	<p>POLICY 2.06</p> <p>Created: 2011 JUL 22 Revised: 2016 AUG 04</p>
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2.06 PUBLIC SAFETY LIFELINE VOLUNTEER SAFETY

2.06.1 GENERAL

This policy covers all safety of all Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) volunteers while participating in, preparing for, and responding to a disaster or an emergency for which EMBC has issued a task number. The policy supports the first response goal of the British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS),

“Provide for the Safety and Health of All Responders.”

EMBC is committed to the safety of all PSL volunteers. Safety policies and programs, along with training and exercising are important in maintaining an effective volunteer resource.

Related Policies:

- [1.01 Task Report](#)
- [1.04 Hepatitis B Prevention/Post Exposure Follow-up](#)
- [5.01 Task Registration](#)
- [5.07 Injury, Disability, and Accidental Death Coverage](#)
- [5.08 Liability Coverage](#)

2.06.2 DEFINITIONS

See [Terms and Definitions](#)

Volunteer: An individual, including a supervisor, registered by Emergency Management BC (EMBC) for the purpose of preparing for (i.e. training or exercising) and responding to a disaster or an emergency.

Convergent Volunteer: means an individual that offers their service and/or expertise during a PSL activity and is signed in to the task but is not a registered PSL volunteer. A convergent volunteer is also considered a volunteer for the purposes of this policy.

Supervisor: A person with direction and control over PSL volunteers and other persons while preparing for or responding to a disaster or an emergency. This includes, but is not limited to Training Officers, Team Leaders, and Section Chiefs.

Work: All activities carried out by a volunteer or responder while under a training or response task number.

2.06.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) The safety of PSL volunteers is a shared responsibility between EMBC management & staff, local authorities (where applicable), PSL Volunteer Organizations, supervisors, and individual



volunteers. All reasonable and practicable safeguards for the safety of PSL volunteers will be taken.

- (2) Safe work practices and procedures will be developed for each PSL discipline to reflect the nature of their emergency response roles and working environments. These will meet the following minimum requirements or standards of care:
 - a. Safety will be a primary consideration in all training and response activities.
 - b. Safety responsibilities will be clearly assigned.
 - c. On-going efforts will be undertaken to identify hazards and risks associated with training, exercise and response events in order for preventive measure to be undertaken to eliminate or reduce volunteer injury or illness.
 - d. Input will be encouraged from volunteers on issues that affect their safety.

2.06.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) EMBC will:

- a. Develop, implement, and maintain policies and programs for the prevention of work related injuries and disease to PSL volunteers.
- b. Provide support and guidance to PSL volunteer organizations on the implementation and effective management of safety programs and practices, including training and development.
- c. Provide tools to assist PSL volunteer organizations and volunteers in maintaining required records of training, exercising, and response.

(2) PSL Volunteer Organizations will:

- a. Take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure the safety of volunteers.
- b. Develop, implement and maintain a safety policy, program, practices and procedures appropriate to training and other activities involving preparing for and responding to a disaster or an emergency.
- c. Ensure records are maintained of training completed by individual volunteers, participation in exercise, and roles volunteers fill during response.



- d. Provide volunteers access to information on safety policies, training, and programs.
- e. Ensure that volunteers have the relevant training and skills to perform their assigned activities safely.
- f. Ensure safety is a standing item on the organization's meeting agendas, with discussions and follow up actions recorded.
- g. Provide EMBC access, upon request, to safety records, including training, exercising, response, and safety agenda/minutes.

(3) Supervisors will:

- a. Take all reasonable and practical steps to ensure the safety of volunteers.
- b. Assign volunteers to activities that are consistent with their knowledge, skills, ability.
- c. Remove any volunteer from activities if the supervisor has concerns as to the volunteer's ability to perform their duties safely.
- d. Ensure a risk assessment has been completed relative to specific activities and environment.
- e. Provide direction to volunteers on acting safely consistent with identified risks.
- f. Ensure incidents of unsafe situations, hazards, accidents, and injury are reported and investigated in a timely manner.

(4) PSL Volunteers will:

- a. Follow safe work practices and procedures when training, exercising, and responding.
- b. Advise their supervisor if they believe that their assigned activities cannot be safely performed.
- c. Immediately report all incidents of unsafe situations, hazards, accidents, and injury to a designated supervisor.
- d. Participate in training and orientation activities required to undertake assigned roles and responsibilities safely.



- e. Provide records of completed training and certification to the appropriate PSL Organization and EMBC staff upon request.
- f. Cooperate with PSL supervisors and fellow volunteers on matters related to safety.

SAFETY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

The following key components will be part of each PSL discipline safety program. The nature and complexity of program operation and anticipated event situations will determine the content and detail for each component.

- (1) Supervision of Volunteers: While under a training or response task number the direction and control of PSL volunteers is the responsibility of a person designated within the reporting structure of the relevant event. These individuals are defined as supervisors. The following are examples of supervisor roles; actual roles may vary depending on the PSL discipline and event.
 - a. Training: designated training officer or instructor
 - b. Exercising: training officer or leader designated within reporting structure.
 - c. Response: person designated within reporting structure.

The supervisor must ensure:

- a. Volunteers have the knowledge and skill to perform their duties safely.
 - b. Proper safety procedures are followed.
 - c. Adequate briefings are provided to all volunteers.
 - d. Appropriate emergency medical response/rescue capability is available in the event of volunteer injury.
 - e. Proper communications are in place.
 - f. Any observed or reported hazards or unsafe conditions are identified and assessed and, incidents are investigated.
- (2) Worksite/Event Risk Assessment: PSL volunteers often carry out duties in a wide range of dynamic events, work environments, and locations. For this reason a worksite inspection and/or risk assessment, appropriate to the circumstances will be conducted prior to and during an event. This will facilitate identification of potential risks and hazards and establish injury prevention and emergency medical response/rescue requirements specific to each event.



- (3) Orientation, Education and Training: Volunteers will be trained in and provided with written safe work procedures (or standard operation guidelines) for the safe performance of the volunteer's work. Supervisors will ensure that all volunteers including new volunteers receive orientation on safety policies and safe work procedures/practices, including checks on proficiency and skill/knowledge evaluation.
- (4) Incident Investigation and Reporting:
- a. An investigation will be conducted following any report of injury or near miss incidents involving PSL volunteers. If the injury is minor, the investigation will entail a PSL supervisor or other designated person interviewing the injured and witnesses that were present when the incident occurred. Immediate preventive action will be taken if the potential for further injury exists. A written report is to be completed and a copy included with Task Reports required by EMBC.
 - b. If a serious injury has occurred, or if a near miss could have resulted in a serious injury, a more formal investigation is required. If the incident occurs during response, the investigation is to be conducted with the agency of jurisdiction (with the overall responsibility for the response) and an EMBC representative. There may also be requirements under other legislation necessitating involvement of safety boards, police, or other agencies depending on the incident. The ECC should be informed immediately and the appropriate Regional Duty Manager and specific staff will provide support.
 - c. An investigation is not to delay treatment and transportation of any injured persons. Reporting of injuries is to follow the process outlined in EMBC Policy 5.07 Workers Compensation Coverage.
- (5) Records:
- a. Where practicable PSL volunteer organizations will maintain records of volunteer training, exercising and response activities and provide access to these records upon request of an EMBC representative. Individual volunteers are to maintain records of their participation in training, exercising, and responses and provide access to these records upon request of a PSL or EMBC representative or other designated authority.
 - b. EMBC will maintain records and statistics on injuries reported, and actions taken because of incident investigations.
- (6) Management Meetings: PSL organizations are to maintain safety as a standing agenda item on PSL program management or business meetings. Items of concern are to be brought forward to EMBC with recommendations for corrective action should they be deemed required.



OTHER SAFETY PROGRAM COMPONENTS

Other safety procedures may be appropriate where a risk assessment has identified a risk of injury or illness, including but not limited to:

- (1) **Violence to Volunteers:** An assessment of the risk of violence to volunteers and other responders will be undertaken and preventive measures taken to eliminate or reduce the identified risks. The emotional aspects of responding to emergencies may increase the risk. For example, families and friends of missing or injured persons may become agitated due to perceived delays in responding to an event. As in the risk from natural hazards, the first priority is responder safety. Circumstances may preclude a full response until the situation is assessed by police or other trained personnel and the risk mitigated with their assistance.
- (2) **Working Alone or in Isolation:** The risk to volunteers from working alone or in isolation is to be assessed and appropriate measures taken to eliminate or minimize the identified risks, including appropriate check in and communication procedures.
- (3) **Dangerous Atmospheres/Confined Space:** PSL volunteers will not enter any location or space such as a confined space, where it may be dangerous to breathe the air. Should any concerns over air quality exist or there is a need to enter a confined space, volunteers are to request the assistance of trained personnel to ascertain the safety and to respond with appropriate equipment and training.
- (4) **Hazardous Materials:** In situations in which PSL volunteers have the potential to be exposed to any hazardous materials, a qualified person must assess the risks. Volunteers shall be made aware of any identified risks and how to maintain their safety. Appropriate safety procedures will be followed to reduce the potential for volunteers to be exposed to hazardous materials as much as reasonably practicable.
- (5) **Personal Protective Equipment (PPE):** If PPE is required to protect a volunteer from a risk of injury/disease, volunteers will be trained in the proper use and maintenance of the equipment. The supervisor will also maintain records of equipment maintenance and inspection, and training in use of PPE.

2.06.5 AUTHORITIES

[Emergency Program Act](#)

[Emergency Program Management Regulation](#)

[Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#)



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Duffy", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Duffy
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

August 4, 2016

2.06.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- [PSLV Safety Guides](#)

	<p>POLICY 2.12</p> <p>Created: 2008 SEP 08 Revised: 2016 AUG 04</p>
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2.12 SEARCH AND RESCUE

2.12.1 GENERAL

Emergency Management BC (EMBC) is responsible for facilitating and coordinating a provincial land and inland-water volunteer SAR capability (as per the *British Columbia Emergency Program Management Regulation*, Schedule II) and providing assistance in the activation and coordination of community based SAR volunteer and volunteer SAR organization responses when requested by local authorities, provincial agencies and/or federal departments. Additionally EMBC will:

- (1) Coordinate and commit, or recommend the commitment of resources that may be necessary during the response and recovery phases of a major emergency or disaster.
- (2) Provide available search and rescue resources to requesting local authority, agency, and/or department.
- (3) Conduct or coordinate training in emergency preparedness, response, and recovery to ensure that EMBC staff, EMBC volunteers, municipal authorities and other government emergency personnel has the necessary skills to respond effectively in the event of an emergency or disaster.

Note: This policy outlines the use of SAR Volunteers for SAR activities only and is not intended to include local authorities utilizing SAR volunteers for activities other than search and rescue, i.e. as emergency service volunteers.

Related Policies:

- [1.02 Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Code of Conduct](#)
- [1.05 Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Registration](#)
- [1.08 Application for Training Task Number](#)
- [2.02 Task Authorization](#)
- [2.06 Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer Safety](#)
- [5.01 Task Registration](#)
- [5.02 Expense Reimbursement](#)
- [5.04 Repair/Replacement of Lost/Damaged Equipment/Personal Property](#)
- [5.06 Volunteer Expense Reimbursement and Allowance Rate](#)
- [5.07 Injury, Disability, and Accidental Death Coverage](#)
- [5.08 Liability Coverage](#)



2.12.2 DEFINITIONS

See [Terms and Definitions](#)

Fire Protection Area: The physical boundary, established by a local government, that the Fire Services would provide coverage within. Permission by local authority is required to go outside the fire protection area to provide services.

Licensed Medical Service Providers:

- BC College of Physicians and Surgeons
- Emergency Medical Assistant Licensing Board
- Register Midwives Association of BC

Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) Discipline: A group of EMBC or local authority registered volunteers in one of the following disciplines. Registration provides for injury, disability, accidental death, and liability coverage.

- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Emergency Social Services (ESS)
- Emergency Radio Communications
- EMBC Air
- Road Rescue

Requesting Agency: The agency with the jurisdiction/responsibility for a search and/or rescue.

2.12.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) This policy is intended to provide clarification and guidance on how Search and Rescue Volunteers can be utilized in SAR activities. This policy provides direction to requesting agencies, EMBC staff, and SAR volunteers.

2.12.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

- (1) Search and Rescue within British Columbia falls into three basic categories:
- a. Air Search and Rescue.
 - b. Marine Search and Rescue.
 - c. Land and Inland Waters Search and Rescue.



- (2) Information from the public regarding missing, injured, or stranded persons must be referred to a responsible government agency and/or department. That agency will determine the appropriate response – agencies include Police, BC Ambulance Service, Canadian Forces & Canadian Coast Guard, Parks Canada, Coroner, and Fire Services.
- (3) The responsible provincial government ministry/agency or Federal government department must initiate all requests for SAR volunteer resources. The Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) will then provide a task number to the SAR team when the request for service or support is within EMBC Policy. This process ensures decision accountability and timely access to valuable volunteer assistance.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC

- (1) Upon activation of a volunteer SAR team, EMBC provides injury, disability, accidental death, and liability coverage, reimbursement of operational expenses, and repair and/or replacement of equipment in accordance with current EMBC policy.
- (2) Either the EMBC Regional Duty Manager (RDM) or the EMBC Provincial Duty Manager (PDM) will make decisions specific to the commitment of resources in support of an authorized requesting agency. The activities detailed in the following table have been identified as requiring specialized training.
- (3) Activities that are not specifically listed as eligible under this Policy statement should be considered as ineligible under EMBC task. If a SAR Team has any doubt about the eligibility of an activity or a request for support, they should contact the EMBC Regional Manager for guidance. Should specialized resources or activities that are deemed ineligible be required to complete a task under this policy, the RDM must be consulted for options.
- (4) When deploying SAR resources in support of a requesting agency, it is assumed that the requesting agency has responsibility for ensuring appropriate use of volunteers, and that safety practices and standard Incident Command System resource deployment handover protocols are followed (i.e. the requesting agency should not be asking the SAR Volunteers or the Team to take undue risks or place themselves in a position of liability for which they have no coverage or protection).
- (5) **TASK ELIGIBLE Search Activities (for appropriate requesting agencies):**
 - a. Wilderness search.
 - b. Urban search.
 - c. Surface searching on water.



- d. Equine search.
- e. Dog search.
- f. Evidence search (injury, disability, accidental death, and liability coverage only – no expense reimbursement by EMBC).
- g. Air search.

(6) TASK ELIGIBLE Rescue Activities (for appropriate requesting agencies):

- a. Avalanche rescue.
- b. Swift water rescue.
- c. Medical rescue (the rescue & transportation of an injured person to BCAS care).
- d. Cave rescue.
- e. Rope rescue.
- f. Helicopter rescue.
- g. Mountain rescue.
- h. Domestic animal rescue (injury, disability, accidental death, and liability coverage only – no expense reimbursement by EMBC).

(7) INELIGIBLE SAR Activities: EMBC task numbers do not support the following activities, even when a valid task number is otherwise in place:

- a. Underwater search and recovery involving the use of diving apparatus by volunteers.
- b. Hazardous material response and/or cleanup.
- c. Tree rescue (arboreal rescue) unless provided written permission from EMBC for this specific activity.
- d. Fire suppression (structural or wild land).



- e. Searching for potentially dangerous individuals (people who may be armed with weapons, people who may be violent, people engaged in criminal activities, people fleeing from the police, etc.).
 - f. Transporting BCAS patients to medical care (riding in ambulances, driving ambulances, etc.).
 - g. BCAS First Responder patient move assists or lifts where the BCAS medical assessment indicates additional First Responder resources are required.
 - h. Transporting police or other law enforcement or regulatory agencies involved with search/apprehension of dangerous individuals/ criminal investigations.
 - i. Transporting fire department crews engaged in fire response activities.
- (8) EMBC task numbers provide injury, disability, accidental death, and liability coverage only for the following activity, and only when the SAR volunteer or team is engaged in a task eligible activity (liability coverage is provided under the *Good Samaritan Act* for persons providing services as a licensed medical service provider in BC):
- a. Provision of any licensed medical services.

NOTE: The provision of "first aid" by a trained SAR Volunteer is covered for injury, disability, accidental death, and liability.

POLICE

The investigation of a missing person(s) and of suspicious occurrences within the province of British Columbia is the responsibility of the police department having jurisdiction. Disoriented, lost, stranded, overdue, and other individuals in distress are also the responsibility of the Police. Domestic animal rescue for humane or public safety reasons are also the responsibility of the Police. The Police may request SAR volunteer resources through the ECC for the following eligible activities.

(1) Eligible Land and Inland Water Search Activities:

- a. For missing persons – are initiated by the Police Department of jurisdiction.
- b. For persons in distress (without injury) – are initiated by the Police Department of jurisdiction.
- c. SAR Volunteer resources can assist police in searching for and gathering evidence related to criminal or investigative evidence searches. Police services are responsible for reimbursement of all expenses related to evidence searches.



(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Searching for potentially dangerous individuals.
- b. Pre-hospital medical rescue beyond first aid stabilization to ensure minimal injury while enroute to BCAS.
- c. Searching for and recovery of human remains.
- d. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.

BC AMBULANCE SERVICE

The BC Ambulance Service (BCAS) is responsible for pre-hospital care and transportation of patients to medical facilities. The BCAS may request SAR volunteer resources through the ECC for the following activities.

(1) Eligible Land and Inland Water Medical Rescue Activities:

- a. Land and inland water medical rescues.

(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Searching for missing persons.
- b. Non-medical rescue.
- c. Patient lifts, medical response calls (First Responder) and/or transport of subject(s) where BCAS personnel can access the subject(s) as per BCAS policy.
- d. Domestic animal rescue.
- e. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.

CANADIAN FORCES & CANADIAN COAST GUARD

Air Search and Rescue is the responsibility of the Canadian Forces. Marine Search and Rescue is the responsibility of the Canadian Coast Guard. Air and Marine SAR is initiated and coordinated by the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC). The JRCC may request SAR volunteer resources through the ECC.

(1) Eligible Air and Marine Search and Rescue Activities:

- a. Application of any of the SAR techniques in support of response to a downed aircraft or persons or vessels in distress.



(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Evidence search.
- b. Domestic animal rescue.
- c. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.

PARKS CANADA

Land and inland water SAR, within national parks, is the responsibility of Parks Canada. Parks Canada may request SAR volunteer resources through the ECC for the following activities.

(1) Eligible Land and Inland Water Search & Rescue Activities:

- a. For missing, injured, and persons in distress, within national parks are initiated by Parks Canada.

(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Land and inland water search & rescue outside of jurisdiction.
- b. Evidence search.
- c. Domestic animal rescue.
- d. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.

CORONER SERVICES

The Coroner may request SAR volunteer resources through the ECC for the following activities.

(1) Eligible Search and Recovery of Human Remains Activities:

- a. Searching for and recovery of human remains, under the direction of the Coroner, by SAR volunteers utilizing approved search and rescue techniques.

(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Domestic animal rescue.
- b. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.



FIRE SERVICES

Fire Services may request the assistance of SAR volunteer resources to effect rescues where the SAR volunteers can utilize techniques approved in EMBC policy.

(1) Eligible Land and Inland Water Rescue Activities:

- a. May be initiated by Fire Services within Fire Protection Areas.
- b. Application of any of the SAR skills in support of response to an injured or stranded person in distress.

(2) Ineligible SAR Volunteer Activities:

- a. Land and inland water SAR outside of Fire Protection Area.
- b. Domestic animal rescue.
- c. Searching.
- d. Ineligible volunteer activities as listed.

2.12.5 AUTHORITIES

[Emergency Program Act](#)

[British Columbia Emergency Program Management Regulation](#), Schedule II

[Good Samaritan Act](#)

Chris Duffy
A/Assistant Deputy Minister
Emergency Management BC

August 4, 2016

2.12.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

N/A

	<h1>1.02 ANNEX</h1> <p>Created: 2015 MAR 13 Revised: 2016 AUG 04</p>
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1.02 PUBLIC SAFETY LIFELINE VOLUNTEER CODE OF CONDUCT

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to identify standards of behaviour by which all volunteers registered with EMBC must abide. Volunteers who violate the Code of Conduct may have their registration revoked or suspended.

COMPETENCY

- Volunteers will carry out their duties to the best of their abilities.
- Volunteers will seek to develop and maintain skills necessary to the performance of their assigned duties.

CONFIDENTIALITY

- Volunteers will keep confidential all information they are exposed to while serving as volunteers, including information concerning other volunteers, clients, EMBC, and other organizations.
- Volunteers will not disclose confidential information, unless required to do so by law, or to assist in responding to an emergency.

AUTHORITY

- Volunteers who are placed in leadership positions will exercise their responsibilities consistently and fairly.
- Volunteers will respect the chain of command and follow reasonable directions given by a person in authority.
- Volunteers will follow operational guidelines and policies.

COMMUNICATION

- Volunteers will not publicly criticize fellow volunteers, clients, EMBC, or other organizations involved in an emergency response.
- Volunteers will not use insulting, harassing, or otherwise offensive language while serving as a volunteer.
- Volunteers will conduct themselves in a manner that positively supports EMBC's policies and guidelines.
- Volunteers will not represent themselves as agents of the Province of British Columbia.
- Volunteers will not comment to the media or in social media on any operations they were involved in unless approved by the Tasking Agency.



PERSONAL CONDUCT

- Volunteers will work as part of a team, with personal and team safety always at the forefront.
- Volunteers will treat others, including other volunteers, clients, and members of other organizations, with respect and dignity.
- Volunteers will not engage in violence, harassment, abusive behaviour, or discrimination.
- Volunteers will carry out their duties in an honest and professional manner.


CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- Volunteers will avoid real or perceived conflicts of interest.
- Volunteers will declare involvement in any form of self-employment or private business which competes with programs or services supported by EMBC which could be considered a conflict of interest.
- Volunteers who find themselves in a conflict of interest will self-declare to the appropriate regional office for vetting.

GENERAL

- Volunteers will not use EMBC facilities, supplies, or equipment for private purposes without permission.
- Volunteers will appropriately care for any materials entrusted to them and return all borrowed equipment and supplies.
- Volunteers will observe all laws.
- Volunteers will dress appropriately while on duty and will refrain from wearing EMBC identification when not on duty.
- Volunteers will not accept an assignment or respond if they are under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- Volunteers will not respond or act in PSLV duties while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Volunteers will conduct exercises, training and operations in accordance with EMBC policies and operating guidelines; when there is no written EMBC standard, the standard of care shall be that of the related industry

If a volunteer is unclear on any element of the code of conduct, the volunteer will seek out clarity from their PSLV Organization, Local Government or an EMBC regional office.

 Emergency ManagementBC	<h1 style="text-align: center;">INTRODUCTION</h1> <p style="text-align: right;">Created: 1998 JUL 15 Revised: 2016 AUG 04</p>
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TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

British Columbia Emergency Management System (BCEMS): A comprehensive management framework that ensures a coordinated and organized provincial response and recovery to all emergency incidents. The broad spectrum of components of BCEMS includes operations and control management, qualifications, technology, training and publications.

Convergent Volunteer: means an individual that offers their service and/or expertise during a Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) activity and is signed in to the task but is not a registered PSL volunteer.

Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA): A provincial program under the [Emergency Program Act](#) and the [Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation](#) that can provide disaster assistance to persons and Local Government Bodies in accordance with this legislation.

Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC): EMBC's 24/7 emergency call centre in Victoria.

Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC): Emergency Management BC is the Province's lead coordinating agency for all emergency management activities, including planning, training, testing and exercising, to help strengthen provincial preparedness. This work is done in collaboration with local governments, First Nations, federal departments, industry, non-government organizations and volunteers. These steps taken in advance of a disaster will help the response effort, and help British Columbians along the road to recovery.

Emergency Radio Communications: Radio communications volunteers who provide emergency radio communication service during emergencies and exercises. Most volunteers in the radio communication service will be licenced amateur radio operators although other radio communication modes, such as citizen band (CB) radios, may be used. Although non-licenced volunteers are a valuable resource, their utilization in the communication service may be restricted in the operation of radio communication equipment.

Emergency Response Funding: Funding available through EMBC for the reimbursement of certain incremental and extraordinary emergency response costs as authorized under the [Emergency Program Act](#).

Emergency Social Services (ESS): Volunteers who provide services that preserve the emotional and physical well-being of survivors and response workers in an emergency. They include reception, food services, lodging, clothing, registration and inquiry, personal, and financial services.



Emergency
ManagementBC

INTRODUCTION

Created: 1998 JUL 15
Revised: 2016 AUG 04

Expense Approval: The following EMBC positions are authorized to provide approvals for expenditures to undertake specific emergency response works under Task: Regional Duty Manager, Regional Manager, Provincial Duty Manager, Senior Regional Manager, and others as specified by EMBC.

General Service Volunteer: The general service volunteer component is comprised of all other volunteers who provide their services to either a local authority or Emergency Management BC, including clerical staff, drivers, exercise facilitators, first aiders, and manual workers. Volunteers who offer to perform short-term services in response to a specific emergency or disaster response task will also be included in this component.

Incident: An occurrence, either human caused or by natural phenomena, that requires action by response personnel to prevent or minimize loss of life or damage to property and the environment to reduce economic and social losses.

Incident Commander (IC): The individual responsible for the management of all incident operations at the incident site. The term 'Incident Commander' includes Unified Command. During SAR operations in British Columbia the role of the Incident Commander is filled by a representative of the police, BC Ambulance Service, Fire Services, Coroner or Parks Canada.

Incident Command System (ICS): A standardized approach to the command, control, and coordination of emergency response providing a common hierarchy within which responders from multiple agencies can be effective. Originally developed as a fire response management system by various jurisdictions in the United States, the Province of BC has adopted ICS as the standard for emergency site management as part of its BC Emergency Management System (BCEMS).

Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) Victoria: The joint Canadian Armed Forces (CAF)/Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) coordination centre operated at CFB Esquimalt to coordinate and control SAR response in support of air and marine incidents in the Victoria Search and Rescue Region (SRR).

Local Authority: A term used to describe jurisdictions below the provincial government level. These could be a municipal council or board of a regional district, depending on the organization of responsibilities.

Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) Air: A BC-wide volunteer aviation association dedicated to the promotion of Aviation Safety and to the provision of air search support services to the National Search and Rescue Program. PEP Air operates under the standards and procedures of the national Civil Air Search And Rescue Association (CASARA) as approved by the Department of National Defence (DND).



Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) Discipline means one of the following:

- Search and Rescue (SAR)
- Emergency Social Services (ESS)
- Emergency Radio Communications
- PEP Air
- Road Rescue

Public Safety Lifeline (PSL) Organization: An EMBC recognized provincial, federal or community based society, or unincorporated group established to support volunteers engaged in preparing for and responding to emergencies, and/or providing advice to government.

Public Safety Lifeline Volunteer (PSLV): Includes Search and Rescue, Emergency Social Services, Emergency Radio Communications, PEP Air, and Road Rescue volunteers.

Road Rescue Service Provider: An organized fire rescue service or volunteer rescue society whose members maintain an on-going competence through participation in a training and exercise program that meets the intent of the current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards on operations and training for technical rescue incidents.

Search and Rescue (SAR): Volunteers called upon to assist and support the police or other authorized agency(s) in searching for, rescuing or recovering any persons who become lost, stranded, or injured, generally while in the out-of-doors.

Search and Rescue Manager (SAR Manager): Under the general direction of the Incident Commander, the SAR Manager will manage the volunteer SAR response during a SAR response.

Task Number: A control number assigned by EMBC for tracking an approved response. A task number does NOT indicate approval of emergency response funding.