summary Sheets for each of the main livestock species found in the PRRD and another Summary Sheet for crop farmers.

### Unique Livestock Transportation Considerations

Transportation responsibilities fall upon the producers and processors. Although the PRRD EOC may be activated and in a position to support the broader emergency coordination efforts, PRRD personnel are not authorized to deploy and provide tactical or “boots on the ground” assistance to facilitate evacuations.

Before utilizing the Summary Sheets below, understanding unique considerations for livestock is key while planning for evacuation or relocation of livestock. Each species of livestock has unique needs and considerations during emergencies including special treatment, evacuation times and special methods of transportation which are outlined below.

Animal Type	Transportation Considerations
Cattle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> May need to be separated by age, sex or horned/polled status.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider stress factors in close confinement.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Require sturdy, well-ventilated trailers.</li></ul>
Horses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Individual or small group transport preferable.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure familiarity with loading and travel.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide appropriate flooring to prevent slipping.</li></ul>
Poultry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Transport in crates or coops with proper ventilation.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Be aware of heat stress risks during transport.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider biosecurity measures between flocks.</li></ul>
Swine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Use appropriate loading ramps to prevent injuries.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Provide adequate ventilation during transport.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> May require sprinkling systems in hot weather.</li></ul>
Sheep and Goats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> Can often be transported together.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Ensure proper footing to prevent slipping.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Consider separating rams/bucks from general flock/herd.</li></ul>
Bees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> It may be necessary to transport hives at night.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> Unique PPE may be required for transporters.</li></ul>

Table 36: Transportation considerations for various animal types

## Ranches, Cattle, and Dairy



Cattle are a significant part of the agricultural sector in the PRRD, contributing to both beef and dairy production. They play a crucial role in the local economy and land management practices.

### Unique Considerations for Cattle

- Cattle require large areas for grazing and movement.
- Cattle require large amounts of feed and water daily.
- Cattle may be sensitive to rapid temperature changes and could require careful management of feed and water.
- Biosecurity is crucial to prevent disease spread among herds.
- Proper manure management is essential for environmental health and soil fertility.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- Do you have the appropriate resources to transport your entire herd?
- Have you identified multiple safe routes and destinations for evacuating your cattle?
- Have you identified suitable evacuation sites that can accommodate your herd's needs?
- Have you arranged for appropriate transportation, such as stock trailers or commercial liners?
- Most cattle are not accustomed to loading and unloading from transport vehicles – consider how this may impact the time required for evacuations.

#### **Emergency Preparedness Resources**

**BC Premises Identification (ID) Program:** A mandatory program for livestock owners.

**Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers:**

A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

**AgSafe:** Provides education, training, and consultation on emergency management topics.

#### **Associations and Groups**

**B.C. Cattlemen's Association (BCCA):** The Peace River's primary organization representing cattle producers.

**BC Association of Cattle Feeders:** Supports cattle feeders in the province.

**BC Livestock Producer's Co-op:** Provides services to livestock producers.

**North Peace Cattlemen's Association:** Connection point for livestock producers.

**South Peace River Stockmen's Association:** Affiliate organization to BCCA.

#### **Support Programs**

**B.C. Agri-Business Planning Program:** Support for agriculture and agrifood producers.

**Farmed Animal Disease Program (FAD):**

AgriServiceBC	BC Cattlemen's Association	BC SPCA
<a href="tel:1-888-221-7141">1-(888)-221-7141</a> <a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a>	<a href="tel:1-250-573-3611">1-(250)-573-3611</a> or <a href="tel:1-877-688-2333">1-(877)-688-2333</a> <a href="mailto:bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca">bccattle@cattlemen.bc.ca</a>	<a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program</a> <a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program</a>

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Ranches, Cattle and Dairy)**

### **Wildfire**

- Do you have a plan to protect your cattle from smoke inhalation if evacuation is not possible?
- Have you identified safe routes and locations for evacuating your cattle if necessary?
- Are your gates and fences easily opened to allow for quick cattle movement in case of emergency?

### **Flood**

- Are your cattle barns and equipment storage areas located on higher ground or do you have a plan to move cattle and/or critical equipment quickly?
- Have you considered strategies to mitigate flood-related impacts (e.g., contamination) on feed storage locations and drinking water sources?
- How will you manage manure and waste during a flood to prevent environmental contamination?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a water conservation plan or identified alternative water sources for your cattle during drought conditions?
- Have you considered adjusting your herd size to manage limited water and feed resources?
- Are you prepared to modify grazing patterns to protect pastures during drought conditions?
- Have you considered how drought might impact your long-term herd management decisions?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a biosecurity plan in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian for quick response to disease outbreaks?
- Do you have a plan for isolating sick animals and managing a quarantine situation?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols?

### **Cold Weather**

- Do you have a plan to ensure water sources don't freeze?
- Are you prepared to increase feed rations to help during cold conditions?
- Have you considered using windbreaks to protect cattle from harsh winter winds?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your cattle have access to shade and adequate ventilation?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your cattle during extreme heat events?
- Are you prepared to adjust feeding schedules to cooler parts of the day?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring cattle for signs of heat stress and providing cooling measures if needed?

### **Service Interruption**

- Have you considered backup power sources to maintain essential operations?
- Is there a plan in place to maintain proper ventilation in barns during power outages?
- Have you stockpiled at least one week's worth of feed and water that doesn't require power?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid?

## Apiaries and Bees



Bees are crucial pollinators in agriculture, contributing significantly to crop production and ecosystem health. In the PRRD, beekeeping is an important agricultural activity, supporting both honey production and pollination services for various crops.

### Unique Considerations for Bees

- Bees are highly sensitive to environmental changes and stressors.
- Colony health is paramount and can be easily disrupted by various factors.
- Biosecurity is crucial to prevent the spread of diseases among colonies.
- Beekeepers must consider both the bees and their hive structures in emergency situations.
- Beekeepers must manage hive temperatures, especially during extreme weather conditions.
- Proper protective equipment is essential for safely handling bees.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- How will you safely transport bee colonies to a new location?
- Bees become agitated when moved, posing risks to handlers and the public.
- Do you have proper equipment to move hives quickly and efficiently?
- Timing of evacuation is crucial, as bees are most docile at night.
- Have you identified a suitable relocation site that can support your bees' needs?
- How will you maintain biosecurity protocols during the evacuation process?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**BC Premises Identification (ID) Program:** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers:** A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

#### Associations & Programs

**BC Honey Producers Association (BCHPA):** The primary organization representing beekeepers in BC.

**Bee BC Program:** A provincial program supporting small-scale regional/community-based projects.

**Peace Beekeepers Club**

#### Resources

**Apiculture staff, inspections, and lab services**

**Beekeeping bulletins and resources**

**Canadian Beekeepers' Practical Handbook to Bee Biosecurity and Food Safety**

**The Food for Bees guide**

#### Other Support Systems

**National Bee Diagnostic Centre:** Characterizes ..

#### Provincial Apiculturist

**Paul van Westendorp**

[Paul.vanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Paul.vanwestendorp@gov.bc.ca)

[1-\(778\)-666-0582](tel:1-778-666-0582)

#### Prince George-Central North

**Barry Clark**

[barrydouglasclark@gmail.com](mailto:barrydouglasclark@gmail.com)

[1-\(250\)-301-6266](tel:1-250-301-6266)

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Apiaries and Bees)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you identified safe locations to relocate hives away from fire-prone areas?
- Do you have a plan to protect hives from smoke exposure if evacuation is not possible?
- Have you created a defensible space around your apiary to protect it from approaching wildfires?
- Have you considered how to maintain bee nutrition if their foraging area is affected by fire?
- Are your hives easily accessible for quick removal in case of an emergency?

### **Flood**

- Are your hives elevated to protect them from potential flood waters?
- Do you have a strategy to quickly move hives to higher ground if flooding is imminent?
- Have you assessed how flooding might affect the flowers and plants your bees rely on for food?
- How will you manage water-damaged hives and equipment to prevent disease spread?

### **Drought**

- Have you identified alternative water sources for your bees during drought conditions?
- Are you prepared to supplement bee nutrition if drought affects local floral resources?
- Have you considered reducing colony numbers to match available resources during severe drought?
- Do you have a plan to monitor and manage hive stress during prolonged dry periods?

### **Disease**

- Do you regularly inspect your hives for signs of disease or pest infestation?
- Are you familiar with the signs of common bee diseases and prepared to act quickly?
- Do you have a quarantine plan to isolate affected hives quickly?
- Have you established relationships with local veterinarians or bee health experts?

### **Cold Weather**

- Have you properly insulated your hives to protect bees from extreme cold?
- Do you have a plan to clear hive entrances of snow and ice?
- Are you prepared to provide emergency feed if bees cannot access their stored honey?
- Have you considered using windbreaks to protect hives from harsh winter winds?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your hives have adequate ventilation to prevent overheating?
- Have you provided a nearby water source to help bees regulate hive temperature?
- Are your hives positioned to receive some shade during the hottest parts of the day?
- Do you have a plan to monitor and manage heat stress in your colonies during extreme heat events?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources to maintain any climate-controlled storage?
- Have you established alternative communication methods to stay informed about your hives if regular services are down?
- Have you stockpiled necessary supplies such as feed and medication?
- Have you established relationships with other beekeepers for mutual aid during emergencies?



## Poultry Farms



Poultry farming is an important part of the agricultural sector in the PRRD, contributing to both meat and egg production. Poultry operations range from small backyard flocks to large commercial facilities, playing a significant role in local food security and the economy.

### Unique Considerations for Poultry

- Poultry are highly sensitive to environmental changes and require careful management of temperature and ventilation.
- Biosecurity is crucial due to the potential for rapid disease spread in flocks.
- Proper feed and water management is essential for maintaining productivity and health.
- Poultry manure can be a valuable resource for fertilizer but requires proper management to prevent environmental issues.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- Do you have appropriate transportation crates ready for quick evacuation for your entire flock?
- Have you identified suitable relocation sites that can accommodate your birds?
- Have you prepared an emergency kit with essential supplies for your poultry?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**[BC Premises Identification \(ID\) Program:](#)** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**[AgSafe:](#)** Provides education, training, and consultation on emergency management topics.

#### Associations & Programs

**[BC Poultry Association \(BCPA\):](#)** Serves the collective interests of poultry farmers.

**[BC Chicken Growers' Association \(BCCGA\):](#)** Represents licensed chicken growers in BC.

**[BC Turkey Association \(BCTA\):](#)** Promotes the welfare of turkey farmers.

**[BC Egg Producers Association:](#)** Represents egg producers in the province.

**[Poultry Biosecurity Program:](#)** On-farm biosecurity and emergency response plans.

**[Farmed Animal Disease Program \(FAD\):](#)** Funding for planning, preparedness, prevention, and mitigation for animal diseases.

#### Support Resources

**[Small Flock Poultry Health Manual:](#)** A comprehensive guide for small-flock owners.

**[BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food:](#)** Resources for poultry producers.

AgriServiceBC	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	BC SPCA
1-(888)-221-7141 <a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a>	<a href="tel:1-800-442-2342">1-(800)-442-2342</a> <a href="https://inspection.canada.ca">Contact us – Canadian Food Inspection Agency - inspection.canada.ca</a>	<a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program</a> <a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program</a>

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Poultry Farms)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created a defensible space around your poultry houses?
- Do you have a plan to protect your poultry from smoke inhalation if evacuation is not possible?
- Do you have a backup power source to maintain ventilation systems during a power outage?
- Have you identified safe evacuation routes for both you and your poultry?
- Are your poultry houses equipped with fire-resistant materials or sprinkler systems?

### **Flood**

- Are your poultry houses elevated or do you have a plan to quickly move birds to higher ground?
- Do you have a strategy to prevent water and feed contamination?
- Do you have a plan to move birds to higher ground if flooding is imminent?
- How will you manage waste and prevent environmental contamination?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a water conservation plan for your poultry operation?
- Do you have alternative water sources identified for prolonged drought conditions?
- Have you considered adjusting your flock size to manage limited water resources?
- Do you have a strategy to cool your poultry houses if water for cooling systems becomes scarce?
- Are you prepared to modify feed rations to reduce water requirements if necessary?

### **Disease**

- Do you have strict biosecurity measures in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Are you regularly monitoring your flock for signs of illness?
- Do you have a quarantine plan to isolate sick birds quickly?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian for quick response to disease outbreaks?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols?

### **Cold Weather**

- Is your poultry housing insulation adequate to protect birds from extreme cold?
- Do you have supplemental heating systems in place for vulnerable birds?
- Have you winterized your water systems to prevent freezing?
- Are you prepared to increase feed rations to help birds maintain body temperature?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your poultry houses have adequate ventilation and cooling systems?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your birds during extreme heat events?
- If possible, are you prepared to adjust feeding schedules to cooler parts of the day?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring birds for signs of heat stress?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup generators to maintain critical systems?
- Is there a plan in place to manually care for your flock if automated systems fail?
- Have you stockpiled at least 7-10 days' worth of feed and water that doesn't require power?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid?

## Swine Farms



Swine production is a significant sector of agriculture, with unique challenges and considerations in emergency situations. Pigs require specific care and management, especially during crises.

### Unique Considerations for Swine

- Pigs are sensitive to temperature changes and require careful environmental control.
- Biosecurity is crucial in pork production to prevent disease spread.
- Pigs have specific dietary needs that must be maintained even during emergencies.
- Proper manure management is essential for environmental and health reasons.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- How will you transport pigs safely and efficiently?
- Do you have a designated evacuation site that can accommodate your pigs?
- Have you prepared emergency feed and water supplies for your pigs during evacuation?
- How will you maintain biosecurity protocols during the evacuation process?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**[BC Premises Identification \(ID\) Program](#):** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**[Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers](#):** A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

**[AgSafe](#):** Provides education, training and consultation on emergency management topics.

#### Associations & Programs

**[BC Pork Producers Association](#):** Represents the pork sector.

#### National Organizations with BC Involvement

**[Canadian Pork Council](#):** The national voice for hog producers in Canada.

#### Support Programs

**[Small Lot Pork Producer Management and Production Manual](#):** B.C. Pork and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food. [Video Link](#)

**[Farmed Animal Disease Program \(FAD\)](#):** Funding for planning, preparedness, prevention and mitigation for animal diseases.

**[PigTrace](#):** A national traceability system for hog movements.

AgriServiceBC	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	BC SPCA
<a href="tel:1-888-221-7141">1-(888)-221-7141</a> <a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a>	<a href="tel:1-800-442-2342">1-(800)-442-2342</a> <a href="#">Contact us – Canadian Food Inspection Agency - inspection.canada.ca</a>	<a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program</a> <a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program</a>



## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Swine Farms)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created a defensible space around your pig barns and feed storage areas?
- Do you have a plan to protect your pigs from smoke inhalation?
- Have you identified safe routes for evacuating your pigs if necessary?
- Is your farm equipment readily available to assist in firefighting efforts if needed?

### **Flood**

- Are your pig barns and equipment storage areas located on higher ground?
- Do you have a plan to move pigs to elevated areas within your facility?
- Have you secured feed storage to prevent contamination from floodwaters?
- How will you manage manure and waste during a flood to prevent environmental contamination?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a water conservation plan for your pig operation?
- Do you have alternative water sources identified for prolonged drought conditions?
- Have you considered adjusting your herd size to manage limited water resources?
- Are you prepared to modify feed rations to reduce water requirements if necessary?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a biosecurity plan in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian for quick response to disease outbreaks?
- Do you have a plan for isolating sick animals and managing a quarantine situation?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols during a disease outbreak?

### **Cold Weather**

- Is your barn insulation adequate to protect pigs from extreme cold?
- Do you have supplemental heating systems in place for piglets and vulnerable animals?
- Have you winterized your water systems to prevent freezing?
- Are you prepared to increase feed rations to help pigs maintain body temperature in cold conditions?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your barns have adequate ventilation and cooling systems?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your pigs during extreme heat events?
- Are you prepared to adjust feeding schedules to cooler parts of the day?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring pigs for signs of heat stress?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources to maintain ventilation and temperature control in pig barns?
- Have you stockpiled essential supplies like feed, water, and medications?
- Do you have alternative water sources if your main supply is disrupted?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid during service interruptions?

## Sheep and Goats



Sheep and goats are vital components of global agriculture, providing essential products such as meat, milk, wool, and fiber. These small ruminants play a crucial role in food security and income generation, particularly in rural areas. They are adaptable to various environments and can thrive on marginal lands, making them valuable assets for small-scale and large commercial farmers alike.

### Unique Considerations for Sheep and Goats

- Both require less space and feed compared to larger livestock, making them suitable for small farms and mixed farming systems.
- Sheep and goats are sensitive to environmental changes and require careful management of nutrition and health.
- They have specific fencing and containment needs due to their agility and tendency to escape.
- Proper hoof care and parasite management are essential for maintaining herd health.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- Do you have enough trailers or transport vehicles to move your entire flock quickly?
- Have you identified evacuation routes that can accommodate livestock trailers?
- Do you have a designated evacuation site that can house your sheep and goats safely?
- Have you prepared an emergency kit with essential supplies for your flock?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**BC Premises Identification (ID) Program:** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**AgSafe:** Provides education, training, and consultation on emergency management topics.

#### Associations & Programs

**BC Sheep Federation:** Represents the sheep and wool industry in British Columbia.

**BC Purebred Sheep Breeders' Association:** Promotes purebred sheep in the province.

**BC Goat Association:** Increases public awareness of goats and goat producers.

#### Support Programs

**Livestock Protection Program (LPP):** Provides verification and mitigation of wolf and coyote attacks on sheep.

**Scrapie Canada Compensation Program:** Offers compensation for goats destroyed under the Health of Animals Act.

**Animal Health Centre:** Offers veterinary diagnostic services for sheep and goats.

**Canadian Sheep Identification Program:** Manages sheep identification and traceability.

AgriServiceBC	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	BC SPCA
1-(888)-221-7141 <a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a>	1-(800)-442-2342 <a href="https://www.inspection.canada.ca">Contact us – Canadian Food Inspection Agency - inspection.canada.ca</a>	<a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program</a> <a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program</a>

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Sheep and Goats)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created defensible spaces around your sheep and goat enclosures?
- Do you have a plan to protect your animals from smoke inhalation?
- Have you identified safe routes for evacuating your flock if necessary?
- Are your fences and gates easily opened to allow for quick movement of animals in case of emergency?

### **Flood**

- Are your sheep and goat shelters located on higher ground to avoid flood waters?
- Do you have a plan to move your flock to elevated areas within your property?
- Have you secured feed storage to prevent contamination from floodwaters?
- How will you manage waste and prevent environmental contamination during a flood?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a water conservation plan for your sheep and goat operation?
- Do you have alternative feed sources identified for prolonged drought conditions?
- Have you considered adjusting your flock size to manage limited water and feed resources?
- Are you prepared to modify grazing patterns to protect pastures during drought conditions?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a biosecurity plan in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian experienced in small ruminant health?
- Do you have a plan for isolating sick animals and managing a quarantine situation?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols during a disease outbreak?

### **Cold Weather**

- Is your sheep and goat housing adequate to protect animals from extreme cold and wind?
- Do you have a plan to ensure water sources don't freeze?
- Are you prepared to increase feed rations to help animals in cold conditions?
- Have you considered using windbreaks to protect your flock from harsh winter winds?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your sheep and goats have access to shade and adequate ventilation?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your flock during extreme heat events?
- Are you prepared to adjust feeding schedules to cooler parts of the day?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring animals for signs of heat stress and providing cooling measures if needed?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources to maintain essential operations, such as electric fencing or water pumps?
- Have you stockpiled at least a week's worth of feed and water that doesn't require power?
- Do you have alternative water sources if your main supply is disrupted?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid?

## Horses



Horses have played a significant role in agriculture throughout history, contributing to farm operations, transportation, and rural economies. Today, horses continue to provide valuable services in farming, including plowing, hauling, and livestock management. They also offer opportunities for farm diversification through equine-related businesses and tourism.

### Unique Considerations for Horses

- Horses require large areas for grazing and exercise.
- They are sensitive to environmental changes and need careful management of feed, water, and shelter.
- Proper hoof care and regular veterinary check-ups are essential for maintaining horse health.
- Horses can be flight animals, making them challenging to handle in stressful situations.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- Do you have enough trailers to evacuate all your horses quickly?
- Have you practiced loading and unloading your horses to familiarize them with the process?
- Do you have a designated evacuation site that can accommodate your horses' needs?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**BC Premises Identification (ID) Program:** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers:** A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

**AgSafe:** Provides education, training, and consultation on emergency management topics.

#### Associations & Programs

**Horse Council BC:** Organization representing equestrians, offering various programs.

**BC SPCA Horse and Farm Animal Volunteer Program:** Provides care and support for rescued and surrendered horses.

**Horse Council BC's Road Safety Program:** Information for equestrians and drivers.

**Horse Council BC's Premise ID program:** Important for biosecurity and emergency response.

**Horse Council BC's partnership with Equine Register Canada:** Enhances horse identification and biosecurity.

AgriServiceBC	Canadian Food Inspection Agency	BC SPCA
1-(888)-221-7141 <a href="mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca">AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca</a>	<a href="tel:1-800-442-2342">1-(800)-442-2342</a> <a href="https://inspection.canada.ca">Contact us – Canadian Food Inspection Agency - inspection.canada.ca</a>	<a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program</a> <a href="#">BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program</a>

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Horses)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created defensible spaces around your horse barns and pastures?
- Do you have a plan to protect your horses from smoke inhalation?
- Have you identified safe evacuation routes for both you and your horses?
- Are your gates and fences easily opened to allow for quick horse movement in case of emergency?

### **Flood**

- Are your horse barns and equipment storage areas located on higher ground?
- Do you have a plan to move horses to elevated areas within your property?
- Have you secured feed storage to prevent contamination from floodwaters?
- How will you manage manure and waste during a flood to prevent environmental contamination?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a water conservation plan for your horse operation?
- Do you have alternative feed sources identified for prolonged drought conditions?
- Have you considered adjusting your herd size to manage limited water and feed resources?
- Are you prepared to modify grazing patterns to protect pastures during drought conditions?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a biosecurity plan in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian experienced in equine health?
- Do you have a plan for isolating sick horses and managing a quarantine situation?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols during a disease outbreak?

### **Cold Weather**

- Is your horse housing adequate to protect animals from extreme cold and wind?
- Do you have a plan to ensure water sources don't freeze?
- Are you prepared to increase feed rations to help horses during cold conditions?
- Have you considered using blankets or windbreaks to protect your horses from harsh winter weather?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your horses have access to shade and adequate ventilation?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your horses during extreme heat events?
- Are you prepared to adjust feeding and exercise schedules to cooler parts of the day?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring horses for signs of heat stress and providing cooling measures if needed?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources to maintain essential operations, such as water pumps and lighting?
- Have you stockpiled at least a week's worth of feed and water that doesn't require power?
- Do you have alternative water sources if your main supply is disrupted?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid?

## Bison



Bison are increasingly recognized as a valuable agricultural asset, offering sustainable farming opportunities and high-quality meat production. As native to North America, bison are well-adapted to local environments and can thrive on marginal lands unsuitable for other forms of agriculture. They contribute to soil health, biodiversity and sustainable land management practices.

### Unique Considerations for Bison

- Bison require large grazing areas and are adapted to utilize low-quality feeds efficiently.
- They are hardy animals with natural disease resistance, requiring minimal veterinary intervention.
- Bison have strong herd instincts and can be challenging to handle, necessitating specialized equipment and low-stress handling techniques.
- They have a long productive life, with some cows remaining productive for up to 30 years.

### Specific Evacuation Considerations

- Do you have sturdy, bison-specific trailers for safe transportation?
- Have you identified evacuation routes that can accommodate large trailers and bison's weight?
- Do you have a designated evacuation site with appropriate fencing and space for your herd?
- Have you practiced low-stress handling techniques to facilitate loading during emergencies?

### Emergency Preparedness Resources

**BC Premises Identification (ID) Program:** A mandatory program for livestock owners to improve emergency response capabilities.

**Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers:** A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

**AgSafe:** Provides education, training and consultation on emergency management topics.

### Associations & Programs

**British Columbia Bison Association:** Providing ranchers with information and support.

**Canadian Bison Association:** Represents BC within the national organization.

### Support Programs

**BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food:** Disease management and prevention.

**BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food:** Livestock Traceability program.

### AgriServiceBC

[1-\(888\)-221-7141](tel:18882217141)

[AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca)

### BC SPCA

[BC SPCA Farm Animal Foster Care Program](#)

[BC SPCA Farm Animal Transport Program](#)

## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Bison)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created firebreaks around your bison pastures and handling facilities?
- Do you have a plan to protect your bison from smoke inhalation?
- Have you identified safe routes for evacuating your herd if necessary?
- Are your gates and fences designed for quick opening to allow rapid bison movement?

### **Flood**

- Are your bison grazing areas located on higher ground to avoid flood waters?
- Do you have a plan to move bison to elevated areas within your property?
- Have you secured feed storage to prevent contamination from floodwaters?
- How will you manage waste and prevent environmental contamination during a flood?

### **Drought**

- Have you developed a grazing management plan to conserve forage during drought conditions?
- Do you have alternative feed sources identified for prolonged drought periods?
- Have you considered adjusting your herd size to manage limited water and feed resources?
- Are you prepared to implement rotational grazing to protect pastures during drought conditions?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a biosecurity plan in place to prevent disease introduction and spread?
- Have you established a relationship with a veterinarian experienced in bison health?
- Do you have a plan for isolating sick animals and managing a quarantine situation?
- Are you prepared to implement enhanced cleaning and disinfection protocols?

### **Cold Weather**

- Do your bison have access to natural or man-made windbreaks for protection against winter winds?
- Do you have a plan to ensure water sources don't freeze?
- Are you prepared to provide supplemental feed to help bison in extreme cold?
- Have you considered the need for additional space to allow bison to move and generate body heat?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do your bison have access to shade and adequate water sources during extreme heat?
- Have you developed a plan to prevent heat stress in your herd during prolonged heat waves?
- Are you prepared to adjust grazing schedules to cooler parts of the day if necessary?
- Do you have protocols in place for monitoring bison for signs of heat stress and providing cooling measures if needed?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources to maintain essential operations, such as water pumps and electric fencing?
- Have you stockpiled at least a week's worth of feed and water that doesn't require power?
- Do you have alternative water sources if your main supply is disrupted?
- Have you established relationships with neighboring farms for mutual aid?



## Crops



The PRRD is a major agricultural area in British Columbia, producing approximately 98% of the province's canola crop, 75% of its grain crop, and the majority of its forage seed. The region's key crops include canola, wheat, barley, oats, forage crops (alfalfa, timothy) and peas. These crops are well-adapted to the region's long daylight hours and shorter growing season.

### Unique Considerations for Crops

- The region has a short growing season with long daylight hours, favoring early maturing crops.
- The average farm size in the PRRD is significantly larger than the provincial average, at 537.5 ha compared to 132 ha.
- Crop rotation and inclusion of forages can help maintain soil health and fertility.
- Have you identified safe storage facilities outside the danger zone for harvested crops?
- Have you prepared an inventory of your crops and their locations for insurance purposes?
- Do you have arrangements with neighboring farms for mutual aid in case of emergency?

#### Emergency Preparedness Resources

[AgSafe](#): Provides education, training, and consultation on emergency management topics.

[Emergency Preparedness Tips for Producers](#): A factsheet with tips for emergency preparation.

[Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program](#): Increases farm-level climate resistance.

#### Associations & Programs

[BC Grain Producers' Association](#): Represents grain and oilseed producers.

#### Support Programs and Resources

[Agricultural Water Infrastructure Program](#): Helps with water management and irrigation.

[BC Climate Agri-Solutions Fund](#): Supports adoption of beneficial management practices.

[BC Agriculture Council](#): Represents member associations in the agriculture sector.

[BC Crop and Livestock Reporter Program](#): Share local insights for crops and livestock conditions.

[Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC](#): Delivers various funding programs.

[Regional Extension Program](#): Supports climate change adaptation projects.

#### AgriServiceBC

[1-\(888\)-221-7141](tel:18882217141)

[AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca](mailto:AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca)

#### Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture

[Extreme Weather Preparedness for Agriculture Program](#)  
- [Province of British Columbia](#)



## **Hazard-Specific Considerations (Crops)**

### **Wildfire**

- Have you created firebreaks around your crop fields?
- Do you have a plan to protect stored grains and seeds from smoke contamination?
- Have you considered the impact of fire retardants on your soil and crops?

### **Flood**

- Are your grain storage facilities located on higher ground to avoid flood waters?
- Do you have a drainage system in place to quickly remove excess water from fields?
- Have you considered planting cover crops in flood-prone areas to prevent soil erosion?
- Do you have a plan to assess and mitigate soil contamination after a flood event?

### **Drought**

- Have you considered installing an irrigation system for your most valuable or drought-sensitive crops?
- Do you have a plan to prioritize water usage among your different crops during water shortages?
- Have you explored insurance options to protect against crop losses due to drought?

### **Disease**

- Do you have a crop rotation plan to help prevent the buildup of crop-specific diseases?
- Are you familiar with the signs of common diseases for each of your crop types?
- Do you have a relationship with an agronomist or plant pathologist for quick disease identification?
- Have you considered planting disease-resistant varieties of your crops?

### **Cold Weather**

- Do you have a plan to protect early planted crops from late spring frosts?
- Are you aware of the frost tolerance levels for each of your crop types?
- Have you considered using techniques like row covers or wind machines to protect sensitive crops?
- Do you have a plan to harvest crops quickly if an early fall frost is predicted?

### **Hot Weather**

- Do you have strategies to minimize heat stress on your crops during extreme heat events?
- Have you considered adjusting planting dates to avoid the hottest parts of the season?
- Have you explored heat-tolerant varieties of your main crops for future plantings?

### **Service Interruption**

- Do you have backup power sources for critical farm operations?
- Have you stockpiled essential supplies like fuel, seeds, and fertilizers?
- Do you have alternative transportation methods for getting your crops to market?
- Have you established relationships with multiple suppliers to ensure access to necessary inputs?

## Appendix F – Resources and Links

Provided below are key links to alternate resources from which information has been pulled, updated and altered. These resources vary in type but are useful for emergency preparedness and response.

### Emergency Information and Situational Awareness

Resource	Description
<a href="#">PRRD Emergency Services Web Page</a>	Provides information regarding Evacuation Alerts & Notices, wildfire updates and mapping, emergency alerts information and resources to prepare for emergencies.
<a href="#">PRRD Emergency Contacts</a>	A list of Emergency Contacts in the PRRD.
<a href="#">PRRD Emergency Alerts</a>	Active Emergency Alerts in the PRRD.
<a href="#">EmergencyInfoBC</a>	BC Government web page providing links and information to support situational awareness of ongoing emergencies in the province.
<a href="#">DriveBC Traveller Information System</a>	Information on travel routes and status changes.
<a href="#">Weather Information (Government of Canada)</a>	Current and forecasted weather, air quality, alerts, analyses and modelling.

Table 37: Resources and links – Emergency Information and Situational Awareness

### Agriculture-Specific Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">BC Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock Relocation, Emergency Management Planning Tools</a>	Toolkit for planning and executing livestock movement during emergencies.
<a href="#">Emergency Management Guide for B.C. Small Mixed Farms</a>	Tailored emergency preparedness guide for small agricultural operations.
<a href="#">Emergency Management Disease Preparedness Guide for BC Beef Producers</a>	Comprehensive guide for beef producers to prepare for and manage disease-related emergencies.
<a href="#">Emergency management guide for BC pork producers</a>	Specialized guide for pork producers to manage various emergency situations.
<a href="#">Emergency management guide for Poultry Farms</a>	Detailed guide for poultry farmers to prepare for and respond to emergencies.
<a href="#">Emergency Management Planning Workbook for BC Dairy Producers</a>	Interactive workbook for dairy producers to develop emergency management plans.
<a href="#">Preparing the BC Beef Sector for Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies</a>	Strategic plan for the beef industry to address large-scale disease outbreaks.

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Preparing the BC Dairy Sector for Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies</a>	Comprehensive strategy for the dairy industry to manage widespread disease emergencies.
<a href="#">Livestock Identification and Traceability</a>	Tools and information to assist in the tracking of livestock.
<a href="#">Farm and Ranch Assessment</a>	FireSmart assessment for farms and ranches.
<a href="#">Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan</a>	A tool to develop a customized Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan using the Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Guide & Workbook.
<a href="#">Caring for Livestock During an Evacuation</a>	Prepare for and manage animal health issues during an evacuation.
<a href="#">Emergency Preparedness for Farm Animals</a>	Emergency preparedness for animals during emergencies.
<a href="#">Farm Animals and Livestock Preparedness</a>	Learn how to keep your farm animals and livestock safe in the event of an emergency or disaster.
<a href="#">Livestock Hauling Guide</a>	A guide for hauling livestock.
<a href="#">Planning for Livestock Relocation During an Emergency</a>	Things to consider for your livestock relocation plan under all hazard conditions.
<a href="#">Premises ID</a>	Agricultural property identification system for traceability and identification upon Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order.
<a href="#">On-Farm Contingency Plan</a>	Template and guidance for developing farm-specific emergency plans.
<a href="#">AgSafe</a>	Training programs and resources for the agriculture sector.
<a href="#">Environmental Farm Plan Program</a>	Program helping farmers develop environmental sustainability strategies.
<a href="#">Livestock Market Interruption Strategy Support</a>	To enhance industry and government preparedness to deal with the impacts of a market interruption, outside of the regulatory response already in place.
<a href="#">Farm Flood Readiness Toolkit</a>	This toolkit will help producers prepare for and recover from flooding.
<a href="#">Freshet and Flood Preparedness for Agriculture</a>	Guide for agricultural flood preparation and mitigation.
<a href="#">Drought in Agriculture Webpage</a>	Webpage containing information on drought management in agriculture including information on irrigation, crops, soil, livestock, pasture and range management as well as links to resources on feed and pasture availability and financial programs.
<a href="#">Cyber security &amp; your farming business</a>	A guide for how to approach cyber security for farming operations.
<a href="#">Range Management</a>	Guidelines following the Forest and Range Practices Act.
<a href="#">Government of Canada: Emergency planning for industry organizations</a>	General guidelines for industry considerations.

Resource	Description
<a href="#">AgriRecovery</a>	A disaster relief framework that is part of a suite of federal-provincial-territorial (FPT) Business Risk Management (BRM) programs under the Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership.
<a href="#">AgPal</a>	AgPal helps farmers and agri-businesses find relevant resources by gathering agricultural information and presenting it all in one place.

Table 38: Resources and links – Agriculture-Specific Information and Resources

## Agriculture-Specific Organizations

Resource	Description
<a href="#">BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food</a>	The ministry's "emergency management for agriculture" web page, including information for the agriculture sector in BC to support planning and response efforts.
<a href="#">Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team (ALERT)</a>	ALERT works with local authorities including ESS (Emergency Support Services), EOCs (Emergency Operations Centres), fire departments, the RCMP, Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Emergency Management & Climate Readiness BC personnel.
<a href="#">BC Cattlemen's Association</a>	The official voice of cattle ranchers throughout the province.
<a href="#">BC Food and Beverage</a>	The largest community of food and beverage professionals in British Columbia.
<a href="#">BC Agriculture Council</a>	A leading industry advocate for key sector-wide priorities in British Columbia.
<a href="#">Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC</a>	Delivering funding opportunities to support agriculture.
<a href="#">Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA)</a>	Dedicated to safeguarding food, animals and plants, which enhances the health and well-being of Canada's people, environment and economy.
<a href="#">Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada Programs</a>	Federal government programs supporting agricultural development, innovation and sustainability.
<a href="#">Canadian Cattle Identification Agency</a>	Cattle tracking services and information.

Table 39: Resources and links – Agriculture-Specific Organizations

## Wildfire Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">BC Wildfire Service</a>	For up-to-date information about active wildfires, prevention and recovery resources and links to social media accounts.
<a href="#">Current Wildfire Situation in B.C.</a>	Real-time updates on wildfire locations, status and potential risks.
<a href="#">Air Quality and Health Index (AQHI)</a>	A map that provides health-specific messaging.

<a href="#">Wildfire Situation Map</a>	For up-to-date information about active wildfires.
<a href="#">Fire Danger Rating Reports</a>	Maps on fire danger ratings across B.C., produced annually during fire season from April 15th to October 15th.
<a href="#">FireSmart Manual</a>	Comprehensive guide for wildfire prevention and property protection.
<a href="#">Initial Attack Protocol</a>	For local stakeholder response to new wildfires that start in their communities on Crown or private land.
<a href="#">Wildfire Preparedness Guide</a>	This guide will help you prepare your home, protect your property and understand what to do if a wildfire is close to your community.

Table 40: Resources and links – Wildfire Information and Resources

## Flooding Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">River Forecast Centre Webpage</a>	A webpage providing links and information provided by the River Forecast Centre, including bulletins, maps, and warnings to inform emergency managers and the public about current and upcoming streamflow conditions.

Table 41: Resources and links – Flooding Information and Resources

## Drought Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">BC Ministry of Environment – Drought Information</a>	Comprehensive information about drought conditions and mitigation strategies.
<a href="#">BC Quick Guide to Drought Resources</a>	Quick reference guide to drought resources.
<a href="#">Canadian Drought Monitor</a>	Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada's web hub for national and regional information targeted at the agricultural sector. It links to information on current conditions and access to federal assistance programs.
<a href="#">Dealing With Drought: A Handbook for Water Suppliers in British Columbia</a>	Guidance for the province and its communities to provide proactive drought management goals to help prevent the onset of drought conditions, and to assist and support water suppliers with assessing, planning, and responding to drought conditions.
<a href="#">Drought Information Portal</a>	A GIS platform providing current and historical data regarding drought conditions in the province.
<a href="#">Emergency Response and Contingency Plan for Small Water Systems</a>	A step-by-step guide to creating an emergency response and contingency plan for your small water system.

<a href="#">Guide to Emergency Response and Contingency Plans for Water Supply Systems</a>	Ministry of Health guidance under the Drinking Water Protection Act requirement that all water suppliers develop and maintain an emergency response and contingency plan.
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Table 42: Resources and links – Drought Information and Resources

### Critical Service Disruption Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">BC Hydro Power Outages Map</a>	Real-time map showing current power interruptions across British Columbia.
<a href="#">Fortis BC Power Outage</a>	Information and resources for power interruptions in British Columbia.

Table 43: Resources and links – Critical Service Disruption Information and Resources

### Animal Disease Information and Resources

Resource	Description
<a href="#">Avian Influenza (Bird Flu)</a>	Provides a services & information portal to specific resources.
<a href="#">African Swine Fever</a>	Provides a services & information portal to specific resources.
<a href="#">CFIA Reportable Diseases</a>	List of animal and plant diseases requiring mandatory reporting.

Table 44: Resources and links – Animal Disease Information and Resources