

# Emergency Management and Preparedness

The former Deputy Ministers' Committee on Internal Audit requested a cross-government review of Emergency Management (EM) to evaluate the Provincial Government's ability to respond to an emergency situation.

The review evaluated:

- The roles and responsibilities of Provincial Government organizations in the event of an emergency;
- How clearly those emergency roles have been defined and communicated; and
- The province's emergency planning, communication, training, and testing processes.

The review covered the activities of the Provincial Government. It did not include a review of Federal or local government activities. However, because local governments receive direction and tools for EM planning from the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) local government emergency managers were interviewed to determine the effectiveness of these tools.

The "maturity" rating reflects how well the program has developed an accountability framework, built a suitable organizational structure, documented policies and procedures, and established the necessary capacity to undertake its role. The Maturity levels are high, medium and low.

Of the five specific phases of EM that were reviewed:

- Roles and Responsibilities, and Coordination and Liaison were rated as **High**,
- Emergency Management Planning was rated as **Medium to High**,
- Testing and Training were rated as **Medium**.

The overall maturity of provincial EM through PEP is classified at the upper end of the Medium range.

The establishment of Emergency Management BC (EMBC) as the lead entity in the province better delineates responsibilities between EMBC, which deals with general strategic planning, and PEP, which coordinates operations and has allowed for increased coordination and collaboration of emergency related services across the BC.