

Business Continuity Management Review

The former Deputy Ministers' Committee on Internal Audit requested a cross-government review of Business Continuity Management (BCM).

The goal of this review is to confirm that essential services will continue in the event of a major emergency.

Reviews like this one ensure that the Province is aware of how well programs are being implemented and how those programs can be improved.

Under the *Emergency Program Act* and the Emergency Program Management Regulation, each Minister is responsible to set out a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) describing how that Minister will continue to provide essential services despite an emergency or disaster.

Core policy requires ministries to undertake annual risk analysis and annual business impact analysis. These analyses should identify essential services, develop risk mitigation strategies, identify key dependencies and prepare business continuity plans.

The Audit found that compliance with government's Core Policy on BCM is relatively low across government, as few ministries have fully-updated and tested BCPs. As a result, there may be a risk to the continuity of key BC Government services in most ministries in the event of a major emergency or wide area event.

Where appropriate, changes to Core Policy have been recommended, to provide greater flexibility and effectiveness to BCM practices.

The development of a cross government BCP for mission critical services will help ensure a coordinated approach to recovery in a wide scale disaster. All mission critical business functions need to be coordinated with respect to recovery strategies and prioritized with respect to recovery resources.

To protect British Columbians the Government is moving quickly to ensure that consistent procedures are in place across all ministries. These measures help guarantee that in the event of a wide scale disaster everything needed for a coordinated recovery is in place.