



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



GOAL 9:

Increase public awareness and preparedness for climate-related hazards

Indicator: Number of initiatives or projects implemented to increase public awareness and preparedness for climate hazards; Completed regional risk assessments

GOAL 10:

Enhance early warning systems and emergency response

Indicator: Number of actions or projects implemented to enhance climate emergency preparedness and early warning systems.

OVERVIEW

The PRRD is increasingly exposed to climate-related emergencies, including flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, and severe storms. These events pose significant risks to public safety, critical infrastructure, and the regional economy. This theme highlights the importance of strengthening emergency management systems and fostering community resilience to mitigate the impacts of these threats.

Public feedback has underscored the need for improved emergency services, early warning systems, and public awareness about climate-related health and safety risks. Strengthening these systems is crucial to safeguarding lives, protecting property, and minimizing disruptions to communities across the PRRD.

Efforts to bolster emergency management will require sufficient provincial support, particularly in implementing the forthcoming emergency management legislation. Building stronger regional partnerships with provincial authorities and neighbouring jurisdictions will also be critical in ensuring effective coordination and resource sharing.

By investing in emergency preparedness and resilience, the PRRD can protect its residents, infrastructure, and economy from the increasing risks of a changing climate.



Goal 9: Increase public awareness and preparedness for climate hazards

REGIONAL DISTRICT SCOPE	TIMEFRAME
<p>9.1 Update planning and emergency response documents for climate-related risks</p> <p>Update Official Community Plans (OCPs) and other relevant documents to incorporate information about climate-related development risks, ensuring that communities are prepared for changing conditions.</p> <p>[Related to RGS 8.2.d]]</p>	Medium (2-5 years)
<p>9.2 Develop a regional natural hazard and climate risk assessment</p> <p>Continue building relationships with member municipalities and First Nations in the region to support the development of Regional Natural Hazard and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessments in line with the upcoming requirements of the new Emergency Management and Disaster Management Act (EDMA). [Related to RGS 8.1.d]]</p>	Medium (2-5 years)
<p>9.3 Identify planning tools to address high-risk areas</p> <p>Following completion of the Regional Natural Hazard and Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment, identify high-risk areas for climate-related hazards and investigate the need to strengthen or introduce new Development Permit Areas (DPAs), guidelines, and other planning tools to mitigate these risks effectively.</p>	Medium (2-5 years)



Goal 9: Increase public awareness and preparedness for climate hazards – Continued

COLLABORATION	
<p>9.4 Support Northern Health Authority with climate health campaigns</p> <p>Collaborate with Northern Health to design and distribute climate health awareness campaigns and workshops targeted at priority populations, ensuring the messages are aligned with regional climate risks and public health concerns.</p>	Medium (2-5 years) SHORT (1-2 YEARS)
ADVOCACY	
<p>9.5 Ensure adequate funding for FireSmart programs</p> <p>Advocate for consistent and enhanced funding for FireSmart initiatives, ensuring the Regional District has the necessary resources to increase community awareness and preparedness for wildfire risks. Explore opportunities to expand FireSmart programs through partnerships with municipalities and First Nations.</p>	Medium (2-5 years)



Goal 10: Enhance early warning systems and emergency response

REGIONAL DISTRICT SCOPE	TIMEFRAME
<p>10.1 Investigate alternative communication systems for offline residents</p> <p>Explore alternative communication options for offline residents, including coordination with local community organizations, digital message boards, and fire department signs. Provide contingency and emergency plan templates for individuals to better prepare, detailing contact points connected to online warning systems. Investigate the potential for advocacy to Northern Health to implement a neighbour check-in program to support community resilience.</p>	Medium (2-5 years)
<p>10.2 Explore ways to facilitate animal evacuation</p> <p>Explore ways to develop and share a list of individuals, organizations, and facilities that can temporarily host animals during emergencies. Educate residents on evacuation planning for pets and livestock, providing guidance on where to go and who to contact in the event of an evacuation. [Links to 10.6 Advocacy]</p>	Medium (2-5 years)
<p>10.3 Identify agricultural sector representatives to support EOC</p> <p>Identify and train agricultural representatives to be called in to support the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) for events that directly impact agricultural producers.</p>	Medium (2-5 years)



Goal 10: Enhance early warning systems and emergency response – Continued

COLLABORATION	
<p>10.4 Support establishing extreme weather response centres</p> <p>Support the establishment and equipping of facilities as warming and cooling centres at strategic locations across the region to assist residents in coping with extreme temperatures, ensuring accessible shelter and resources during heatwaves and cold snaps.</p>	<p>Medium (2-5 years)</p> <p>SHORT (1-2 YEARS)</p>
ADVOCACY	
<p>10.5 Advocate for improved provincial communication during emergencies</p> <p>Advocate to the provincial government for better, earlier, and ongoing communication throughout climate-related emergencies, ensuring timely and accurate information is shared with communities to enhance preparedness and response.</p>	<p>Long (5+ years)</p>
<p>10.6 Advocate for broader evacuation options for livestock and pets</p> <p>Advocate for the provincial government to broaden evacuation options, ensuring the inclusion of livestock and pets not only for large-scale or official producers. Aim to improve the accessibility and inclusivity of evacuation plans during climate-related emergencies</p>	<p>Long (5+ years)</p>