



To: Community Safety Committee

Date: February 24, 2012

From: Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety

File: 09-5125-01/2012-Vol 01

Re: Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM)
Earthquake Tabletop Exercise

Staff Recommendation

That the Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) earthquake tabletop exercise report (dated February 24, 2012 from the General Manager, Law & Community Safety) be received for information.

Phyllis L. Carlyle
General Manager, Law & Community Safety
(604-276-4104)

FOR ORIGINATING DEPARTMENT USE ONLY		
CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER		
REVIEWED BY TAG	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>
REVIEWED BY CAO	YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	NO <input type="checkbox"/>

Staff Report

Origin

The Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) is an intergovernmental entity for regional emergency management planning with a vision of “*a disaster-resilient region where all levels of government and key stakeholders work together seamlessly.*” The development of a regional concept of operations is one of their priority initiatives and their first step towards this was to look at regional priorities and decision making under the current provincial regional concept of operations in response to an earthquake scenario impacting the Metro Vancouver region.

Analysis

The current provincial concept of operations has four levels:

1. Site Level. The Incident Command System, used throughout much of British Columbia, is used to manage the response to an emergency with a single incident commander or unified command.
2. Site Support Level. When the site level requires additional support, the local authority may activate an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to assist in communications, providing policy guidance and providing resources.
3. Provincial Regional Coordination Level. When the site support level (EOC) requires additional support, the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) activates to assist with providing resources, prioritizes the deployment of resources, especially critical resources, coordinates emergency response services where incidents cross local authority boundaries, and coordinates ministry response.
4. Provincial Central Coordination Level. When a PREOC activates, the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre and the Central Coordination Group activate to provide communications and coordination support by managing the overall provincial support to the regions by seeking direction from senior provincial elected officials, obtaining authority from the minister for a declaration of a provincial emergency, if required.

There has never been a significant large scale, multi-jurisdictional emergency event in the Metro Vancouver region. Additionally, the exact process for determining regional priorities and regional decisions in the Metro Vancouver region is not contained in any document. Accordingly, IPREM hosted a tabletop earthquake exercise on Thursday February 16, 2012 to gain an understanding of the current concept of operations and its strengths and challenges.

Senior officials, emergency managers, and Fire and Police Chiefs from each of the local authorities in the Metro Vancouver region were invited to participate in discussing the response to a 7.3 M_w earthquake in the Georgia Strait, with violent to strong shaking resulting in moderate to heavy damage. Response was examined at intervals from immediately after the earthquake, to 12 hours, 48 hours and 8 days after the event and focused on:

- Communications within each City participating and across the region;
- Disaster response routes to move response resources and supplies through the region;
- Establishing priorities for restoration for critical infrastructure providers (power, gas, etc) across the region; and
- Managing disaster debris.

Staff from Emergency Management BC and IPREM sought to gain an understanding of local authority response and whether the current concept of operations structure for regional priorities and decision making would work in such a large emergency.

An IPREM subcommittee will be established to review the outcomes and recommendations from the tabletop exercise and develop a work plan to move forward on a regional concept of operations.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

The General Manager, Law and Community Safety, Fire Chief, and Manager Emergency Programs attended the tabletop exercise in what will be the first step in moving forward in the development of a regional concept of operations to respond to a significant emergency event impacting the entire Metro Vancouver region. Updates will be brought forward to Council as the project moves forward. The attached IPREM bulletin provides updates on the other IPREM initiatives.



Deborah Procter
Manager, Emergency Programs
(604-244-1211)

DP:dp

att.



Message IPREM Co-Chairs

IPREM has now completed its reorganization and continues to focus on the six major priority initiatives, which are discussed more fully in this bulletin. We are particularly pleased with the support from the public sector and other stakeholders for IPREM, as evidenced in part by their active participation in the Regional Emergency Communications Strategy Validation Workshop (October 26, 2011). The Integrated Regional Concept of Operations Table Top Exercise (February 16, 2012) promises to be equally well attended and will provide further opportunities for collaboration, strengthening relationships and clarifying processes, which will assist all of us in moving towards achieving greater disaster resilience for the Metro Vancouver Region.

We are also preparing for the remaining Regional Hazard/Risk Assessment workshops, receiving feedback on the Regional Disaster Debris Management draft work plan, and are in the process of reinstating Regional Working Groups for Critical Infrastructure Assurance and the Disaster Response Routes.

The valuable contributions our stakeholders are making to support all these regional initiatives continues to be recognized and valued. As IPREM Co-Chair Lori Wanamaker adds, "the IPREM team is always looking for ways to leverage existing meetings, committees and working groups to maximize collective productivity. If you have any suggestions, please contact us".

On behalf of IPREM, we thank you for the ongoing support!



Jake Rudolph
IPREM Co-Chair
Chief Administrative Officer
City of Pitt Meadows



Lori Wanamaker, FCA
IPREM Co-Chair
Deputy Solicitor General
Ministry of Justice

IPREM Project Focus

Regional Table Top Exercise February 16, 2012

On February 16, a large group of cross sector multi disciplinary representatives from across the region will gather to look at regional priorities and decision making under the current Provincial Regional Concept of Operations. This facilitated table top exercise will use an earthquake scenario affecting the entire Metro Vancouver Region as a backdrop to identify strengths and challenges of the current model during a region wide emergency event.

Representatives will include Chief Administrative Officers, Emergency Program Coordinators, Fire, Police, Engineering, Public Works, Emergency Management BC, FortisBC, BC Hydro, Metro Vancouver, Public Safety Canada, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Ministry of Environment, Health Authorities, Translink, BC Ambulance and EComm.

IPREM Vision

A disaster-resilient region where all levels of government and key stakeholders work together seamlessly.

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IPREM Projects Update



Integrated Regional Concept of Operations

Purpose:

- To utilize an integrated team of local, regional, provincial and other stakeholder agencies (including private sector) to develop an all hazard, integrated framework for coordinating regional emergencies in the Metro Vancouver Region

Project Update:

- Table Top Exercise - February 16, 2012
- Working Group will be established (March 2012) to review the outcomes and recommendations

Regional Emergency Communications Strategy

Purpose:

- To develop a strategic plan and governance framework for interoperable communications across the Lower Mainland of British Columbia. The intent of the strategic plan and governance framework is to address oversight, planning coordination, implementation and ongoing support for regional emergency communications interoperability among emergency response agencies and key stakeholders.

Project Update:

- Draft strategic plan and proposed governance model received from consultant
- Working Group has been Identified, will be brought together March 2012 and tasked with:
 - Reviewing outcomes from the validation workshops, including draft terms of reference, strategic plan and governance model
 - Developing a work plan and recommendations for additional sub-working groups after examining opportunities to leverage similar groups or committee's that are in existence

Regional Hazard/Risk Assessment

Purpose:

- To conduct a Regional Hazard Risk/Assessment based on an all hazard approach
- To establish a comprehensive understanding of potential hazards, risk priorities and existing vulnerabilities that will impact jurisdictions from across Metro Vancouver

Hazard Rating:

- Completed Workshops (November 2011) - Human Accidental and Technological
- Remaining Workshops:
 - February 29 - Human Intentional
 - March 1 - Terrorism CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives)
 - March 7 - Natural (Earthquake, Landslide, Disease - Animal, Food and Health)
 - March 8 - Natural (Extreme Weather Events, Flooding, Wildfire)
 - March 28 - Initial Reporting Out of Findings and Discussion of Next Steps

IPREM Mission

To develop and deliver a coordinated seamless regional emergency management strategy supported by an integrated concept of emergency operations, strategic priorities and supporting plans.

Disaster Response Routes (DRR)

Purpose:

- Establish a DRR system comprised of an integrated multi-modal transportation network of air, rail, road and marine transportation corridors. Designated response routes leave available all other arterials for egress in the highly unlikely event that large-scale or regional evacuations are required. A few dedicated disaster response routes can:
 - Be maintained as the disaster transitions to recovery operations
 - Support the region's reception of relief supplies
 - Provide greater opportunities for regional recovery and business resumption

Project Update:

- The Regional Working Group was re-established to:
 - Review the Integrated Network for Emergency Transportation (INET) Master Project Plan and its implications for this Region
 - Develop Terms of Reference (including a proposed work plan) for approval by the IPREM Steering Committee

Critical Infrastructure Assurance

Purpose:

- The overall approach is to develop from a regional perspective, a recommended Regional Critical Infrastructure Assurance Plan for Metro Vancouver and to champion initiatives that support critical infrastructure assurance in the Region

Project Update:

- The Working Group has produced an outline for a draft one year work plan and 4 year strategy, which includes consideration of:
 - Situational Awareness to support Response and Short Term Recovery Priorities
 - Information Management Tools
 - Scoping and Definitions
 - Gap Analysis
 - Data Sharing Governance
 - Resource Requirements

Regional Disaster Debris Management

Purpose:

- To develop a regional disaster debris management model that local authorities and stakeholder agencies can support and adopt within their jurisdiction

Project Update:

- The draft work plan:
 - Proposes an ongoing debris management program
 - Recommends, based on the scope and scale of the event, the need for specific disaster debris management project(s)
- The draft is currently being reviewed by stakeholders. Their comments will be considered by the Working Group for final recommendations to the Steering Committee this spring



IPREM Working Groups

focus on specific regional initiatives with membership from local and regional authorities, responder agencies, utilities, provincial ministries, crown corporations, federal departments, private sectors and other organizations who may be involved in emergency management.

The Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management (IPREM) is an intergovernmental entity working to improve emergency management with all levels of government and stakeholders across Metro Vancouver. It was established in 2009 with full support from local, regional and provincial governments.

IPREM's role is to facilitate multi-sector cooperation between private and public sector organizations involved in emergency management and public safety.



The Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver

www.iprem.ca
Email: info@iprem.ca

2011 Stanley Cup Riot Review

IPREM has agreed to help coordinate and support eight of the recommendations from the Independent Riot Review Report that are directly relevant to existing IPREM initiatives. They centre on Regional Hazard Risk Assessment, All-Hazard Integrated Regional Concept of Operations, and the Regional Emergency Communications Strategy.

IPREM Co-Chair, Jake Rudolph, states that “the work that IPREM has already begun dovetails with some of the recommendations produced in the recent Independent Review of the 2011 Stanley Cup riot. It is prudent to act on efficiencies by linking the work IPREM has initiated with inherently related recommendations from the Review”.

It is important to note that IPREM is not involved in recommendations related to Policing Costs, Liquor Control Measures or Transportation Planning – only those related to the IPREM mandate and within the scope of pre-existing projects.

IPREM's involvement capitalizes on synergies, leverages resources, reduces duplication and creates limited additional workload. It also bolsters a higher profile amongst public safety agencies and strengthens engagement with existing and future IPREM initiatives.

2012 Emergency Management Events

March 31 – April 5

2012 Wildland Urban Interface Symposium, Kamloops, British Columbia <http://www.toic.ca>

April 9 – 11

2012 Partners in Emergency Preparedness Conference, Tacoma, Washington <https://www.cm.wsu.edu/ehome/index.php?eventid=25597&>

April 22 – 25

9th Annual International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, Vancouver, British Columbia <http://www.iscram2012.org>

May 5

6th Annual Emergency Social Services Association (ESSA) Conference, Prince George, British Columbia <http://www.essa.ca/conferences.html>

May 7 – 10

Disaster Forum 2012, Banff, Alberta <http://www.disasterforum.ca/events.html>

May 15 – 16

Emergency Preparedness for Industry and Commerce Council (EPICC), Vancouver, British Columbia <http://www.epicc.org>

May 15 – 17

9th Annual Pacific Northwest Border Health Alliance (PNWBHA) Cross Border Workshop Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management, Tacoma, Washington http://www.pnwbha.org/?page_id=305