

# BC Emergency Supports

As of November 18, 2021

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## B.C. State of Emergency Declared

The B.C. government is declaring a provincial state of emergency to mitigate impacts on transportation networks and movement of essential goods and supplies, and to support the provincewide response and recovery from the widespread damage caused by severe flooding and landslides in British Columbia.

Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, made the declaration on Nov. 17, 2021, based on the recommendation from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and Emergency Management BC. The declaration will take effect immediately.

“This provincewide declaration will help us with the challenges ahead as we recover from the utter devastation that’s been caused by this natural disaster,” said Farnworth. “Getting our rail and roadways back up and in operation is a top priority, and the declaration will enable us to put the resources in place to make that happen.”

The state of emergency is initially in effect for 14 days and may be extended or rescinded as necessary. The state of emergency applies to the whole province and ensures federal, provincial and local resources can be delivered in a co-ordinated response to protect the public, which remains the provincial government's top priority.

"Our focus is on clearing, repairing and reopening roads to connect the Interior and the North to the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island, to get our supply chains moving," said Rob Fleming, Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure. "We are working closely with multiple partners to make this happen. It is a big job, but collectively we are up to the challenge and will get things opened up again just as soon as we possibly can."

There are approximately 17,775 people evacuated due to impacts from the flooding, with 5,918 properties on Evacuation Order, and 3,632 properties on Evacuation Alert.

The federal government has responded to and accepted British Columbia's requests for assistance. In the coming days, additional federal personnel and resources will be arriving in B.C. to assist.

The state of emergency gives agencies, such as the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Emergency Management BC, the RCMP and others the ability to use extraordinary measures to protect people and communities.

Source: <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2021PSSG0073-002190>

## Current Flooding Information

Current Flooding Information can be found [here](#) about the following topics can be found:

- Evacuation Orders, Alerts and Rescinds
- Road Closures and Conditions
- Evacuee Registration
- Emergency Support Services (ESS) Reception Centre Locations
- Family Reunification
- Flood Conditions and Advisories
- Preparing for Floods

For the most up to date information on Evacuation Orders and Alerts in your area, visit your local government or local authority website:

- [City of Abbotsford](#)
- [City of Merritt](#)
- [City of Mission](#)
- [Cooks Ferry Indian Band](#)
- [Cowichan Valley Regional District](#)
- [District of Kent](#)
- [Fraser Valley Regional District](#)
- [Lower Similkameen Indian Band](#)
- [Nooaitch Indian Band](#)

- [Regional District of East Kootenay](#)
- [Regional District of Nanaimo](#)
- [Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen](#)
- [Squamish-Lillooet Regional District](#)
- [Thompson-Nicola Regional District](#)
- [Town of Princeton](#)

Source: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/current-flooding-information-2/>

## Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)

In the event of a large-scale natural disaster, the Government of Canada provides financial assistance to provincial and territorial governments through the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA), administered by Public Safety Canada (PS).

Source: <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/cnt/mrgnc-mngmnt/rcvr-dsstrs/dsstr-fnncl-ssstnc-rrngmnts/index-en.aspx>

## Financial assistance in a disaster

This program is for individuals, small businesses, farms, and charitable organizations. If you're an Indigenous community or local government your process is different: [DFA for community recovery](#).

After a disaster, the provincial government may declare the event eligible for Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA). Once declared, the DFA program may compensate applicants for essential uninsurable losses.

### Eligible damage

Applicants can apply to more than one category.

Home owners and residential tenants

- You must occupy the property as your principal residence
- Seasonal or recreational properties aren't eligible
- If you are a landlord, you must apply and qualify as a small business owner

Charitable organizations

- Must provide a benefit or service to the community
- Must be registered under the provincial Societies Act

Small business owners

Your business must:

- Be managed by the owner on a day-to-day basis
- Be the means by which the owner obtains the majority of their income
- Have gross sales less than \$1 million per year

- Employ fewer than 50 employees at one time

Farm owners

Your farm must:

- Be identified as a developing or established agricultural operation
- Be owned and operated by a person whose full-time employment is a farmer
- Be the means by which the owner derives the majority of their income

If a farm operation is incorporated, the small business eligibility criteria applies.

### **Determining if your damages are insurable or uninsurable**

You are strongly encouraged to [contact the program](#) to discuss your insurance situation or if you have questions.

### **How compensation is calculated**

Financial assistance is provided for each accepted claim at 80 percent of the amount of total eligible damage less \$1,000, to a maximum of \$300,000.

Eligible essential contents are compensated based on median value of the base model item. For example, a damaged TV would be compensated based on the value of a median priced base model TV regardless of the type or quality the applicant owned.

Structural compensation is limited to the cost to repair eligible damage caused by the event, using standard industry rates for things like drywall repair, debris removal, carpet removal and replacement.

Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/evacuee-guidance/disaster-financial-assistance>

## **Freshet and flood**

Spring freshet and other types of flooding that can occur throughout the year pose a threat to those agricultural operations located in flood plains and low-lying areas.

Freshets (flooding caused by heavy rain or snow melt) and other types of flooding events can pose a serious threat to agricultural operations located in flood plains and low-lying areas. Learn more about how to be prepared for flooding if you work in B.C.'s agricultural industry:

- [Emergency Preparedness Tips](#) (see section 1.2 - Preparedness Tips Specific to Flood Plains and Wells)
- [Emergency Preparedness Tips for Flooding: Livestock Sector \(PDF, 133 KB\)](#)
- [Emergency Preparedness Tips for Flooding: Horticulture Sector \(PDF, 108 KB\)](#)
- [British Columbia Flood Response Plan \(PDF, 792 KB\)](#)

The B.C. Agriculture & Food Climate Action Initiative develops tools and resources to enhance agriculture's ability to adapt to climate change. Flood mitigation strategies and plans specific to the regions of BC are available.

- [Farm Flood Readiness Toolkit \(PDF, 6.2 MB\)](#)

## Flood plains

Learn more about flood risks for your area by looking at B.C.'s Floodplain Mapping website:

- [Floodplain Mapping](#)

## Well disinfection

Water wells and groundwater can be contaminated during flooding events due to the inflow of flood waters into the well or aquifer. While there are ways to rehabilitate a well affected by surface flood water, well owners should take steps before and after flooding to minimize any potential impacts. Learn more about well protection, well disinfection and water quality:

- [Well Disinfection and Ground Water Protection](#)

## Flood forecasting

The links below take you to provincial and national agencies with information, advisories, forecasts and/or warnings on streamflow and/or conditions that may lead to an increased flood risk in your area.

- [River Forecast Centre](#)
- [Flood Warnings and Advisories](#)
- [Automated Snow Weather Station Data](#)
- [Real Time Hydrometric Data](#)
- [Hydrometeorologic Data](#)
- [B.C. Weather Conditions and Forecasts](#)

## B.C. Emergency management for agriculture

The Ministry of Agriculture in B.C. has a [legislative requirement](#) to have plans and procedures in place in the event of an emergency or disaster. The Ministry is the designated lead provincial agency for responding to animal diseases, plant diseases and plant pests. For all other types of hazards that may impact the agricultural sector, including natural disasters, the Ministry provides a supporting role in responding to these emergencies. The Ministry of Agriculture follows the B.C. Emergency Management System ([BCEMS](#)), which includes the Prevention/Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery phases of emergency management.

## Emergency response planning

Emergency management is a shared responsibility across all levels of government who need to have plans in place for responding to emergencies that affect their areas of jurisdiction. Learn more about the roles agricultural producers and governments play during an emergency response:

- [Emergency Response Planning](#)

## Livestock relocation

Relocation of livestock may be necessary in the event of an emergency. Learn about the role of Local Authorities and First Nations during emergency response, as well as planning for evacuation, provincial reimbursement for relocation costs, and qualifying for other designated response costs:

- [Livestock Relocation](#)

## Business insurance and risk management

The farm manager is responsible for understanding the risks they are exposed to. Emergencies and disasters can result in substantial material losses. Learn about the programs that can help protect agricultural producers against the financial impact of a disaster:

- [Business Insurance and Risk Management Tools for Agriculture \(PDF\)](#)
- [Insurance and Income Protection for Agricultural Producers](#)

# Community Emergency Preparedness Fund

**Applications are currently being accepted in this program.**

The Community Emergency Preparedness Fund (CEPF) is a suite of funding streams intended to enhance the resiliency of local governments, First Nations and communities in responding to emergencies. Funding is provided by the Province of BC and is administered by UBCM.

All local governments (municipalities and regional districts) and all First Nations (bands and Treaty First Nations) in BC are eligible to apply.

The funding streams include:

- Emergency Support Services
- Emergency Operations Centres & Training
- Evacuation Route Planning
- Flood Risk Assessment, Flood Mapping & Flood Mitigation Planning
- Indigenous Cultural Safety & Cultural Humility Training
- Structural Flood Mitigation

- Volunteer & Composite Fire Departments Equipment & Training
- Additional Program Funding Information

Source: <https://www.ubcm.ca/funding-programs/local-government-program-services/community-emergency-preparedness-fund>

## Recovering after a flood

The B.C. government has provided guidelines on how to return home after widespread flooding, cautioning residents to take it one step at a time. It provides information on:

- Returning home
- Managing mould and health risks
- Claiming insurance
- Psychological care

Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/know-your-hazards/floods/after-flood>

## Coping with natural disaster stress

Smoke, evacuations, loss, worry—BC's floods and wildfires affect all B.C. residents. If you are feeling stressed or anxious, you are not alone. Here are some things you can do:

- **Prepare** – Having a clear emergency plan and kit ready for your family, pets and livestock can ease your mind and allow you to focus on other needs.
- **Take care** – Stress takes a toll on our physical and mental health. Eating well, exercising and getting enough sleep lowers stress and helps us cope.
- **Ask for help** – Talking helps. Whether it's with family, friends, a doctor or counsellor. Crisis lines are available to listen and help anytime—not just during a crisis. If you have been evacuated, you can also ask an Emergency Support Services volunteer about the mental health or counselling support available to you.
- **Help others** – Reach out to the vulnerable. Assisting others can help us regain a sense of purpose and community as we confront challenges together.

### Health and mental health

- Coping through a natural disaster emergency – mental health tips for you and your family
- Recognizing and addressing trauma and anxiety during wildfire season (First Nations Health Authority)
- Recognizing and resolving trauma in children during disasters (First Nations Health Authority)
- Disaster emotional response timeline – what to expect before, during and after a disaster

- [Your health during a wildfire](#) (Government of BC)
- [Wildfire smoke and health](#) (BC Centre for Disease Control)
- [Guidebook for Well-being in Recovery](#) (Red Cross)

### Direct help for stress

- **Free, confidential support and crisis lines available 24/7:**  
[KUU-US Indigenous line](#) 1-800-588-8717  
[Interior BC Crisis Line](#) 1-888-353-2273 – chat and text services available  
[Northern BC Crisis Line](#) 1-888-562-1214  
[BC Mental Health Support Line](#) 310-6789 (no area code required)
- [Find virtual mental health supports](#) available in BC
- [BounceBack](#) – a free skill-building program for overcoming low mood, anxiety stress or worry
- [Find your local Canadian Mental Health Association](#)

Source: <https://cmha.bc.ca/documents/coping-with-natural-disaster-stress/>

*Below is an example of a disaster recovery program rolled out by the B.C. government that might indicate what supports will be rolled out by the province for flood relief.*

## 2021 Wildfire and Drought AgriRecovery Initiative

The **2021 Canada – British Columbia Wildfire and Drought Recovery Initiative** provides assistance to help offset the extraordinary costs required to return to production.

The Wildfire and Drought Recovery Initiative is cost-shared between the federal and provincial governments on a 60 – 40 percent ratio. It is intended to help agricultural producers with the extraordinary expenses necessary for recovery from 2021's extreme impacts and to help the return to production as soon as possible. By design, this initiative is to provide significant funding up front and allow for updates as further information becomes available. This is particularly valuable for livestock producers who require some flexibility in managing the difficult conditions they are currently facing.

### Livestock application package

- [Livestock General Application](#) and [Terms and Conditions](#)

Source: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/agriculture-seafood/programs/2021-wildfire-and-drought-agrirecovery-initiative>

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