

RE: EMBC Speakers & the May 19th Tsunami Forum

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
To: aroberts@crd.bc.ca
Cc: Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 18, 2021 8:58:16 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png
Alison,

I hope this finds you well.

My apologies for not being in contact earlier, but I am a colleague of Corey Anderson's at EMBC, and will be delivering the 10 minute presentation on **Information Flow and Workflow** tomorrow.

I will have a slide deck prepared, but it will not be ready until sometime later tonight. Would you still like me to forward it to you early tomorrow, or should I simply rely on sharing my screen during the forum?

Also, following is my short bio (please feel free to edit as appropriate to match others):

A lifetime resident of southern Vancouver Island and the traditional territories of the WSANEC peoples, Brendan Ralfs started his career in emergency response and management in 1994 with the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) helicopter rappel program. After 20 years with the BCWS, Brendan transitioned to Emergency Management BC in 2015, where he has worked in the Regional Operations and Planning Branches. Since 2019 Brendan has held the position of EMBC Director, Operations, where he supervises the team responsible for receiving and disseminating BC tsunami alerts.

If I am too far past your May 13 deadline, I can just introduce myself at the start of my presentation.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: May 13, 2021 9:07 AM
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Wainwright, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Wainwright@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: EMBC Speakers & the May 19th Tsunami Forum

From: Alison Roberts <aroberts@crd.bc.ca>
Sent: May 12, 2021 11:42 AM
To: Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: EMBC Speakers & the May 19th Tsunami Forum

Hi Corey,

Thanks for all your support organizing the Forum. I wanted to send a quick note for yourself, please forward to anyone else who may potentially join you from EMBC as a guest speaker. Please be aware that timing is very tight, and we will be strictly adhering to the timing to allow for opportunities for discussion.

EMBC is scheduled to present during Part II of the Forum, *Introducing the Current Provincial Tsunami Notification Process and the flow of presentations* and timing is as follows:

10:35 – Presentation – Dave Snider (NOAA) – an Introduction to the National Tsunami Warning Centre

10-47 – 11:03 – Presentation – EMBC – “the Story of the BC Tsunami Zones” (5 minutes maximum) and EMBC Information Flow and Workflow (10 minutes maximum) – Please note the opportunity for questions will occur immediately after the breakout activity.

11:04 – immediately following EMBC’s presentation, our facilitator from SHIFT Collaborative will introduce the participants to a breakout activity related to the complexity of the Tsunami Notification Process

11:10 – Breakout groups and participant discussion (15 minutes) – this is to help reflect on and integrate the information they just heard.

Each group will be asked the following questions:

1. In your experience, what is one thing that has worked well about the notification system? What is one key challenge or issue you’ve encountered?
2. What is clear/visible and what remains confusing/invisible, about how the notification process functions

11:25 – Report back and questions for presenters (~8 minutes) before jumping into another breakout group based discussion activity.

Presentation to Address:

We hope that the EMBC presentation(s) will address the following in the time available: Context about the history of the BC Tsunami Notification Zones as well as sharing how the flow of tsunami info into and out of the ECC; describe the roles and responsibilities of the Provincial Duty Manager – including the workflow and key decision-making trigger points (including the activation of the Alert Ready System (PENS)).

Possible Participant Inquires:

We anticipate that some of the local government participants may ask/want to know who was engaged in the selection and delineation of the Notification Zones, what data and science was used to inform the selection, how frequently the zones are reviewed or updated based on emerging science and data.

Technology: Zoom will be the platform used during this Forum.

Actions/Request of EMBC:

1. Please provide myself and Erica with the names and a short (<100 word biography of the EMBC representatives who will be attending) by the end of day Thursday May 13th
2. If using PowerPoint slides please share with Erica and myself by the end of the day on Monday May 18th (this will be for back up in case there are technology challenges),
3. Please advise if any presentation materials is okay to share with meeting participants following the Forum.

Thank Corey for your support in bringing this Forum together please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or if I can offer any support to help prepare for this meeting.

Many thanks.

Alison Roberts, M.A. DEM | Senior Project Coordinator
Regional Emergency Management Partnership
625 Fisgard Street | PO Box 1000
Victoria, BC V8W 2S6
O: 250 360-3651
C: 250 507-3063
E: aroberts@crd.bc.ca
Pronouns: she, her, hers

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- BC TSUNAMI ALERTING - EMBC INFORMATION & WORK FLOW

Brendan Ralfs, EMBC Director, Operations

May 19, 2021

NATIONAL TSUNAMI WARNING CENTER



Emergency
ManagementBC



Products/Messages >

Tsunami Data >

Education/Outreach >

Exercises

NOAA Tsunami
Program

TsunamiReady

International Tsunami
Information Center

Caribbean Tsunami
Warning Program

Tsunami Research

National Tsunami
Hazard Mitigation
Program

IOC/UNESCO Tsunami
Program

Tsunami Warning
Centers >

Follow Us! >

No Tsunami Warning, Advisory, Watch, or Threat

Earthquake:

Magnitude: 5

Origin Time: 5/17/2021, 1:25:05 PM

Depth: 9 mi.

Lat: 50.9° N Lon: 179.2° E

Location: 45 miles S of Amchitka, Alaska

Note: Times are local to your browser, unless otherwise indicated

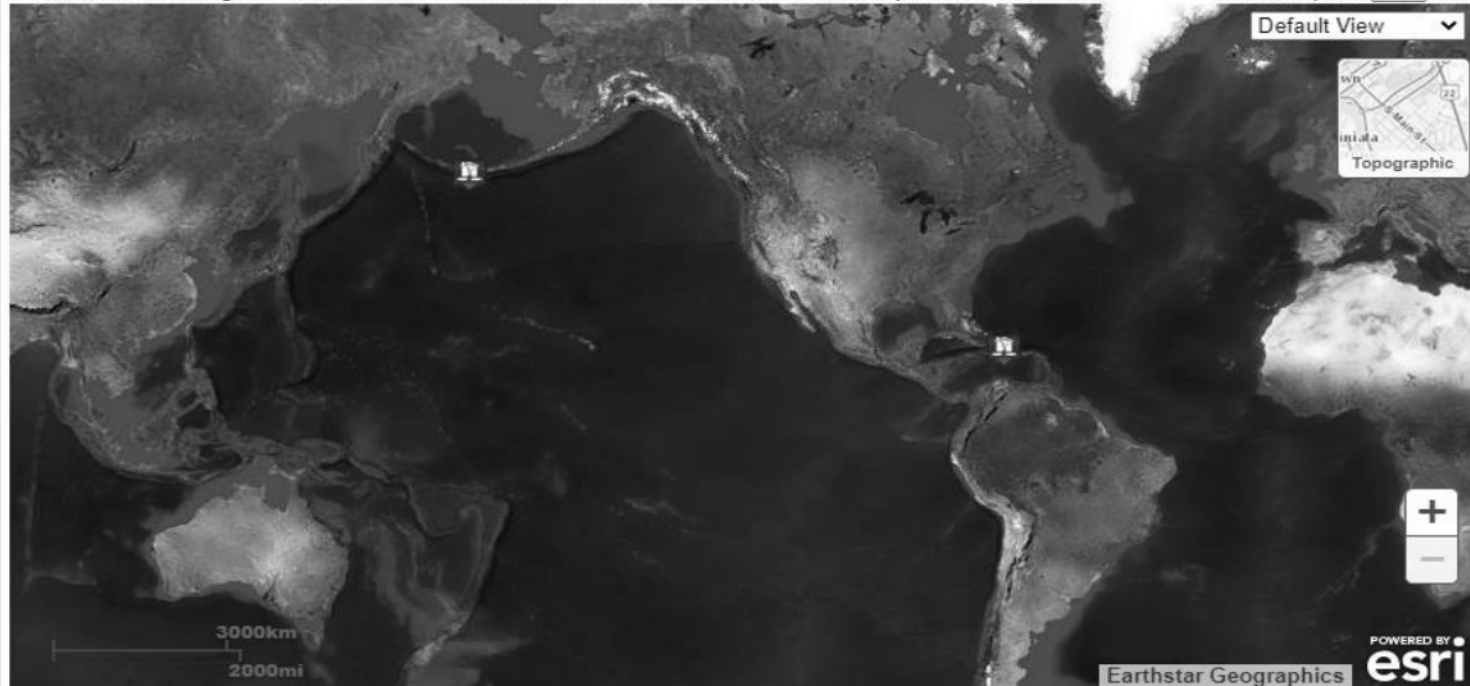
See the map or table below for more information

☒ Alerts/Threats ☒ Earthquakes

☐ Previous 40 Messages ☐ Observations ☐ Forecasts ☐ Water-Level Stations ☐ DART Systems ☐ Travel Time

☒ Auto Update min

Default View



POWERED BY
esri

NTWC TSUNAMI ALERT LEVELS



Emergency
ManagementBC

Alert Level	Threat	Action
Warning	Inundating Wave Possible	Full Evacuation Suggested
Advisory	Strong Currents Likely	Stay Away From the Shore
Watch	Danger Level Not Yet Known	Stay Alert for More Information
Information	Minor Waves at Most	No Action Suggested

TSUNAMI NOTIFICATION PROCESS PLAN



Emergency
ManagementBC

BC Tsunami Notification Process Plan



PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Tsunami Notification Process Plan

Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS)

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC



Emergency
ManagementBC

- Victoria Headquarters
- 24/7/365 Operations
- Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC)
- Provincial Duty Manager (PDM)
- Social Media Staff



EMBC TSUNAMI ALERTING TOOLS



Emergency
ManagementBC

EMBC PENS Communication Tools

- @EmergencyInfoBC Twitter Feed
- EmergencyInfoBC Blog
- RAVE Notifications
- “Pre-PENS” Email
- Alert Ready Broadcast Intrusive Alert

TSUNAMI INFORMATION FLOW



Emergency
ManagementBC

1. Seismic Event Occurs
 2. NTWC Issues Initial Tsunami Alert Bulletin
 3. ECC Receives NTWC Bulletin Via Multiple Comms Platforms
 4. Bulletin Information Passed by ECC to PDM
- NTWC Twitter Account
 - Subsequent Bulletins w/Updates Issued by NTWC As Needed

EMBC WORKFLOW



Emergency
ManagementBC

If NTWC Issues **Tsunami Information Statement**

NO THREAT TO BC

- PDM Reviews:
 - EQ Location / Magnitude / Depth
 - If a “Felt Event”
 - Mainstream Media Coverage
 - Social Media Activity
- Possible Actions
 - Re-Tweet NTWC Tweet
 - Pre-PENS Email

EMBC WORKFLOW



Emergency
ManagementBC

If NTWC Issues **Tsunami Watch**

Danger Level Not Yet Known – Stay Alert for More Information

- Re-Tweet & Update Blog
- Pre-PENS Email
- RAVE Notification

EMBC WORKFLOW



Emergency
ManagementBC

If NTWC Issues a **Tsunami Advisory**

Strong Currents Likely – Stay Away From Shore

- Re-Tweet & Update Blog
- Pre-PENS Email
- RAVE Notification

EMBC WORKFLOW



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If NTWC Issues a **Tsunami Warning**

Inundating Wave Possible – Evacuation Suggested

- Re-Tweet & Update Blog
- Pre-PENS Email
- Alert Ready BI Alert
- RAVE Notification

EMBC WORKFLOW



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If Multiple Tsunami Notification Zones Impacted

- Appropriate Workflow Occurs For Each Zone
- Highest Level of Alert Actioned First

If Alert Updated

- Appropriate Workflow Taken

If NTWS Issues a Tsunami Cancellation

Tide Gauges Show No Wave Activity – Confirm Safety of Local Areas

- NTWC Issues Cancellations When Appropriate
- EMBC Redistributes Cancellation Through All Available Means
- Location Specific Assessments



Emergency
ManagementBC

THANK YOU

Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca

RE: Wildfire Evacuation Alert

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 18, 2021 7:28:34 AM PDT
Bev,

My apologies if my reply caught you off guard. I do appreciate you building the templates and wanted to say so, but also wanted to be very clear in my reply to ensure I didn't create any confusion.

s.13

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 1:20 PM
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Wildfire Evacuation Alert

Hi Brendan:

Please understand that I would NEVER use Alert Ready without at least one of you, Pader, or Stan requesting it.

You, Stan, and Sonia had suggested I go ahead and create some templates. This is one of a few. I just thought I would create it for a possible real event so, should we choose to start using Alert Ready and should the situation become urgent, we have something to build on. Also, it is much easier to create a template for a real event using actual messaging. It is just a starting point.

I create these in the training environment and then save them as a template. I am also populating a table that will be easier to adjust for a generic template that we can use as a starting point should we have something emergent.

Take care,
Beverly Duthie | Public Alerting
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 12:38 PM
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Wildfire Evacuation Alert

Bev,

Thank you for the effort you have put into this. I think we would have to consider very carefully the use of such a BI alert without prior briefing and approval from our Executive (and for a wildfire alert without prior engagement and consultation with the BCWS).

I am not saying that it is impossible, and I appreciate that you have proactively developed the template, but please do not use it or request that a PDM use it without direct instruction to do so from Pader, Stan, myself or a member of Executive.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 12:11 PM
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Wildfire Evacuation Alert

Good morning:

I have created a template just in case we need to issue a BI alert for an evacuation order for the Lytton area.

I would update it depending on the order. Right now it is as follows:

Wildfire evacuation order for south of Lytton. A wildfire estimated at 60 hectares in size is currently burning approximately seven kilometres south of Lytton, adjacent to Highway 1. Evacuate following instructions from your local government: www.tnrd.ca or www.skupphah.ca. Go to www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca for more information.

Let me know if you end up wanting to proceed and/or if you would like to see changes to the above message.

Beverly Duthie, Public Alerting
Emergency Management BC
Block A – Suite 200
2261 Keating Cross Rd
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5

Phone: 778-974-3730
Cell: 778-679-4123
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456
EMBCPublicAlerting@gov.bc.ca

Follow us on Twitter [@EmergencyInfoBC](https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC) and [@PreparedBC](https://twitter.com/PreparedBC)

I would like to acknowledge the opportunity we have to live, work, and play on the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people.

RE: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2021 8:48:04 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png
Tx – we should also discuss wattendeeds at the annual meeting on a go forward basis

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations
Emergency Management BC
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: 5.17
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456
Follow EMBC at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)
Follow the OFC at [@BC_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people

From: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting
Importance: High

Fyi, background on Pelmorex is that Brendan requested Kevyn schedule meeting (see attached email) and Kevyn had Bev arrange, and Bev added you but Kevyn was unaware you would be added.

I just discussed with Kevyn by phone and sent the below email to Kevyn et al. making sure Kevin reschedules when she is back in the office first thing on Monday.

Pader

From: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX
Sent: June 24, 2021 4:41 PM
To: Peterson, Kevyn EMBC:EX <Kevyn.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>
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Importance: High

Hi Kevyn,

Thanks for arranging this meeting as requested by Brendan.

I've discussed with Madeline and my preference is to reschedule the annual meeting for when Brendan is back from holidays and for the duration of no more than 1 hour.

Prior to the meeting, particularly for a meeting with ADM attending and myself being introduced with questions on BC perspective, governance etc. we should have an internal EMBC meeting first, with pre-brief scheduled and materials provided in advance for EMBC staff, prior to the annual meeting. That will allow us to make sure we don't cross wires with our EMBC approach to addressing their questions.

Let's use next week time for an internal EMBC meeting only with a pre-brief with Madeline, Stan, Beverly, Sonia for a 1 hour duration with Beverly providing materials in advance that would support the agenda that has been outlined in the invite. Please ensure Madeline is invited for the pre-brief.

The agenda for our internal meeting next week (pre-brief) could include a discussion on the below agenda that was in the original outlook invite with materials and background being provided by Beverly et al. prior to the pre-brief.

Topics for discussion:

1. Introduce Pelmorex to Pader
2. Next steps ~~res.13; s.16~~
3. BC perspective on national guidelines and governance, and
4. How Pelmorex can better support EMBC based on where you want to take your alerting program.

Thanks all,

Pader

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

FYI – Bev Duthie tells me that Pelmorex has requested their annual meeting with EMBC and so I have asked Kevyn to schedule.

Moving forward, perhaps we will look for a time of year outside of the natural hazard season.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
Sent: June 17, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Peterson, Kevyn EMBC:EX <Kevyn.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sonia Woolford <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

Kevyn,

Can you please work with Bev Duthie (perhaps today, but it could certainly be when you are back from leave next week) to arrange a meeting between EMBC and Pelmorex (the company with the contract to issue Broadcast Intrusive public alerts in Canada)?

The attendees should be: Pader, Stan, myself, Sonia & Bev, as well as the Pelmorex representatives identified by Bev. The meeting title can be Pelmorex/EMBC Annual Meeting.

Thank you for this.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061 Fax: 250-952-4872
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

Follow PreparedBC



FW: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX
To: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 25, 2021 9:21:01 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, FW: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

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With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people

From: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 24, 2021 4:48 PM
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>
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Thanks all,

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To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
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Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061 Fax: 250-952-4872
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Follow PreparedBC



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To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 11:39:53 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png
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Cc: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>, Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>, Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>, Peterson, Kevyn EMBC:EX <Kevyn.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 29, 2021 4:48:58 PM PDT
Attachments: 2011 11 07 NAADS_EMBC-Pelmorex Agreement_2011.pdf, image001.png, image002.png, Public Alerting - ED Pelmorex Brief.pptx
Please find attached some background information for the meeting tomorrow as follows:

- My suggested PowerPoint to lead us through the discussion
- The original EMBC Pelmorex Agreement (Renews automatically)

I am expecting some information from Pelmorex. If it comes in I will add it to the Power Point tomorrow.

Take care,

Beverly Duthie | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca

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Prior to the meeting, particularly for a meeting with ADM attending and myself being introduced with questions on BC perspective, governance etc. we should have an internal EMBC meeting first, with pre-brief scheduled and materials provided in advance for EMBC staff, prior to the annual meeting. That will allow us to make sure we don't cross wires with our EMBC approach to addressing their questions.

Let's use next week time for an internal EMBC meeting only with a pre-brief with Madeline, Stan, Beverly, Sonia for a 1 hour duration with Beverly providing materials in advance that would support the agenda that has been outlined in the invite. Please ensure Madeline is invited for the pre-brief.

The agenda for our internal meeting next week (pre-brief) could include a discussion on the below agenda that was in the original outlook invite with materials and background being provided by Beverly et al. prior to the pre-brief.

Topics for discussion:

1. Introduce Pelmorex to Pader
2. Next steps re. s.13; s.16
3. BC perspective on national guidelines and governance, and
4. How Pelmorex can better support EMBC based on where you want to take your alerting program.

Thanks all,

Pader

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: June 17, 2021 11:40 AM
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

FYI – Bev Duthie tells me that Pelmorex has requested their annual meeting with EMBC and so I have asked Kevyn to schedule.

Moving forward, perhaps we will look for a time of year outside of the natural hazard season.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
Sent: June 17, 2021 11:12 AM
To: Peterson, Kevyn EMBC:EX <Kevyn.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Sonia Woolford <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: EMBC/Pelmorex Meeting

Kevyn,

Can you please work with Bev Duthie (perhaps today, but it could certainly be when you are back from leave next week) to arrange a meeting between EMBC and Pelmorex (the company with the contract to issue Broadcast Intrusive public alerts in Canada)?

The attendees should be: Pader, Stan, myself, Sonia & Bev, as well as the Pelmorex representatives identified by Bev. The meeting title can be Pelmorex/EMBC Annual Meeting.

Thank you for this.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061 Fax: 250-952-4872
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

Follow PreparedBC



**Pelmorex National Alert Aggregation & Dissemination
USER ACCESS AGREEMENT**

This Agreement made as of November 7, 2011

Between:

Pelmorex Communications Inc. ("Pelmorex")
a Corporation formed under the laws of Ontario
and having its principal place of business at
2655 Bristol Circle, Oakville, Ontario L6H 7W1

AND

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
IN RIGHT OF THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA,
as represented by
Emergency Management BC,
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
(the "Province")

Whereas:

- A. Pelmorex is licensed under the *Broadcasting Act* to operate two specialty services, The Weather Network ("TWN") and MétéoMédia ("MM"), and is authorized under its licence to broadcast emergency alert messages and other public safety information related to imminent or unexpected threats to life or property caused by severe weather disturbances, natural disasters or other emergencies in local, regional and national areas of Canada for distribution on the licensee's services;
- B. Pelmorex has committed to act as an aggregator and disseminator of emergency alert messages and to thereby provide an emergency alert service that receives

emergency alert messages and other public safety information from authorized government agencies and their authorized users and makes available those messages to the public and to cable TV and direct-to-home satellite service providers, TV and radio stations, wire-line and wireless telecommunications carriers, ISPs and internet websites, as well as other broadcasting and telecommunications networks (collectively referred to as "Last Mile Distributors") for dissemination to the Canadian public (hereafter referred to as the Pelmorex "National Alert Aggregation & Dissemination System" or the "NAAD System");

- C. Authorized Government Agency is the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, British Columbia, as represented by Emergency Management BC, that is responsible for emergency preparedness and public safety in British Columbia or is authorized to issue Alert Messages, as defined herein at section 1(b), and is granted access to the NAAD System for the purpose of issuing Alert Messages pursuant to this Agreement;
- D. The parties have agreed to enter into this Agreement as a means to ensure that Alert Messages issued by Authorized Government Agencies or Authorized Users are available by means of Pelmorex's NAAD System to Last Mile Distributors for dissemination to the Canadian public.

Now therefore in consideration of the mutual covenants contained herein and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which is hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

I. Purpose and Scope

- 1. (a) The purpose of this Agreement is to set out the terms and conditions under which Authorized Government Agency, and the individuals, officials, agencies and/or departments under its jurisdiction that have been designated by Authorized Government Agency as being authorized to access the NAAD System for Emergency Management BC ("Authorized Users"), will be granted access to Pelmorex's NAAD System so that the Alert Messages will be broadcast on TWN and MM and made available by Pelmorex, nationally, to Last Mile Distributors in a timely and effective manner (hereafter referred to as the "Purpose").
- (b) In this Agreement, the term "Alert Messages" means alert messages issued by an Authorized Government Agency or an Authorized User, including all specified geo-codes, event codes or file attachments issued together with the alert message that are supported by Pelmorex's NAAD System and are consistent with the Common Alerting Protocol – Canadian Profile ("CAP-CP") and any other standards approved by the Pelmorex NAAD Governance Council ("Council"), which is made up of representatives of Pelmorex, appropriate provincial and federal government departments or agencies including Emergency Management BC and various broadcasting undertakings.

2. The parties acknowledge and agree that they will each act in good faith with a view to ensuring that Pelmorex is able to carry out the alert aggregation and dissemination function in the manner outlined in the application (Application No. 2007-1751-4) filed by Pelmorex and approved by the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission ("CRTC") in Broadcasting Decision CRTC 2009-340 and in accordance with the Purpose outlined in section 1 of this Agreement, which has been approved in principle by the Council.

II. Pelmorex Responsibilities

3. Pelmorex undertakes to do the following:

- (a) Provide a secure and reliable NAAD System that will allow for the reception of Alert Messages from designated Authorized Users and the redistribution of those Alert Messages, unaltered, on TWN and MM and make Alert Messages available to other Last Mile Distributors ;
- (b) Develop a software application and upgraded versions of that application, as necessary, that will permit Authorized Users to create Alert Messages in a format that can be received and redistributed by Pelmorex;
- (c) Receive Alert Messages that are delivered by Authorized Users in accordance with the Technical Specifications, Standards and Rules outlined in Appendix A, as may be amended by Pelmorex in consultation with the Council from time to time;
- (d) Make available Alert Messages received from Authorized Users to Last Mile Distributors for the purpose of informing the general public;
- (e) Establish, staff and operate secure and reliable 24-hour operation centres ("Operations Centres") which will provide full support service in both English and French and that will provide standby power and redundant access to support satellite and internet communications networks; and
- (f) Provide a secure on-line resource and user support centre ("User Resource Centre") that will contain information such as standards and codes, training and best-practices manuals, electronic newsletters, lists of Authorized Government Agencies and other materials relevant to Pelmorex's NAAD System.

III. Authorized Government Agency Responsibilities

4. Authorized Government Agency undertakes to do the following:

- (a) Ensure that Authorized Users issue Alert Messages using the software application (or any upgraded versions thereof) developed by Pelmorex or such other system approved by Pelmorex and deliver those messages to Pelmorex in a format that is consistent with the standards and parameters

set out in the Technical Specifications, Standards and Rules outlined in Appendix A, as may be amended by Pelmorex in consultation with the NAAD Advisory Council from time to time;

- (b) Identify the Primary Authorized Users, as defined in Appendix B of this Agreement, that will be permitted, on behalf of the Authorized Government Agency, to manage access of its Authorized Users to the NAAD System and ensure that the list of Primary Authorized Users set out in Appendix B of this Agreement contains up-to-date information with respect to the identity of each Primary Authorized User.
- (c) Provide training to Authorized Users to ensure that each Alert Message that is issued is properly coded and is consistent with the standards and parameters set out in the Technical Specifications, Standards and Rules;
- (d) Adopt and implement appropriate and reasonable security measures, including all necessary passwords, to enable Authorized Users to access the NAAD System and to ensure that no unauthorized individuals or users are able to access the NAAD System and that no unauthorized or improperly coded Alert Messages are distributed to Pelmorex; and
- (e) Abide by any directions issued by NAAD Advisory Council, which may relate, among other things, to the scope of the activities of Authorized Government Agencies, Authorized Users, the content of Alert Messages, protocols and procedures for classifying and delivering Alert Messages.

IV. High Level Contact

5. Each of Pelmorex and Authorized Government Agency will appoint a high level contact person or official who will be responsible for liaising with the other party and for managing the information that is accessible on the User Resource Centre. In the case of Pelmorex, the high level contact person will have the title of Senior Vice President, Regulatory and Strategic Affairs. In the case of Authorized Government Agency, the high level official will have the title of Assistant Deputy Minister / Fire and Emergency Management Commissioner. The name and title of the initial high level contact for Authorized Government Agency is identified in the List of Authorized Users set out in Appendix B.

V. Costs

6. Each party to this Agreement will be responsible for the costs it incurs to participate in the NAAD System.

VI. NAAD System Testing

7. At Pelmorex's request and in accordance with any directions or guidelines issued by the NAAD Advisory Council, Authorized Government Agency agrees to cooperate in

the conduct of tests to ensure that the NAAD System is fully functional and will operate in an error-free manner.

VII. Liability for Message Content and Indemnity

8. Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, as represented in this Agreement by the Authorized Government Agency, acknowledges and agrees that it assumes responsibility and liability for the content of the Alert Messages and for the delivery of the Alert Messages to Pelmorex's NAAD System, provided that the meaning and purpose of the content contained in the Alert Messages that are broadcast on TMN and MM and/or are made available by Pelmorex to Last Mile Distributors are not altered in any way. For greater certainty, it is acknowledged and understood that certain actions taken by Pelmorex, such as re-formatting and/or changing the structure of Alert Messages or Attachments, in order to facilitate their dissemination or to be compliant with standards and requirements adopted by the Council does not constitute altering an Alert Message under this Agreement.

9. Pelmorex acknowledges and agrees that it assumes responsibility and liability for the operation of the NAAD System.

10. Emergency Management BC, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, as represented in this Agreement by Authorized Government Agency, agrees to indemnify and hold Pelmorex and its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents and independent contractors (the "Pelmorex Indemnitees") harmless from and against any claims, liabilities, expenses, costs or damages, direct or indirect, including, without limitation, reasonable legal fees and related costs incurred in the settlement or defence thereof arising in connection with or related to:

- (a) the making or failure to make, and the delivery or failure to deliver, to Pelmorex any Alert Messages by Authorized Government Agency or any Authorized User;
- (b) the content of the Alert Messages; or
- (c) the broadcast, distribution, publication or other dissemination of any Alert Message;

except and solely to the extent that it is determined that Pelmorex altered the meaning or purpose of the content contained in the Alert Message or that the negligent actions of the Pelmorex Indemnitees, or any of them, contributed thereto.

11. Notwithstanding section 9, neither party shall be liable for special, consequential, exemplary or indirect damages for the loss of business profits, goodwill, work stoppages or other commercial damages or losses of the other party arising from any breach of this Agreement or from any act or omission of the party or its affiliates, directors, officers, employees, agents and independent contractors.

12. The parties acknowledge that neither Authorized Government Agency nor Pelmorex is in any way accepting responsibility or liability for any failure on the part of a Last Mile Distributor, such as a television or radio broadcaster or a cable or satellite distributor, to disseminate, in whole or in part, correctly or incorrectly any Alert Message to the Canadian public as part of that Last Mile Distributor's service.

13. The indemnity and assumption of responsibility contained in sections 8 to 12 above shall survive the termination of this Agreement.

VIII. No Legal Right or Ownership of Alert Message

14. The parties acknowledge and agree that the Alert Messages issued by the Authorized Government Agency or its Authorized Users, which are then broadcast and/or disseminated by Pelmorex will become part of the public domain and will not be subject to copyright.

15. The parties acknowledge and agree that the Alert Messages will be made available at no cost to Last Mile Distributors.

16. Authorized Government Agency acknowledges and agrees that it will not prohibit or restrict Pelmorex, in any way, from acting as a Last Mile Distributor itself and from disseminating or redistributing the Alert Messages to third parties or the general public using any platform or technology.

17. Authorized Government Agency further acknowledges that third parties will not be obligated or required to broadcast, redistribute, publicize or otherwise disseminate the Alert Messages and Pelmorex will not be expected or required to enter into a contractual relationship with any such third party with respect to the distribution of the Alert Messages.

IX. Term and Termination

18. The initial term of this Agreement shall be from the date of signature by both parties until June 9, 2015 (the "Initial Term"), and shall automatically renew for one year terms (the "Renewal Terms") unless or until a written notice of termination is provided by one party to the other at least 120 days in advance of the Initial Term or a Renewal Term, as the case may be. When a written notice of termination is delivered by one party to another, this Agreement shall come to an end and the obligations of the parties hereunder, with the exception of those outlined in sections 8 to 12 hereunder, shall cease at the end of that term.

X. Dispute Resolution

19. In the event that a dispute arises out of or in relation to this Agreement and that dispute cannot be resolved to the satisfaction of both parties, the following procedure will be followed:

- (a) each party shall nominate one senior officer or official as its representative for the purpose of attempting to resolve the dispute. The representatives shall meet and shall attempt in good faith to resolve the dispute. Such representatives shall have ten (10) business days from the date on which either party delivers written notice of the need to resolve any dispute pursuant to this section.
- (b) In the event that the parties cannot resolve the dispute in this manner, then the parties shall refer the matter to arbitration. One arbitrator knowledgeable about the subject matter of this Agreement shall conduct the arbitration. If the parties are unable to agree upon one arbitrator, each party will appoint one arbitrator and a third will be chosen by the first two named before they enter into the business of arbitrating the dispute. All such arbitrators shall be knowledgeable about the subject matter of this Agreement. There shall be no discovery other than the exchange of information that is provided to the arbitrator(s) by the parties. The arbitrator(s) may require each party to produce records and documents that are in their possession or power in order to conduct the arbitration. Each party shall bear its own costs, and the parties shall share equally the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s). The award and determination of the arbitrator or of a majority of the three arbitrators, as the case may be, shall be binding upon the parties and their respective heirs, executors, administrators and assigns. Such arbitrator(s) shall have thirty (30) business days from the date on which the parties submitted the matter to arbitration to issue a determination regarding the dispute.

XI. Notices

20. The Parties agree that any written communication, report or notice required by this Agreement may be given by personal delivery, by fax, email or by mail to the addresses set out below. A notice is deemed to be received on the date of delivery if delivered personally, two days after being faxed, the same day it is emailed, or seven days after being mailed.

If to Authorized Government Agency:

Assistant Deputy Minister /
Fire and Emergency Management Commissioner
Emergency Management BC
Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
PO Box 9223 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC, V8W 9J1
Tel: 250-953-4007
Fax: 250-952-5831
Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca

If to Pelmorex:

Paul Temple
Senior Vice President, Regulatory & Strategic Affairs
Pelmorex Communications Inc
2655 Bristol Circle
Oakville, ON, L6H 7W1 s.22
Tel: 905-829-1159 ext.
Fax: 905-829-5800

ptemple@pelmorex.com

with a copy to:

Contracts Administrator
Pelmorex Communications Inc
2655 Bristol Circle
Oakville, Ontario L6H 7W1
Fax: 905-829-1151

XII. General Terms and Conditions

21. Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary in this Agreement, Pelmorex shall at all times exercise complete control over the operation of its broadcasting undertaking and the programming content contained therein as required by its CRTC licence.

22. This Agreement is subject to the decisions, regulations and licence conditions applicable to Pelmorex which are now enforced or hereafter adopted by the CRTC or any other competent Canadian regulatory authority or court. Both parties acknowledge and agree that any and all present and future rulings, decisions, and regulations of the CRTC or successor regulatory body that cannot be waived, modified, amended or otherwise made subject to an agreement by the parties shall bind the parties and supersede any provisions of this Agreement to the extent same are inconsistent with any such rulings, decisions, or regulations; and no party shall be liable for breach or default where such rulings, decisions or regulations prevent performance of that party's obligations hereunder.

23. Nothing in this Agreement establishes or shall be deemed to establish a partnership, agency or employer/employee relationship between the parties.

24. Each Party represents and warrants that it has full power and authority to enter into, perform, and execute this Agreement, and that each person signing this Agreement on behalf of a Party has been properly authorized and empowered to enter into and execute this Agreement.

25. No waiver of any breach of any term or condition of this Agreement will be construed to waive any subsequent breach of the same or any term or condition of this Agreement.

26. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement, no amendment or change to this Agreement is binding on the parties unless it is in writing and signed by each party.

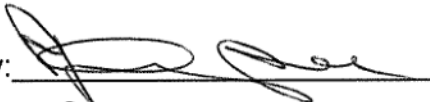
27. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of each party's successors and permitted assigns. No party shall assign its rights and obligations under this Agreement without the prior written consent of the other party.

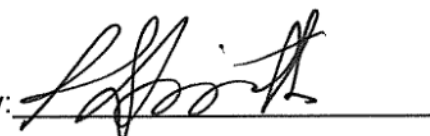
28. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of British Columbia and Canada applicable therein.

29. This Agreement, including all Schedules and Exhibits attached hereto, and all documents incorporated by reference herein, forms the entire agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter hereof and there are no other representations, warranties or oral agreements relating to the subject matter of this Agreement.

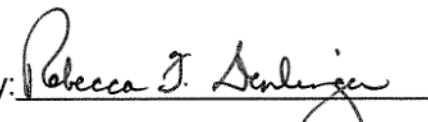
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, each party has caused this Agreement to be executed by their duly authorised representatives on the date(s) noted below:

Pelmorex Communications Inc.

By: 
Name: P. Temple
Title: SR VP
Date: Nov 30, 2011

By: 
Name: P. Morrissette
Title: CHAIRMAN + CEO
Date: Nov 30, 2011

The Government of British Columbia

By: 
Name: Rebecca F. Denlinger
Title: Fire & Emergency Management Commissioner
Date: Nov. 25, 2011

By: _____
Name: _____
Title: _____
Date: _____

Appendix A

Technical Specifications, Standards and Rules

I. Standards, terms & conditions governing Alert Messages

- 1) The parties agree to comply with the following technical standards, terms and conditions and that nothing Authorized Government Agency will include in its Alert Messages will be inconsistent with or violate these technical standards, terms and conditions:
 - a) Common Alerting Protocol "CAP" v1.2 as published by OASIS;
 - b) CAP-CP Introduction and Rule Set Beta 0.4;
 - c) CAP-CP Location References Beta 0.3.A;
 - d) CAP-CP Event References Beta 0.3.A;
 - e) Statistics Canada - Standard Geographical Classification 2009 Updated May 2009;
 - f) Alerting Business Rules as approved by the Pelmorex Alerting Governance Council, and published at www.alerts.pelmorex.com which as of this date include the following:
 - i) Each Alert Message must have an expiry, i.e. the CAP <expires> field must contain a valid *date:time* format;
 - ii) Audio file Attachments, if included, must be in the MP3, WMA or Wav. file formats and the audio message, when played, must not exceed 120 seconds in duration;
 - iii) Image file Attachments, if included, must be in the png, or jpeg, file formats;
 - iv) The cumulative size of all file attachments in any single Alert Message must not exceed 800 Kbytes;
 - v) The size of the entire Alert Message, excluding Attachments, must not exceed 200 Kbytes;
 - vi) The size of any single Alert Message, including all file attachments must not exceed 1000 Kbytes;
 - vii) Where Authorized Government agency issues Alert Messages in languages other than English and/or French it will use the language indicators as published by Pelmorex on its www.alerts.pelmorex.com website which include:

cr (Cree),
chp (Dene),
itk (Inuinnaqtun),
iu (Inuktitut);

- viii) Rules governing Test Messages including those intended for broadcast "live-to-the-public" and for Test Messages not for broadcast; or
- g) Such updated or revised versions of the above as approved for use by the Pelmorex Alerting Governance Council and as published on its www.alerts.pelmorex.com website, subject to item 2 below.
- 2) Where the above are to be revised or updated, or new standards adopted, Pelmorex will provide Authorized Government Agency with at least four [4] months advance written notice of the change.
- 3) Authorized Government Agency will only issue Alert Messages for which it has the legal authority to issue and only for such jurisdiction for which it has authority.
- 4) Authorized Government Agency may add terms of use, digital certificates or signatures and such other security measures and other information to its Alert Messages as it deems fit so long as it is compliant with the above standards, terms and conditions as identified in items 1) through 3) inclusive.
- 5) The NAAD System is designed to automatically verify an Alert Message complies with the agreed to standards at the time it is submitted by the Authorized User. If subsequent to this, Pelmorex detects that an Alert Message is inconsistent with or violates any of the above, or will disrupt the NAAD System, the parties agree that Pelmorex may, at its option, remove that Alert Message from distribution over its NAAD System. Notwithstanding the above, Pelmorex may not change or alter or correct any Alert Message but may only remove in total the Alert Message. Where Pelmorex identifies and/or removes an Alert Message because of non-compliance or defect it will notify Authorized Government Agency promptly as follows:
- By email to: Becky.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca or
 - By phone at 250-953-4007; or
 - By such other means as the parties agree to in writing.
- 6) Pelmorex may add a digital signature/certificate or add other such measures as are necessary to the Alert Messages distributed over the NAAD system so as to facilitate the secure and efficient operation of the NAAD System but may not change or delete in any other way the Alert Messages or the meaning and purpose of the Alert Messages. Any security measures taken by Pelmorex will not violate the CAP/CAP-CP standards.

II. Standards, terms and conditions governing communications links between Authorized Government Agency and Pelmorex.

- 7) Access to the NAAD System by the Authorized Government Agency will be by internet only via an https website operated and supported by Pelmorex on a 24/7/365 basis.
- 8) Authorized Government Agencies must access the NAAD System by way of an internet connection, and
 - a) Authorized Government Agencies are solely responsible for the cost, quality, speed and reliability of the internet service they use, and
 - b) Computers used to access the NAAD System must support Firefox or Internet Explorer browsers.
- 9) Each party will be responsible for their own costs as required, including but not limited to security measures including digital signatures or certificates, terminal equipment, internet access, monitoring equipment and systems.
- 10) The NAAD System Operation Centers in Montreal and Oakville will be staffed 24/7/365 with English and French speaking Service Desk Analysts capable of responding to any first level operational issues related to the NAAD System. Issues which cannot be resolved through first level support are escalated immediately to the on-call second level support team. Pelmorex's Operational Support Procedure will be published on its www.alerts.pelmorex.com website. Authorized Government Agencies may choose to receive support, assistance or report an issue via telephone, fax or email as follows:
 - Email: Support-PublicAlerting@pelmorex.com
 - Telephone: 1-877-390-1911
 - Fax: 1-905-829-9906.

**** End of Appendix A ****

Appendix B

List of Primary Authorized Users

The Primary Authorized Users as identified below will be set up by Pelmorex as the most senior Authorized Users on the NAAD System on behalf of Emergency Management BC. As such the Primary Authorized Users will have complete control over which persons [Authorized Users] may have access to the NAAD System on behalf of Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General and each individual Authorized Users authority to issue, cancel Alert Messages on behalf of Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General. Primary Authorized Users may delegate any or all of their authority as described above to other Authorized Users as they deem appropriate.

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General

The Primary User(s) that is/are authorized to access and manage the Authorized Government Agencies list of Authorized Users on the NAAD System is set out below:

Primary Authorized User (1)	Primary Authorized User (2)
<p>Name: Rebecca Denlinger</p> <p>Title: Assistant Deputy Minister / Fire and Emergency Management Commissioner</p> <p>Contact information: Emergency Management BC Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, Government of BC PO Box 9223 Stn Prov Govt Victoria, BC, V8W 9J1</p> <p>Telephone: 250-953-4007</p> <p>Fax: 250-952-5831</p> <p>Email address: Beck.Denlinger@gov.bc.ca</p>	

**** End of Appendix B ****

The background of the slide is a grayscale aerial photograph of a coastal town. In the foreground, several houses with dark roofs are visible. Behind them is a dense line of trees along the shore. The ocean is visible in the distance. A semi-transparent white box is centered over the middle of the image, containing the title and date.

Public Alerting BC, National, & Pelmorex

June 30, 2021

Agenda

- History of the BC/Pelmorex relationship

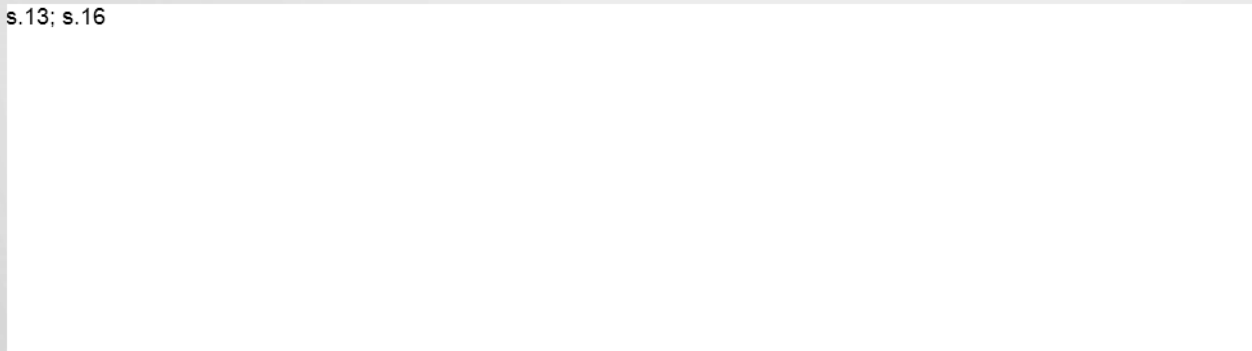
s.13; s.16

—

- Update Terms of Reference – Coming
- Funding Model

- National Alerting

s.13; s.16



- Application

s.13; s.16

—



What is Public Alerting?

An **Emergency Public Alert** is a message issued by an authorized government agency or an authorized user in respect of an imminent or unexpected threat to life caused by severe weather disturbances, natural disasters, or other emergencies.

Pelmorex



Private Company

- Weather Networks
- Data Solutions
- Alert Ready
- We will be meeting with:
 - Maureen Rogers, Managing Director, Pelmorex Weather Networks
 - Martin Bélenger. Director, Public Alerting, Pelmorex Corp.

BC/Pelmorex

Agreement: 11-07-2011

- BC assumes responsibility and liability for the content and delivery of messages
- Pelmorex assumes responsibility and liability for the operation of the NAAD system.

Suggestions:

s.13; s.16

Funding

- The CRTC **renewed** the broadcasting licence for the national, English- and French-language discretionary service The Weather Network/MétéoMédia (TWN/MM) from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2023.
- The Commission also **renewed** the mandatory distribution order for the service from 1 September 2018 to 31 August 2023, at a reduced wholesale rate of \$0.22 per subscriber per month. (approximately \$20M - \$30M/year)
- Cable subscriptions are going down
- CRTC is unsure whether or not they will renew the funding in 2023. Negotiations are underway

Public Alert Messages

A Broadcast Intrusive (BI) message:

- A message that is broadcast to everyone in the broadcast area – they don't get to choose!
- Both Broadcasters (Radio and TV) and Wireless providers are mandated to deliver the message.

BI Alerts can be sent using the following pathways:

- Via Broadcast only
- Via Wireless only
- Via both Wireless and Broadcast



Emergency
ManagementBC 7

We can choose to send a BI Alert out via:

- Broadcast only which will go to all radio and TV stations who serve that area
 - Broadcast messages will always be much broader than the target area
- Wireless only which will be delivered to all Wireless providers with towers in that area.
 - It is important to note that all towers whose network touches on that area will broadcast so we will ALWAYS over alert.
 - The RCMP alerting group in BC are considering using this "Wireless only" option when alerting for Civil Emergencies
- Both Broadcast and Wireless
 - Alerts can be sent to both Broadcasters and Wireless providers at the same time.
 - Wireless alerts are limited to 600 characters (including punctuation and spaces)
 - Broadcast alerts are limited to 900 characters (including punctuation and spaces)
 - Broadcast alerts also have a voice capability where the broadcast text is used via a "text-to-speech" application to create the voice over for broadcasters.

Technology

- Earthquake Early Warning – timely delivery to maximize the advance warning

s.13; s.16

-
-
-

Page 047 of 277 to/à Page 049 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

Thank you

Copyright

For Reference

- The following slides may be used for reference.

Comparison

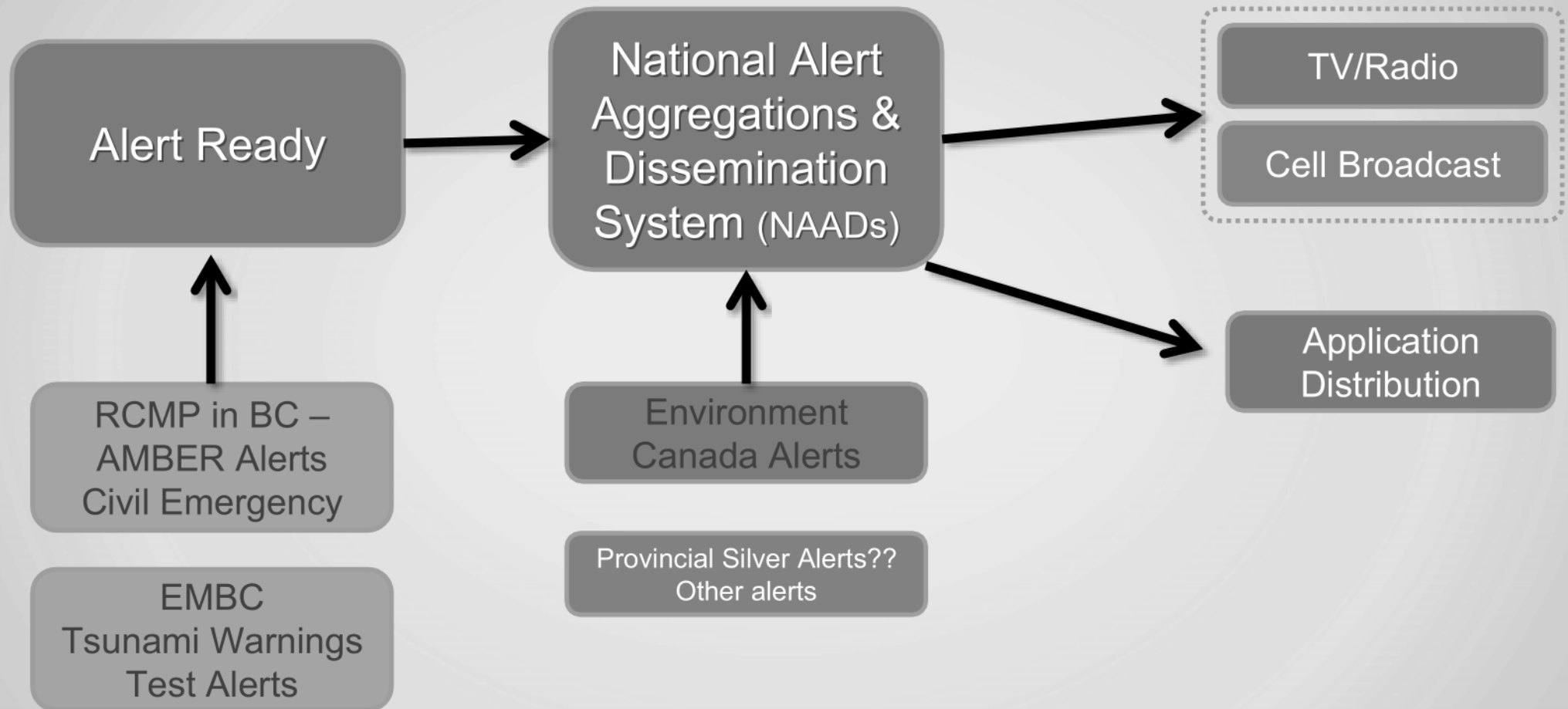
Jurisdiction	Current Status	Future	Issues
Alberta	Decentralized Does not use Alert Ready Uses Branded PEASI	s.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffing reductions Alberta has to alert for LA/FN or assist 400 jurisdictions, 800 users Uses Branded Alertable App
Saskatchewan	Decentralized Uses Alert Ready		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide program with 3 staff – no reduced Uses Branded Alertable App
Ontario	Centralized Amber or civil emergencies (Police)	s.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only LA in vicinity of a nuclear plant mandated to issue alerts
Manitoba	Centralized	s.13	
Quebec	Centralized including police incidents except AMBER	s.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> En Alerte launched in 2015 1,108 municipalities Managed through the 10 operators working with their ECC
Nova Scotia	Centralized including police incidents	s.13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18 counties and 49 municipalities Stand by alerting staff but

Application

	PEASI (Alertable)	Voyant Alert	Connect Rocket	ePact	Everbridge
Connections	Full. BI and non-BI plus social media, road signs, sirens. Approved users can issue a BI alert	Similar to PEASI but no mention of Alexa or Google Assistant. Does not appear to receive non-BI weather alerts	Mass notification system for small to mid-size communities. Email, text and phone call	Mass notification system for small to mid-size communities.	Mass notification system that can send two-way exchanges
Pricing	\$249 per month. 20% discount for joint approach	As low as \$1800 per year. Additional 3 rd party charges for use	\$250 per month for up to 100 users then \$0.04 per additional user plus costs		
Current Users	Victoria, Vancouver and Lower Mainland, Fraser Valley	ACRD, Alberni, RDBN, Esquimalt, RDCK, RDKB, RDN, NRRD including Prophet River FN	Comox Valley RD (including K'omoks FN), FFGRD split into three zones, Prince Rupert and Whistler	Haida Gwaii, SLRD	Cariboo RD PRRD

Current State

BI Only



LEGEND

Provincial

National

3rd Party



Emergency
Management BC

Page 055 of 277 to/à Page 056 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

RE: MEDIA REQUEST: Globe and Mail question re alerting and forest fires

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
To: Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 9, 2021 1:11:02 PM PDT
Susan,

Please see below for some suggestions from me in green font. I recognize that this is a delicate topic and would welcome Stan's review and edits, given his long-time association with public alerting, recent dedicated work on this file and the speed with which I tried to turn these around to you.

Happy to discuss further.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 9, 2021 10:06 AM
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: MEDIA REQUEST: Globe and Mail question re alerting and forest fires
Importance: High

We have a number of questions from the Globe and Mail that I need answer on. Time line to get back to reporter is end of day, so I'd need these by early afternoon latest.

Would you or your team have these? Or who would I go to?

s.13

REPORTER’S QUESTION

Since 2018 the National Public Alerting System has allowed all provincial jurisdictions in Canada to send direct to cellphone alerts to all residents in an area atop of preexisting capacities for radio and TV warnings . Yet such alerts have , almost uniquely in CANada, never been issued by BC.

Reporter wants to know why this is ?

- We’re examining what role the alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems. Several communities have implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
 - Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:
 - The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.
 - Emergency notifications provided through EMBC’s website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email
 - Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)

Q1. Does BC have a concept of operations regarding alerting for forest fires ? What is it ?

Local communities in BC have a responsibility to provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC’s EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.s.13

s.13

s.13

Q2. Why is it that Alberta uses its alerting system to warns its residents about forest fires more than a dozen times each year ? And yet BC never has (so far as I am aware)?

s.13

Q3 . Groups such as the UBCM and even Vancouver Police have been pressing the province to use the alerting system for a variety of environmental and public safety threats . What has the provinces response been so far?

In 2020 the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can utilize when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety. The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:

- how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications

- broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
- role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
- How we manage jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area (over alerting).
- Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting

Q4. I have responses from BC officials from a year ago suggesting certain technical hurdles have gotten in the way of the province issuing alerts. What is the status of this? Have the technological impediments been resolved ?

Public alerting is technologically complex.s.13

s.13 , , , The development and implementation of new alerting technologies and procedures is therefore necessarily undertaken carefully and methodically.

s.13

Q5. Did the province or its relevant bodies ever consider issuing an alert to Lytton residents regarding the forest fire threat ? Or to any of the other communities threatened by forest fires in recent weeks ? If not ... why not ?

The Province utilized its existing public notification procedures to support the Evacuation Orders issued for the wildfire event in Lytton, and other recent wildfire events. Public notification and alerting during fast-moving emergency events such as the Lytton wildfire needs to be carried out in a carefully planned manner to ensure they do not interfere with existing public safety procedures and operations. These are not appropriate situations in which to develop and deploy new procedures "on the fly" and without the time to carefully consider the full suite of their potential ramifications.

Q6. Municipalities seem to be leading on alerting in BC in many ways, unlike the EMO-centred operations that exist other provinces. Why is this?

Local authorities in BC have a duty of care to their resident during emergency events and have the best understanding of the specific hazards, geography, diverse populations and needs of their communities. The Province is continuing to work with local communities to explore ways to improve public safety during emergency events in BC, including through the possible development of new public alerting technologies and procedures.

Q7. Do municipalities in BC have access to the "Alert Ready" infrastructure and its direct-to-cellphone warning capabilities?

s.13

s.13 Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready, does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible cell phones within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

s.13

Page 060 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13

RE: UPDATED BULLETS: FOR REVIEW/INPUT ASAP: Media Request -- Use of Alert Ready

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX
To: Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 12, 2021 3:11:00 PM PDT
Sorry, I would suggest:
s.13

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations
Emergency Management BC
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 12, 2021 2:46 PM
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: UPDATED BULLETS: FOR REVIEW/INPUT ASAP: Media Request -- Use of Alert Ready
Importance: High

See the first line...

- If circumstances warrant, B.C. could use the Alert Ready system for any large-scale emergency.
- We're continually looking at what role an alerting system could play in large-scale emergencies, and how we can expand our use of the system in a way that is effective to ensure public safety.
- For example, EMBC and the RCMP have developed an alerting protocol for active shooter situations through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division. Issuance of this type of alert would only be made by the direction of police to ensure that all operational factors are considered.
- It's also important to remember that public emergency alerting is intended to complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and/or local governments.
- It's not intended to be the only way the public hears about emergencies, but one of many sources of information.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies. Notably, many communities have already implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
- We're going to continue to work with public safety agencies and local communities to determine the best ways communities can be prepared for emergencies.

From: Freeze, Colin <CFreeze@globeandmail.com>
Sent: July 12, 2021 8:09 AM
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: Re: Media Request - EMBC

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Jordan ,

Appreciate the responses that arrived before the weekend , given how busy you have been. The story has been delayed but I was wondering if you can respond to the following question by end of day:

1. Does BC have a SOREM and would it be possible to talk to him / her in an interview this week about how public alerting has evolved in BC relative to other provinces?
2. Your response here: "Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)" indicates to me a corollary: That the province will not use such warning capabilities for anything short of a tsunami or an abducted child.
 - a. Is that correct?
 - b. Can you or anyone else fully articulate the logic of this for me?
 - c. Why would you not use these same capabilities to warn about active shooters, forest fires, or other environmental calamities? As other provinces do?
 - d. And is there any jurisdiction in Canada or in the world that has decided to similarly restrict broadcast intrusive warnings?

Best,

Colin Freeze
Reporter
The Globe and Mail
416-809-5385

3.

From: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 9, 2021 10:54 PM
To: Freeze, Colin <CFreeze@globeandmail.com>
Subject: Media Request - EMBC

****This email originated outside of The Globe and Mail****

Hi Colin,

Sorry for the delay. A lot of our staff are tied up with the current operations. Here is our response:

- We're examining the role alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems. Several communities have implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
 - Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:
 - The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.
 - Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email
 - Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)
- Local authorities in B.C. have the responsibility to provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC's EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.
- In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety. The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
 - how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
 - broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts

- role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
- How we manage jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
- Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting
- Public alerting is also technologically complex. The development and implementation of new alerting technologies and procedures is therefore necessarily undertaken carefully and methodically.
- B.C. has been working with Pelmorex to identify changes to the current alerting system that will make the identification of the alerting area easier. These changes are progressing and will better facilitate the certification and training of authorized users.
- The Province used its existing public notification procedures to support the Evacuation Orders issued for the wildfire event in Lytton, and other recent wildfire events. Public notification and alerting during fast-moving emergency events such as the Lytton wildfire needs to be carried out in a carefully planned manner to ensure they do not interfere with existing public safety procedures and operations. These are not appropriate situations in which to develop and deploy new procedures “on the fly” and without the time to carefully consider the full suite of their potential ramifications.
- Local authorities in BC have a duty of care to their residents during emergency events and have the best understanding of the specific hazards, geography, diverse populations and needs of their communities. The Province is continuing to work with local communities to explore ways to improve public safety during emergency events in BC, including through the possible development of new public alerting technologies and procedures.
- Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready, does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible cell phones within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

Thanks,

Jordan Turner

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

Phone: (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

FW PelmorexEMBC Meeting.msg.ics

Sent: July 12, 2021 5:57:03 PM PDT

Received: July 12, 2021 5:57:04 PM PDT

Priority: Normal (5)

Address: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Calendar Item Type: REQUEST

Pls cancel this – we can look at september

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: June 25, 2021 3:32 PM

To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX; Martin Bélanger; mrogers@pelmorex.com (mrogers@pelmorex.com)

Cc: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX

Subject: Pelmorex/EMBC Meeting

When: July 20, 2021 13:00-15:00 (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hello everyone

EMBC has had to move the meeting with Pelmorex. I spoke with Madeline's assistance and it looks like this could be a good time for all to meet. Please let me know if this date does not work and I will attempt a new date.

Topics for discussion:

1. Introduce Pelmorex to Pader
2. Next steps re. s.13; s.16
3. BC perspective on national guidelines and governance, and
4. How Pelmorex can better support EMBC based on where you want to take your alerting program.

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meeting s.15; s.17
s.15; s.17

Or call in (audio only)

s.15; s.17

<tel:s.15; s.17

Canada, Victoria

Phone Conference ID: s.15; s.17

Find a local number s.15; s.17

Reset PIN s.15; s.17

Learn More s.15; s.17
s.15; s.17

RE: PADER-PELMOREX MEETING JULY 20

From: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX
To: Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: July 13, 2021 9:48:50 AM PDT
Attachments: image001.png
Sorry – I sent this yesterday – it probs showed up as a calendar item

~~~~~

Pls cancel this – we can look at September

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** June 25, 2021 3:32 PM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX; Martin Bélanger; [mrogers@pelmorex.com](mailto:mrogers@pelmorex.com) ([mrogers@pelmorex.com](mailto:mrogers@pelmorex.com))  
**Cc:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX  
**Subject:** Pelmorex/EMBC Meeting  
**When:** July 20, 2021 13:00-15:00 (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).  
**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

Hello everyone

EMBC has had to move the meeting with Pelmorex. I spoke with Madeline's assistance and it looks like this could be a good time for all to meet. Please let me know if this date does not work and I will attempt a new date.

Topics for discussion:

1. Introduce Pelmorex to Pader
2. Next steps s.13; s.16
3. BC perspective on national guidelines and governance, and
4. How Pelmorex can better support EMBC based on where you want to take your alerting program.

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

**Join on your computer or mobile app**

s.15; s.17

**Or call in (audio only)**

s.15; s.17 Canada, Victoria

Phone Conference ID: s.15; s.17

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: s.17

**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**

Follow EMBC at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)

Follow the OFC at [@BC\\_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

---

**From:** Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 13, 2021 9:46 AM  
**To:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** PADER-PELMOREX MEETING JULY 20

Hi Madeline,

Gentle reminder to ask if you have managed to touch base with Pader and or Brendan on the Pelmorex meeting scheduled for next week?

Kind regards,

***Gemma***

**Gemma Bosworth**

Executive Administrative Assistant *for Madeline L. Maley*

Office of The Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations

Emergency Management BC

Phone: 236-478-3831 | Cell: 778-676-2063

**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**

*Follow EMBC on Twitter @EmergencyInfoBC and @PreparedBC*

*Follow OFC @ BCFireSafety*

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## RE: MMF Statement Alerting

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>, Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 13, 2021 4:31:39 PM PDT  
Agreed – no concerns from me.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 13, 2021 4:31 PM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: MMF Statement Alerting

Well said

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 13, 2021 3:56 PM  
**To:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** MMF Statement Alerting

Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

“The frequency of threats our communities are facing is increasing due to factors such as climate change, and it’s clear we need to work on an action plan to better prioritize the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C. so we can have every tool at our disposal to support public safety. While it’s also important to remember that public emergency alerting is intended to complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments, the broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact.

“We’ve made significant strides in recent years in how our government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and I’m confident that we will find the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.”

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre  
**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

## RE: One more Globe question

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 21, 2021 7:51:30 AM PDT

*My suggestion:*

- BC is actively examining what role Broadcast Intrusive alerting systems could play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.
- However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other jurisdictions have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach that ensures:
  - any alerting system complements other forms of notifications;
  - appropriate use of broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts;
  - clarity of responsibilities for training and accreditation, monitoring alerts, intervening if an alert is issued in error and issuing an alert on behalf of an agency that is unable to do so for any reason;
  - management of jurisdictional overlap and clearly defines alerting areas (to prevent over-alerting); and
  - a system to address any community that chooses not to participate at the local level to prevent gaps in alerting.
- Ultimately we have to ensure that any alerting system takes into account the specific hazards, geography, diverse populations and community needs of British Columbia in order to best serve public safety.
- It is important to also note that many programs are already in place to alert the public about emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 21, 2021 5:54 AM  
**To:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** One more Globe question

Hi all,

Any advice on answering this question?

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
Cell: (250) 896-1928

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Freeze, Colin" <CFreeze@globeandmail.com>  
**Date:** July 21, 2021 at 5:35:56 AM PDT  
**To:** "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, "Williams, Susan GCPE:EX" <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: One more Globe question

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**



Hello Jordan / Susan

Further to my email last Friday can you say why by mid day (i.e. noon BC time) why tsunamis are the only natural disasters that EMBC will alert for ? That's also laid out on the following web site.

<https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/alert-ready-wireless-public-alerting/>

My editors want me to write in this line --- "EMBC would not respond repeated Globe and Mail questions asking why it will only use Alert Ready to for tsunamis in terms of natural disaster warnings, which is a stance no other province is known to be taking regarding Alert Ready technology " .

I think that's accurate but I wanted to give you every opportunity to explain to our reading public what the province's reading and rationale is.

Best,

Colin Freeze  
Reporter  
The Globe and Mail  
416-809-5385

## FW: Alert Ready

---

From: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 22, 2021 12:23:46 PM PDT

---

**From:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** July 22, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** 'Jon Lovink' <jlovink@lovinkmedia.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Alert Ready

Hi Jon,

Thx for your email below. See below my material for today's interview at 2:00 p.m. likely on this topic.

Are you available at noon my time, even if by cell phone should you be available to grill me on the phone.

My cell phone is 250 – 812 – 2253.

Pader

**Pader Brach** | Executive Director  
Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd.  
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5  
Ph: 250-953-3855 Cell: 250-812-2253  
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** July 22, 2021 10:26 AM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Fwd: Alert Ready

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
**Cell:** [\(250\) 896-1928](tel:2508961928)

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** "Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX" <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Date:** July 22, 2021 at 10:23:20 AM PDT  
**To:** "Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX" <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Alert Ready

Can you stack these and send up?

As far as materials to send as well to MO on background, here is the statement:  
Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

"Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, it's clear we need to better prioritize the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C. Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments.

“We’ve made significant strides in recent years in how our government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and I’m committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.”

Here are the previous lines:

- We’re examining the role alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems. Several communities have implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
  - Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:
    - The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.
    - Emergency notifications provided through EMBC’s website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email
    - Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)
- Local authorities in B.C. have the responsibility to provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC’s EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.
- In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety. The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
  - how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
  - broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
  - role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
  - How we manage jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
  - Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting
- Public alerting is also technologically complex. The development and implementation of new alerting technologies and procedures is therefore necessarily undertaken carefully and methodically.
- B.C. has been working with Pelmorex to identify changes to the current alerting system that will make the identification of the alerting area easier. These changes are progressing and will better facilitate the certification and training of authorized users.
- The Province used its existing public notification procedures to support the Evacuation Orders issued for the wildfire event in Lytton, and other recent wildfire events. Public notification and alerting during fast-moving emergency events such as the Lytton wildfire needs to be carried out in a carefully planned manner to ensure they do not interfere with existing public safety procedures and operations. These are not appropriate situations in which to develop and deploy new procedures “on the fly” and without the time to carefully consider the full suite of their potential ramifications.
- Local authorities in BC have a duty of care to their residents during emergency events and have the best understanding of the specific hazards, geography, diverse populations and needs of their communities. The Province is continuing to work with local communities to explore ways to improve public safety during emergency events in BC, including through the possible development of new public alerting technologies and procedures.
- Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready, does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible cell phones within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

**Please send the above statement and previous lines in the “background” section.**

Thanks,

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

**From:** Rob Shaw <rshaw@cheknews.ca>

**Sent:** July 22, 2021 10:13 AM

**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** Alert Ready

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Jordan,

Thought the Globe's story on Alert Ready today was fascinating. I didn't realize BC is the only province not to be using this, and instead reserving it for earthquakes and national disasters.

Going to do something on TV about it tonight.

Could you send me any background on how it's currently not used, why, and if there's any plans to prioritize it as the Minister said in the story.

Plus the minister's statement on making it more of a priority in the future, I can put up on a board.

Basically anything you sent the Globe is fine.

Thanks,

Rob

**Rob Shaw** | Political Correspondent | CHEK News

Press Gallery, BC Legislature

Victoria, BC V8T 5A2

Cell: 250-893-0841

---

Hello Jordan,

It's Karen Pauls from CBC national news.

I'm doing a version of the Globe story you were quoted in this morning and wondering if you have time today for a zoom interview?

I'm interested in finding out more about how BC is "actively examining what role broadcast intrusive alerting systems could play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis" and where you are in that process. Is there a way municipalities and First Nations could also have access to this notification process?

Please let me know what might be possible today!

Thanks so much.

Karen

Karen Pauls

News Reporter

CBC National News

Mobile: (204) 801-1596

Desk: (204) 788-3806 (currently working from home so I am not answering this number)

Follow me on Twitter @karenpaulscbc

## RE: Tsunami KM's

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Forge, Kathryn EMBC:EX <Kathryn.Forge@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>, McAndrews, Caroline GCPE:EX <Caroline.McAndrews@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: July 29, 2021 1:23:19 PM PDT  
Jordan,

One more point, the KMs identify that EMBC was notified at 23:16 but this was actually the time of the event itself.

EMBC received our first notification at **23:21**.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** July 29, 2021 12:15 PM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Tsunami KM's

My suggestions/thoughts below in red font.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 29, 2021 11:53 AM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Tsunami KM's

Couple of thoughts for consideration highlighted below.

Stan

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** July 29, 2021 11:46 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Tsunami KM's

Messages for Kathryn – any issues?

---

Key Messages  
Tsunami

General:

- The US Geological Society and National Tsunami Warning Centre notified the province at 11:16pm, that a magnitude 8.2 earthquake was recorded 75 miles southwest of Chignik Alaska.

- As the NTWC indicated that the situation was being evaluated for a potential tsunami risk to coastal BC, EMBC notified all emergency managers in these areas of the situation through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS). This also ensured that media outlets were informed.
- Several communities along the coast activated their emergency plans and evacuated those at risk.
- Emergency Management BC activated the Provincial Emergency Co-ordination Centre and was monitoring and active on social media throughout the event to support communities in the response.
- The agency s.13 also supported local governments to evacuate residents. Although the tsunami warning was eventually suspended, this event demonstrates that coast warning systems do work.
- Please do NOT call 911 for information on the tsunami in B.C. – only call 911 when a life is at stake. It is important these lines are freed-up for those in immediate need
- In the event of a future tsunami warning, stay calm, stay safe; listen to your local officials and head to higher ground.

#### Process:

- The National Tsunami Warning Center advised that the level of tsunami danger was being evaluated for s.13 coastal British Columbia.
- NTWC would provide Updated information s.13 as it became available.
- The National Tsunami Warning Center, located in Alaska, is the lead agency for information regarding earthquakes and the generation of tsunamis along the coast of British Columbia.
- EMBC immediately initiated the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS), a text to speech phone and email notification system s.13 that goes to select government officials, media and local government emergency managers.

s.13 ; the alert ready system was ready to be activated if a tsunami warning had been issued s.13  
s.13

*We only use Alert Ready for a tsunami warning (not for an advisory or watch)*

- BC was under **evaluation status** at this time by the national centre - at no point was B.C under a tsunami advisory, watch or warning. It is the responsibility of First Nations and local authorities to determine if an evacuation order is appropriate.
- Part of the process is to observe over a determined length of time, the wave heights at identified locators along the coast to evaluate risk.
- There have been questions as to why it took until 2:30 AM to give the all clear, and the answer is it is better to be cautious and not have local emergency managers stand down until we are sure there is no threat.

*I might try to add here that NTWC is the agency that issues the all clear. This almost makes it sound like EMBC could have chosen to do so but did not out of an abundance of caution, which is not correct.*

- It is crucial that we only s.13 give the public and local government the verified information provided by the official authority.

#### If Asked why Kitimat was evacuated:

- EMBC was in close contact with local government and provided them with the most up to date information we had from s.13 the National Tsunami Warning Centre.
- Local government have the discretion to make their own decisions as to when they activate their emergency plans.

**Jordan Turner**

Communications Director | EMBC

Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre

**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

## RE: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>, Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Public Information 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.pio1@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 11, 2021 8:10:05 AM PDT  
All,

In case it is relevant, I wanted to draw your attention to the highlighted bullet below and note that PENS is **ONLY** used for tsunami alerts.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 10, 2021 12:39 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Public Information 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.pio1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Perfect! Thank you. I'll have a response out shortly.

— Cole

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 10, 2021 12:22 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Public Information 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.pio1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Hi Cole,

Here is our latest messaging on Alert Ready:

- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, it's clear we need to better prioritize the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments.
- We've made significant strides in recent years in how our government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and we're committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.
- We're working to expand the role alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems, and door-to-door notifications from groups like the RCMP, the BC Search and Rescue Association, local firefighters and BC Wildfire Service crews. Several communities have also implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.



- Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:

- The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.

- Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email

- Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)

- Local authorities in B.C. have the responsibility to provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC's EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.

- In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety.

- The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:

- how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications

- broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts

- role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason

- How we manage jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.

- Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting

Thanks,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** August 10, 2021 12:20 PM

**To:** Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <[Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>; EMBC PECC Public Information 1 EMBC:EX <[pecc.pio1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pecc.pio1@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Cole,

Apologies for the delay. I have cc'd in Jordan Turner and his team as they have well-developed messaging around this topic that would also serve as speaking notes for the Minister. Suggest they will be able to provide the best response.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <[Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** August 10, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Hey, Brendan. Not looking to bother Pader or your PECC inbox with this as it's not a priority.

Just following up with you though in case you can point me to somebody who could have existing wording on this issue, then I'll chase them down. Janet had pointed me your way below.

— Cole

---

**From:** EMBC PECC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <[pecc.ops1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pecc.ops1@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 8:49 AM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <[Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

For your response please.

Sonia

**Operations Section Deputy Chief**  
**Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC)**

Emergency Management BC  
PO Box 9201 Stn Prov Gov  
Victoria, B.C. CANADA V8W 9J1

Ph: 778-698-8626 Fax: 250-952-4804

24 Hour Emergency Reporting 1-800-663-3456  
Follow us on Twitter [@EmergencyInfoBC](https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC) and [@PreparedBC](https://twitter.com/PreparedBC)

---

**From:** Johnston, Cole EMBC:EX <[Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Cole.Johnston@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** August 5, 2021 8:47 AM  
**To:** EMBC PECC Operations 1 EMBC:EX <[pecc.ops1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pecc.ops1@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Hey there, PECC Ops 1. I know Janet was on this inbox yesterday, but not sure about today.

Any chance you're aware of some reasoning/clarification I can provide to this writer regarding the Alert Ready system and why it's not used to send notice of evacuation orders issues by local authorities? I can assume the answers, such as it not being led by the Province and an inability to accurately send it to the right people, but if you have any existing language, I'd gladly use it. Thanks!

---

***Cole Johnston — Correspondence Coordinator***

**Emergency Management BC — Deputy Minister's Office — Executive Operations**  
Ministry of Public Safety & Solicitor General  
Reception: 250-952-4913 Direct: 778-698-5549 Fax: 250-952-4888

-----Original Message-----

From: s.22 <s.22>

Sent: July 15, 2021 1:59 PM

To: Minister, PSSG PSSG:EX <[PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca](mailto:PSSG.Minister@gov.bc.ca)>

Subject: A question regarding Alert Ready and Wild fires.

Dear Mr. Farnworth;

I know you're busy. Hopefully you or someone else in your office can answer my question.

My question is why is the Alert Ready system from EmergencyInfoBC not being used for emergency wildfire evacuation orders?

"At this time in BC, the system will only be used in the event of a potential tsunami, an Amber Alert or a civil emergency. A civil emergency is a police incident that may require the quick dissemination of information for public safety."

Thank you and kind regards;

s.22

## RE: FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 19, 2021 10:31:00 AM PDT  
Aimee,

Your draft response bullets look good, thank you.

My thoughts are:

1. Your first bullet could be interpreted to imply that BC does not have an alerting system for large-scale emergencies (which seems to be the reporter's interpretation). This is not true; we have the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) for BC tsunami alerts, and PENS includes Broadcast Intrusive Alert Ready alerts for BC tsunami warnings. I have suggested very slight edits below (in red font) to your first bullet to reflect this.
2. Given the reporter's suggestion that BC does not have a provincial alerting system and questions about whether such a system can also be targeted to specific geographic regions, I suggest adding the following as a first bullet:  
*BC currently utilizes the Alert Ready public alerting system for tsunami, Amber Alert and civil emergency events. Alert Ready has the potential to send geographically targeted broadcast intrusive alerts to radio, television and/or compatible mobile devices.*

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 19, 2021 10:00 AM  
**To:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

Good morning Stan and Brendan,

We received a request about the Alert system yesterday, and responded with our previous messaging. We then received several follow-up questions. I've put together a draft response (highlighted below) – for your review please.

Please let me know if you have any edits or if there's anything else you would suggest including.

Thanks!  
Aimée

**Reporter**  
Rob Munro, Reporter  
InfoNews  
[rmunro@infonews.ca](mailto:rmunro@infonews.ca)  
250-808-0143

**Deadline** ASAP

### Request

"In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety."

Has this been put in place?

Has it been used?

Is so, when and where?

The bigger questions is: why has this system not been put in place sooner?

As I understand it, B.C. is the only province without an Emergency Alert system.

Is that true?

Why has B.C. not done this, especially after the wildfire seasons of 2017 and 2018?

Yes, it's complicated but other provinces have worked it out.

When might a system be put in place?

How will that system work?

For example, there have been hundreds of wildfires in B.C. this summer. How will it be determined which ones qualify for an alert and who gets those alerts?

Certainly, someone on Vancouver Island should not be getting an alert about a wildfire near Lytton?

Isn't there someone I can talk to about all this?

## Recommendation

- We're continually looking at ~~what~~ how to strengthen the role our ~~an~~ alerting system could play in large-scale emergencies, and how we can expand our use of the system in a way that ~~increases is effective to ensure~~ public safety.
- It's also important to remember that public emergency alerting is intended to complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and/or local governments.
- It's not intended to be the only way the public hears about emergencies, but one of many sources of information.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies. Notably, many communities have already implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
- We're going to continue to work with public safety agencies and local communities to determine the best ways communities can be prepared for emergencies.

## Public alerting during a civil emergency

- EMBC and the RCMP have developed an alerting protocol for active shooter situations through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division. Issuance of this type of alert would only be made by the direction of police to ensure that all operational factors are considered.
- This alerting protocol is operational and can be used at the direction of police.
- To date, it has not been used by police in B.C.

## Background

This is a follow-up to a media request from August 18, 2021.

### REQUEST:

Reporter is looking to talk to someone about the Emergency Alert system and why we don't use it for the wildfires but somewhere like Alberta does. Apparently we're the only province that doesn't use it and want to find out why.

Reporter talked to someone who said he had an hour's notice to evacuate, but could have had two hours notice if there was an alert system.

### RESPONSE:

Provided Background

- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, the province is prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments.
- EMBC has made significant strides in recent years in how government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and it's committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.
- EMBC is working to expand the role alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems, and door-to-door notifications from groups like the RCMP, the BC Search and Rescue Association, local firefighters and BC Wildfire Service crews. Several communities have also implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
- o Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:
  - ♣ The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.
  - ♣ Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email
  - ♣ Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)
- Local authorities in B.C. provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC's EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.
- In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety.
- The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
  - o how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
  - o broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
  - o role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
  - o How the province manages jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
  - o Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting

## RE: FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: August 19, 2021 11:10:50 AM PDT  
Aimee,

This looks good, thank you. I made one quick edit to your first bullet (below) as it is actually the RCMP who use Alert Ready for Amber Alerts.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 19, 2021 11:08 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

Thanks Brendan! I've made the changes you suggested to the second bullet and added the top bullet in red below – does it look okay? I didn't add the second sentence – I think we would likely get more questions about why we aren't already doing it for wildfires.

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 19, 2021 10:31 AM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

Aimee,

Your draft response bullets look good, thank you.

My thoughts are:

1. Your first bullet could be interpreted to imply that BC does not have an alerting system for large-scale emergencies (which seems to be the reporter's interpretation). This is not true; we have the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) for BC tsunami alerts, and PENS includes Broadcast Intrusive Alert Ready alerts for BC tsunami warnings. I have suggested very slight edits below (in red font) to your first bullet to reflect this.
2. Given the reporter's suggestion that BC does not have a provincial alerting system and questions about whether such a system can also be targeted to specific geographic regions, I suggest adding the following as a first bullet:  
*BC currently utilizes the Alert Ready public alerting system for tsunami, Amber Alert and civil emergency events. Alert Ready has the potential to send geographically targeted broadcast intrusive alerts to radio, television and/or compatible mobile devices.*

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** August 19, 2021 10:00 AM  
**To:** Bates, Stan EMBC:EX <Stan.Bates@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - EMBC Follow-up Media Request: Interview: Alert system

Good morning Stan and Brendan,

We received a request about the Alert system yesterday, and responded with our previous messaging. We then received several follow-up questions. I've put together a draft response (highlighted below) – for your review please.

Please let me know if you have any edits or if there's anything else you would suggest including.

Thanks!  
Aimée

**Reporter**

Rob Munro, Reporter  
InfoNews  
[rmunro@infonews.ca](mailto:rmunro@infonews.ca)  
250-808-0143

**Deadline** ASAP

**Request**

"In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety."

Has this been put in place?

Has it been used?

Is so, when and where?

The bigger questions is: why has this system not been put in place sooner?

As I understand it, B.C. is the only province without an Emergency Alert system.

Is that true?

Why has B.C. not done this, especially after the wildfire seasons of 2017 and 2018?

Yes, it's complicated but other provinces have worked it out.

When might a system be put in place?

How will that system work?

For example, there have been hundreds of wildfires in B.C. this summer. How will it be determined which ones qualify for an alert and who gets those alerts?

Certainly, someone on Vancouver Island should not be getting an alert about a wildfire near Lytton?

Isn't there someone I can talk to about all this?

**Recommendation**

- The Province currently uses Alert Ready's broadcast intrusive alerts for tsunami warnings. It can also be used by RCMP for Amber Alerts and civil emergency events.
- We're continually looking at how to strengthen the role our alerting system can play in large-scale emergencies, and how we can expand our use of the system in a way that increases public safety.



- It's also important to remember that public emergency alerting is intended to complement, but not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and/or local governments.
- It's not intended to be the only way the public hears about emergencies, but one of many sources of information.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies. Notably, many communities have already implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
- We're going to continue to work with public safety agencies and local communities to determine the best ways communities can be prepared for emergencies.

#### Public alerting during a civil emergency

- EMBC and the RCMP have developed an alerting protocol for active shooter situations through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division. Issuance of this type of alert would only be made by the direction of police to ensure that all operational factors are considered.
- This alerting protocol is operational and can be used at the direction of police.
- To date, it has not been used by police in B.C.

#### **Background**

This is a follow-up to a media request from August 18, 2021.

##### *REQUEST:*

Reporter is looking to talk to someone about the Emergency Alert system and why we don't use it for the wildfires but somewhere like Alberta does. Apparently we're the only province that doesn't use it and want to find out why.

Reporter talked to someone who said he had an hour's notice to evacuate, but could have had two hours notice if there was an alert system.

##### *RESPONSE:*

##### Provided Background

- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, the province is prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments.
- EMBC has made significant strides in recent years in how government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and it's committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.
- EMBC is working to expand the role alerting systems could play in respect to public notification for other hazards.
- There are many programs already in place to alert the public about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems, and door-to-door notifications from groups like the RCMP, the BC Search and Rescue Association, local firefighters and BC Wildfire Service crews. Several communities have also implemented subscription-based cell alerting through text, email, and calls.
- o Current EMBC emergency alerting mechanisms include:
  - ♣ The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System.
  - ♣ Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email
  - ♣ Broadcast intrusive alerts through Alert Ready for tsunami (EMBC) and Amber Alerts (RCMP E Division)
- Local authorities in B.C. provide emergency notifications to their residents for all hazards. The Province amplifies all evacuation Orders and Alerts issued by local communities for through EMBC's EmergencyInfoBC website and social media (Facebook and Twitter) channels.
- In 2020, the Province worked closely with the RCMP and other BC police services to develop an alerting protocol police can use when faced with a civil emergency that could pose an imminent threat to public safety.
- The Province will continue to work similarly with its emergency response partners to explore other areas where additional public alerting procedures will benefit public safety. However, it is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
  - o how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
  - o broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
  - o role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason

- o How the province manages jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
- o Provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting

## RE: FOR REVIEW: EMBC Media Request: Upgrades to Tsunami Preparedness

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 10, 2021 2:16:28 PM PDT  
Aimee,

Further to our phone call, some suggested edits in red font and strikethrough below. As mentioned, was rushing a little, so please feel free to edit for clarity.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 10, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW: EMBC Media Request: Upgrades to Tsunami Preparedness

Hi Pader and Brendan,

Media request for your review please. Jen McLarty's team provided the public education info. Robert White and Jesse Ferguson suggested the two links on the final question.

The alerting messaging is pulled from a media request from March 2021.

Thanks!  
Aimee

### Reporter

Norman Galimski, Reporter  
The Northern View (Prince Rupert, Terrace)  
[Norman.galimski@thenorthernview.com](mailto:Norman.galimski@thenorthernview.com)  
236-979-2806 c: 236-979-2806

**Deadline** Friday, September 10, 2021 4:00 PM

### Request

Reporter would like to know what updates have been made to tsunami preparedness in BC, and if anything specific has happened in Prince Rupert.

What is the risk in Prince Rupert?

### Recommendation

- B.C. continues to work with partners in the public and private sectors to ensure better preparedness for a catastrophic earthquake or tsunami event.
- B.C. reinforces the importance of personal preparedness through resources and events such as the annual Great British Columbia [ShakeOut](#) every October, where earthquake and tsunami preparedness info and resources are highlighted.
- [High Ground Hike](#) is a yearly event encouraging residents of coastal communities to practice getting to their high ground location.

- In 2019, the City of Prince Rupert ran a High Ground Hike and preparedness fair that focused on participation from schools.
- EMBC offers the PreparedBC Earthquake & Tsunami guide, both as a [digital resource](#) and something that can be ordered in print.
- EMBC helps educators integrate tsunami preparedness information into school curriculum (grades 4-8) through the [Master of Disaster program](#).
- EMBC also provides local authorities with a [social media toolkit](#) specific to earthquake and tsunami preparedness messaging.

### Alerting

- B.C. receives notification of a potential tsunami from the U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center (NTWC).
- These notifications contain BC-specific information and are the primary mechanism for determining which areas of B.C.'s five coastal Tsunami Zones may be at risk.
- NTWC determines if there is a threat to B.C.'s coast and provincial staff then determine the appropriate response, including launching the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS), if appropriate.
- Through PENS, EMBC alerts First Nations, Local Authorities and other emergency management partners, including the Canadian Coast Guard and Environment Canada, within the province's five tsunami alerting zones.
- First Nations, Local Authorities and these other emergency management partners then take appropriate action based on their tsunami plans.
- For First Nations and Local Authorities, these plans will include appropriate notification and alerting of their residents, which may occur via social media, phone, subscription-based text message or mobile app alerts, door knocking, sirens, local radio and other methods.

s.13

- If NTWC has issued a tsunami warning, EMBC will also issue a Broadcast Intrusive (BI) alert that will be across television, radio and compatible mobile devices through Alert Ready in the applicable tsunami zone(s).

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- The same information is also shared on EmergencyInfoBC channels on Twitter and on the website.
- This process may vary in duration, given a variety of factors, including how quickly waves are detected.
- For further detail about the dissemination of tsunami messages in BC, please see the: [BC Tsunami Notification Process Plan](#).

### What is the risk in Prince Rupert?

- The City of Prince Rupert's tsunami risk assessment is available online: [http://www.princerupert.ca/services/public\\_safety/tsunami\\_preparedness](http://www.princerupert.ca/services/public_safety/tsunami_preparedness). Emergency Management BC and Public Safety Canada provided \$450,000 for the assessment, through the National Disaster Mitigation Program (NDMP).
- In 2018, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans completed modelling of a tsunami originating from the Cascadia Subduction Zone for the Canadian Coast Guard Base at Seal Cove. The report about the modelling is available here: <https://publications.gc.ca/site/eng/9.851688/publication.html>

## RE: FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 15, 2021 6:13:48 PM PDT  
Attachments: IN - Public Alerting Sept 14.docx  
Aimee,

I approve the attached IN with suggested edits as indicated by Track Changes. Happy to discuss further if there are any questions about my suggestions.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 15, 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

Hi Pader and Brendan,

Just following-up on this IN, as well as the 2021 Wildfires IN (attached), which Susan sent earlier this week.

If you're able to review them this afternoon that would be awesome.

Thanks so much,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** September 14, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

Good morning Pader and Brendan,

I hope you're both have a good week so far!

We're updating our Issues Notes for the upcoming session so this is likely the first of a few emails you'll get from me with INs...

Please find attached the draft Public Alerting IN – for your review please. I've based this on the most recent messaging we've used in media requests. Is there anything else we can say about progress on expanding Alert Ready, or how that's going?

If you're able to review and provide feedback by noon tomorrow, that would be much appreciated!

Thank you,

**Aimée Harper** (she/her)  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Emergency Management BC  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
P: 778 698-1608  
C: 250 883-4731

## **EMBC – PUBLIC ALERTING**

### **SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, the Province is prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready system in B.C.
- Broadcast intrusive alerts have unique advantages with their reach and impact, which can complement the emergency alerting already performed by EMBC and local governments.
- We've made significant strides in recent years in how our government supports British Columbians in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery, and I'm committed to finding the right solution to expand our provincial alerting program.

### **IF ASKED ABOUT EXPANDING THE SYSTEM TO OTHER HAZARDS, SUCH AS WILDFIRE:**

- B.C. is actively examining what role Broadcast Intrusive alerting systems could play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.
- EMBC is prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready System to other types of emergencies, such as wildfire.
- It is important to also note that many programs are already in place to alert the public about emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems. We must work to ensure any expansion of Alert Ready complements systems already in place.
- It is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
  - how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
  - broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
  - role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
  - how the province manages jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.

s.13

- provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The Province can currently use Alert Ready for tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies. These alerts broadcast immediately on television, radio and wireless devices. There have been calls to expand alerting to other emergencies, including wildfires. Other provinces have used Alert Ready for emergencies including tornado, wildfire, and civil emergency.

Several communities have already implemented subscription-based alerting through text, email, and calls. Alert Ready does not require a subscription and is the only system that feeds broadcast intrusive messages to all compatible cell phones within the area (that are actively running on an LTE system). Local systems cannot create broadcast intrusive messages.

Public alerting tests are conducted twice a year, usually in late November and during Emergency Preparedness Week in May.<sup>s.13</sup>

The last test of wireless alerting in the province was conducted on Nov. 25, 2020. Other emergency alerting mechanisms include:

- The notification of local authorities, First Nations, key agencies and the media through the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS).
- Emergency notifications provided through EMBC's website (Emergency Info BC), social media (Facebook and Twitter) and by using cross-government email.
- s.13

s.13

s.13

#### **How this is different from the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS)**

The Provincial Emergency Notification System is designed provide emergency notification and information about tsunami events that will impact, or have the potential to impact, BC. PENS includes Alert Ready Broadcast Intrusive alerts that are pushed to the public through TV, radio and compatible mobile devices, as well as an email & phone component that directly alerts s.1 s.13 local governments, emergency response officials and the media of tsunami alerts<sup>s.1</sup> these organizations then activate their own tsunami alerting protocols s.13 s.13

**Media coverage:** Wildfire evacuees could have had more notice if B.C. had Alberta's alert system, InfoNews

## RE: FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Williams, Susan GCPE:EX <Susan.Williams@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Planning 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.pln1@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 15, 2021 11:20:32 PM PDT  
Attachments: IN - 2021 wildfires - with program.docx  
Aimee,

I approve the content of the 2021 Wildfires IN with two comments:

1. A considerable portion of the note is dedicated to recovery; while the information is very broad and not, I think, contentious, you might want to seek approval from Julia Iwama (or her direct report Brian Daszko) as they are leading recovery work at EMBC
2. In the final table I note that the asterisked information under 20212 reads "As of September 9, 2021" while at the bottom of the same column, when referencing Total Days on Provincial State of Emergency it indicates a date span extending until Sept 14; I believe Samantha and the Sit Unit team could quickly update the entire column to reflect stats until Sept. 14.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 15, 2021 1:46 PM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

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If you're able to review them this afternoon that would be awesome.

Thanks so much,  
Aimée

---

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**Sent:** September 14, 2021 11:12 AM  
**To:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR REVIEW - Issues Note - Public Alerting

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I hope you're both have a good week so far!

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Please find attached the draft Public Alerting IN – for your review please. I've based this on the most recent messaging we've used in media requests. Is there anything else we can say about progress on expanding Alert Ready, or how that's going?

If you're able to review and provide feedback by noon tomorrow, that would be much appreciated!

Thank you,



**Aimée Harper** (she/her)  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Emergency Management BC  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
P: 778 698-1608  
C: 250 883-4731

## **EMBC – WILDFIRES 2021**

### **KEY #'S:**

- **Total days on Provincial State of Emergency: 56**
- **Evacuation Orders: 181**
- **Evacuation Alerts: 304**
- **Persons displaced: 32,882**
- **Individuals registered for Emergency Support Services: 19,807**
- **At the height of the summer, 3,631 personnel were helping fight the fires, including support from Mexico, Australia and across Canada.**

### **SUGGESTED RESPONSE:**

- This past summer saw one of the worst fire seasons this province has ever seen, burning over 860,000 hectares and displacing more than 32,000 people.
- The fires this summer tested crews, emergency responders and communities, particularly as the province also deals with the effects of a global pandemic.
- I want to commend communities for demonstrating tremendous resilience and support for each other.
- The Province is working hard to help people and communities impacted by the wildfires.
- Working together will be key to all our future recovery efforts.

### **WILDFIRE RECOVERY**

- Successful wildfire recovery is led by the communities impacted; the Province supports communities in recovery by providing expertise, advice and support when requested by communities.
- B.C. households whose primary residence has been severely affected by this season's wildfires can immediately receive \$2000 through the Canadian Red Cross.

- For the people who didn't lose homes but still don't have access to them, there is \$1200/household available through the Canadian Red Cross for those on Order more than 10 consecutive days.
- All ministries that have a role to play in the recovery efforts will take part in working with local communities moving forward.
- We will continue to work with Indigenous and local governments throughout the recovery from this year's wildfire season, as well as in future prevention, mitigation and response efforts.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Since April 1, 2021, the BC Wildfire Service has responded to 1,590 wildfires resulting in 867,999 hectares of area burned. As of Sept. 14, 2021, 205 wildfires are burning in B.C., seven per cent of which are confirmed to be human caused.

| Wildfire Comparison                         |                                                  |                                                  |                                                 |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
|                                             | 2017<br><small>*As of September 27, 2017</small> | 2018<br><small>*As of September 27, 2018</small> | 2021<br><small>*As of September 9, 2021</small> |
| FIRES                                       | 1,347                                            | 2,117                                            | 1,585                                           |
| HECTARES BURNED                             | 1.2 million (record)                             | 1.35 million (new record)                        | 868,619                                         |
| COSTS                                       | \$649 million                                    | \$615 million                                    | \$600+ million (tbd)                            |
| PERSONS DISPLACED                           | 65,000                                           | 6,000                                            |                                                 |
| STRUCTURES IMPACTED                         | 502                                              | 158                                              | 567                                             |
| EVACUATION ORDERS                           | 120                                              | 66                                               | 181                                             |
| EVACUATION ALERTS                           | 166                                              | 124                                              | 304                                             |
| TOTAL DAYS ON PROVINCIAL STATE OF EMERGENCY | 71<br>(July 7 to Sept 15)                        | 24<br>(Aug 15 to Sept 7)                         | 56<br>(July 21 to Sept 14)                      |

## RE: NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: White, Robert EMBC:EX <Robert.White@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 26, 2021 11:22:13 PM PDT  
Robert,

Thank you for organizing this. I had a chance to discuss briefly with Sonia as we were chatting about a more social matter, and wanted to suggest that we establish with the EMBC attendees that you and Sonia will be speaking for EMBC, and any others in attendance just listening (perhaps able to supply questions/comments to you and Sonia via IM).

I am just concerned that with so many people attending we want to make sure our feedback and questions for NTWC are clear, consistent and on-topic.

A suggestion anyway for you and Sonia to consider. Perhaps we can discuss sometime before Oct. 26.

Thanks again.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** White, Robert EMBC:EX <Robert.White@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 23, 2021 3:19 PM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX <Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

Hi all,

As a follow up we will have the debrief with our partners in the TNNG on October 26<sup>th</sup>. I can extend the invite to those on this email that do not regularly participate in the group.

I had a rethink about concern 4 below and the NTWC does often publish wave arrival times so they are not necessarily a significant concern. I do think that it is worth obtaining some guidance as to how the handle wave heights that are published when the bulletin doesn't list any wave heights and it says "under evaluation".

Thanks,

Robert

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** September 16, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; White, Robert EMBC:EX <Robert.White@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Giles, Andrew EMBC:EX <Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX <Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

Hi Robert:

Thank you for organizing this. I would be happy to be involved in this conversation. I will be on<sup>s.22</sup>  
s.22 but if that is the only time I might be able to call into a meeting if I am in range of WiFi.

Take care,

**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 16, 2021 8:21 AM

**To:** White, Robert EMBC:EX <[Robert.White@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robert.White@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Giles, Andrew EMBC:EX <[Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca)>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <[Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca)>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <[Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca)>; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX <[Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca)>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <[Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca)>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>; Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <[Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <[Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** RE: NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

Robert,

My apologies – the lack of debrief was only the result of competing wildfire activation workload.

I fully support having a debrief with NTWC.<sup>s.22</sup> but ask that you work with Sonia  
s.22 as a Regional Ops contact on this.

Thank you for bringing this back to the fore.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations

Emergency Management BC

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061

24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** White, Robert EMBC:EX <[Robert.White@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Robert.White@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 15, 2021 2:16 PM

**To:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX <[Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca)>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <[Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca)>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>; Anderson, Corey M EMBC:EX <[Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Corey.Anderson@gov.bc.ca)>; Hurst, Maurie L EMBC:EX <[Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Maurie.Hurst@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>; Giles, Andrew EMBC:EX <[Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Andrew.Giles@gov.bc.ca)>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <[Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca)>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <[Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

Hi all,

Since there was not a debrief for this tsunami event due to the wildfires, is there any interest in setting up an EMBC NTWC debrief for the event?

Note that I am planning to engage our external partners in a debrief through our tsunami notification networking group (TNNG). This is likely to be scheduled in mid to late October depending on the NTWC's availability. As an alternate to an EMBC NTWC debrief, I could extend the invite for the TNNG meeting to those on this email so that they can participate.

The items I would hope to discuss with the NTWC are below and do not necessarily have to be addressed with them one on one.

1. Use of the term under evaluation - There appears to still be confusion about use of the term
2. NTWC Procedures for this event – According to the NTWC website a M8.2 earthquake should have resulted in a tsunami warning for coastal areas up to 3 hours travel time from the earthquake epicentre
3. Timings for confirming the threat and the first wave of the tsunami – The first wave of the tsunami was anticipated to arrive at Haida Gwaii before it was confirmed that there was no tsunami threat

4. Forecasted wave heights and arrival times that are published on the tsunami.gov website and not within the NTWC bulletin – It is unclear as to how to handle the forecasted wave heights and arrival times published on the tsunami.gov website when the threat to BC was still under evaluation.

If you could let me know ASAP that would be greatly appreciated.

Robert

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**From:** Dave Snider <david.snider@noaa.gov>  
**Sent:** September 15, 2021 10:47 AM  
**To:** White, Robert EMBC:EX <Robert.White@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** NTWC M8.2 July 29, 2021 Event Review for BC

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning, Robert,

NTWC has completed our internal review of the July 29 M8.2 event.

We'd like to offer BC an opportunity to review and comment on the analysis and event management for this event at your convenience so that any questions or concerns your operations teams have are addressed at the state level before moving to the WCS or NTHMP level.

If there are some dates that are open for you, please let me know. We can also wait until the next scheduled working group meeting if that's preferred.

Best,

---

**Dave Snider,**  
Tsunami Warning Coordinator  
National Tsunami Warning Center  
DOC / NOAA / NWS / NWS Alaska Region  
Mobile: 907.223.9988 / Desk: 907.861.4214 / Fax: 907.745.6071

## FW: CCEMO Jurisdictional Scan: Alert Ready Delegation of Authority to Police of Jurisdiction / Analyse juridictionnelle du CCOGU : Délégation de pouvoir prête à l'alerte à la police compétente

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From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: September 27, 2021 2:33:29 PM PDT  
Attachments: police-alerts-2021-09-14.pdf, BC Association of Chiefs of Police Working Group submissi.pdf, image001.png, Police Emergency Alert Submission Form.pdf, Annual Committee Report-Police Emergency Alerts Nov 2020.docx, Police Emergency Alerts BCACP Nov20 .pptx

Hello Madeline:

Please find my responses below. I checked with my RCMP contact at E-Division Headquarters and he has approved the attachments. Please note that they are still in draft but should be approved in the next month or so. Pader may have more information to add.

Take care,

**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** September 27, 2021 1:28 PM  
**To:** 'Lagace, Jay' <jay.lagace@rcmp-grc.gc.ca>  
**Cc:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: CCEMO Jurisdictional Scan: Alert Ready Delegation of Authority to Police of Jurisdiction / Analyse juridictionnelle du CCOGU : Délégation de pouvoir prête à l'alerte à la police compétente

Hi Jay:

Do you have anything you would like to correct or add to the following questions? (The questions are in Black and my answers are in Blue.) I have attached our current documentation. Do you think they are ready to share or do we just pull out key information and say that they will be available when finalized?

In British Columbia, Emergency Management BC manages access to the Alert Ready system.

1. Who manages the issuance of the below types of alerts for your province or territory?
  - a. **Critical Broadcast Intrusive Alerts** – In British Columbia, Emergency Management BC manages access to the Alert Ready system. Currently, EMBC alerts for Tsunamis and conducts the Tests of the NAAD system. EMBC has provided access to the RCMP E-Division to Broadcast Intrusive Alerts for Amber Alerts and Civil Emergencies.
  - b. **Advisory Non-Broadcast Intrusive Alerts** – At this time BC does not have a plan in place issue Non-Broadcast Intrusive alerts through the NAAD system. However, it could be done at any time. There has not yet been a communications plan instigated to support these alerts. As applications become more robust this avenue of communication could open up. However, the Communications Group at E-Division Headquarters follow their plan for both Amber alerts and for Civil Emergency alerts. They support the alert reiterating the alert and by, when available, adding information via Twitter, Facebook, apps, and websites where appropriate.
2. Has your province or territory permitted their Police of Jurisdiction access to the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination (NAAD) system directly to issue police-related emergency broadcast intrusive alerts? Yes
  - a. If your province or territory has not permitted police of jurisdiction access to NAAD for this purpose, please identify any barriers or issues to do so.
3. If your province or territory has already permitted your Police of Jurisdiction to issue alerts under NAAD, please explain the process you took to implement this (i.e. training, reporting requirements, delegation of access levels, etc.). The Province of BC and the Police Alerting group worked hard in early 2020 to implement policies and procedures so the Alert Issuers at E-Division Headquarters would be trained and ready to issue an alert, through alert ready. Within one week of the Nova Scotia incident EMBC had a process in place to support the police in British Columbia to issue a Civil Emergency alert for an active shooter or other dangerous person or person lead

incident in BC. The RCMP Alert Issuers at E-Division Headquarters were able and ready to send the alert themselves within four weeks.

- a. The initial process was supported by the Public Alerting group at EMBC and EMBC was ready and able to send an alert should the request come from E-Division Headquarters until draft agreements were in place and the Alert Issuers at E-Division Headquarters was trained and ready to issue BI alerts on their own. EMBC's public alerting group still supports the police group but is not on call 24/7.
- b. Draft agreements, policies, and processes, were initially created by a core group from EMBC and the E-Division alerting team. These documents were then vetted and revised with a working group made up of RCMP and Municipal Police representatives along with BC government representatives from both EMBC and the Attorney General of British Columbia.
- c. E-Division Headquarters has a group of 45+ Alert Issuers who are ready to send alerts through the Alert Ready system should they be required. EMBC's public alerting group supports the process administratively through NAADs and with support and advice if the alerting group has questions or concerns.
- d. The final meetings to complete the formal process for the Alerting Group at E-Division Headquarters to alert for both Amber alerts and Civil Emergency alerts are taking place over the next month. The draft documents are included in this email.

4. Does your province or territory have any additional qualitative comments, concerns and/or observations that you wish to share with your CCEMO colleagues and the CAPC Emergency Management Committee related to this topic?

Over alerting could become an issue. We would suggest a comprehensive plan, like exists in BC, would be beneficial with one Alert Issuer (in BC it is the Alert Issuers at E-Division Headquarters) with additional support to communications groups at Headquarters, at the local level, and the provincial EMO.

Thank you Jay. This would be helpful as soon as possible. As you can see, I got it last night and they want it by Wednesday. Feel free to call me.

Take care,

**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <[Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** September 26, 2021 1:30 PM

**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** FW: CCEMO Jurisdictional Scan: Alert Ready Delegation of Authority to Police of Jurisdiction / Analyse juridictionnelle du CCOGU : Délégation de pouvoir prête à l'alerte à la police compétente

**Importance:** High

Bev

Can you pls provide answers to these questions and send back to me with a cc to Pader

Thanks

M

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)

Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations

Emergency Management BC

Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: 517

**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**

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Follow the OFC at [@BC\\_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*

---

**From:** Mieka Pittman <[mieka.pittman@canops.org](mailto:mieka.pittman@canops.org)>

**Sent:** September 20, 2021 6:58 AM



**To:** Lawless, Alexandra (SOLGEN) <alexandra.lawless@ontario.ca>; Blaine Heffernan <BHeffernan@GOV.NU.CA>; Davies, Chris (SOLGEN) <Chris.D.Davies@ontario.ca>; Craig Mahovsky <craig.mahovsky@gov.ab.ca>; Danny Kelly <dannykelly@gov.pe.ca>; Peterson, Dave EMBC:EX <Dave.Peterson@gov.bc.ca>; Diarmuid.O'Donovan <diarmuid.o'donovan@gov.yk.ca>; Emily King <Emily\_King@gov.nt.ca>; EMPS MB (emps@gov.mb.ca) <emps@gov.mb.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>; greg.maccallum@gnb.ca; Collins, Helen (MMAH) <helen.collins@ontario.ca>; Ivan Russell <ivan\_russell@gov.nt.ca>; Jamesie Mearns <Jmearns@gov.nu.ca>; Matwyshyn, Jamie (MI) <Jamie.Matwyshyn@gov.mb.ca>; Mew, Jason C <jason.mew@novascotia.ca>; Johanu Botha <Johanu.Botha@gov.mb.ca>; Katia Petit <katia.petit@misp.gouv.qc.ca>; Grantis, Katrina (SOLGEN) <Katrina.Grantis@ontario.ca>; Kempf, Karri GR (karri.kempf2@gov.sk.ca) <karri.kempf2@gov.sk.ca>; Kevin Lyslo <Kevin.Lyslo@yukon.ca>; Kim Olsen <kim.olsen@gov.sk.ca>; Len Hancock <Len.hancock@gov.ab.ca>; Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>; Julian, Michelle D <Michelle.Julian@novascotia.ca>; Mitch Rumbolt (NL) <mitchrumbolt@gov.nl.ca>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Paul Mason <paul.mason@novascotia.ca>; Paul Peddle <ppeddle@gov.nl.ca>; QC EMO <oscc@misp.gouv.qc.ca>; Ray Lazarus <ray.lazarus@ontario.ca>; Stacey Cooling <Stacey.Cooling@gnb.ca>; Stephen Lacroix (stephen.lacroix@gov.ab.ca) <stephen.lacroix@gov.ab.ca>; Teepu Khawja <teepu.khawja@ontario.ca>; THOMAS POIRIER-BLANCHET <THOMAS.POIRIER-BLANCHET@misp.gouv.qc.ca>; Tanya Mullally <tmullally@gov.pe.ca>; Nicole Wainwright <Nicole.Wainwright@gov.mb.ca>; Wiebe, Sara (MI) <Sara.Wiebe@gov.mb.ca>; Yukon EMO (EMO.Yukon@gov.yk.ca) <EMO.Yukon@gov.yk.ca>

**Cc:** Secretariat <secretariat@canops.org>

**Subject:** CCEMO Jurisdictional Scan: Alert Ready Delegation of Authority to Police of Jurisdiction / Analyse juridictionnelle du CCOGU : Délégation de pouvoir prête à l'alerte à la police compétente

**Importance:** High

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good morning,

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police (CAPC) Emergency Management Committee has reached out to the Secretariat's office to assist them with gathering information pertaining to provincial and territorial emergency management organizations across Canada and their associated Public Alerting programs and processes. A current priority of the CAPC Emergency Management Committee centres upon the National Public Alerting System (Alert Ready) and any potential for police services across Canada to gain access to this system for civil emergency related alerts. The CAPC is hoping to gain a national perspective on the current posture of each provincial/territorial EMO with respect to delegating alerting authority to Police of Jurisdiction that would permit them to issue civil emergency (police-related) broadcast intrusive alerts. In order to assist the CAPC, please provide responses to the below questions:

1. Who manages the issuance of the below types of alerts for your province or territory?
  - i. Critical Broadcast Intrusive Alerts –
  - ii. Advisory Alerts –
2. Has your province or territory permitted their Police of Jurisdiction access to the National Alert Aggregation and Dissemination (NAAD) system directly to issue police-related emergency broadcast intrusive alerts?
  - a. If your province or territory has not permitted police of jurisdiction access to NAAD for this purpose, please identify any barriers or issues to do so.
3. If your province or territory has already permitted your Police of Jurisdiction to issue alerts under NAAD, please explain the process you took to implement this (i.e. training, reporting requirements, delegation of access levels, etc.).
4. Does your province or territory have any additional qualitative comments, concerns and/or observations that you wish to share with your CCEMO colleagues and the CAPC Emergency Management Committee related to this topic?

Please have your responses back to me no later than Thursday September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Thank you for your assistance on this inquiry.

Bonjour,

Le Comité de gestion des urgences de l'Association canadienne des chefs de police (ACCP) a communiqué avec le Bureau du Secrétariat pour l'aider à recueillir des renseignements sur les organismes provinciaux et territoriaux de gestion des urgences partout au Canada et sur leurs programmes et processus connexes d'alerte publique. L'une des priorités actuelles du Comité de gestion des urgences de l'ACCP est centrée sur le Système national d'alerte publique (Alerte prête) et sur toute possibilité pour les services de police de partout au Canada d'avoir accès à ce système pour les alertes d'urgence civile.

Le ACCP espère obtenir un point de vue national sur la position actuelle de chaque organisme provincial ou territorial de gestion des urgences en ce qui concerne la délégation du pouvoir d'alerte à la police de compétence qui lui permettrait

d'émettre des alertes intrusives d'urgence civile (liées à la police). Afin d'aider le ACCP, veuillez fournir des réponses aux questions ci-dessous :

1. Qui gère l'émission des types d'alertes ci-dessous pour votre province ou territoire?
  - i. Alertes intrusives critiques de diffusion –
  - ii. Alertes d'avis –
2. Votre province ou territoire a-t-il permis à sa police compétente d'accéder directement au système national d'agrégation et de diffusion des alertes pour émettre des alertes intrusives d'urgence liées à la police?
  - a. Si votre province ou territoire n'a pas permis à la police de la province compétente d'accéder au système national d'agrégation et de diffusion des alertes à cette fin, veuillez identifier les obstacles ou les problèmes à cet égard.
3. Si votre province ou territoire a déjà permis à votre police de compétence d'émettre des alertes dans le cadre du système national d'agrégation et de diffusion des alertes, veuillez expliquer le processus que vous avez suivi pour le mettre en œuvre (c.-à-d. formation, exigences en matière de rapports, délégation des niveaux d'accès, etc.).
4. Votre province ou votre territoire a-t-il d'autres commentaires, préoccupations ou observations qualitatifs que vous souhaitez faire part à vos collègues de l'CCOGU et au Comité de gestion des urgences du ACCP à ce sujet?

Veuillez me faire parvenir vos réponses au plus tard le jeudi 30 septembre 2021. Merci de votre aide dans le domaine de cette demande.

*Mieka Pittman*

Chief Operating Officer/CCEMO-CCOGU Secretariat  
Canadian Public Safety Operations Organization (CanOps)  
306.529.9118

[www.canops.org](http://www.canops.org)

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## E Division

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# Police Initiated Public Safety Alert Background

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**BC Association of Chiefs of Police (BCACP)**  
**Special Purpose Committee on Police Emergency Alerts**  
**Working Group Submission**



**From:** BCACP Special Purpose Committee on Police Emergency Alerts working group

**To:** BCACP Special Purpose Committee on Police Emergency Alerts

**Date:** 2020-09-11

**Subject:** BC Police Emergency Alert proposed policies and procedures

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## BCACP ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT

### COMMITTEE NAME:

**BCACP Special Purpose Committee on Police Emergency Alerts**

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# RCMP



ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE



## BC ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE (BCACP) Use of Alert Ready to issue Police Emergency Alerts November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020



Royal Canadian Mounted Police  
Gendarmerie royale du Canada

Canada



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## See Attachment

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From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Sonia Woolford <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 5, 2021 8:47:35 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png, List of Outstanding Council Action Items for SOREM and PAWG.pdf

Madeline just sent me this attachment in relation to a meeting she is having with Pader and me at 09:00. I'll step over to see if anything here triggers your concern.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061 Fax: 250-952-4872  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

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s.13 ; s.16

## FW: October 13 Governance Council Meeting Presentation and Supporting Documents

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From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 12, 2021 2:09:05 PM PDT  
Attachments: NAAD System Governance Council\_October 13 2021 Meeting\_Presentation.pdf, NAAD System Governance Council\_March 24 2021 Meeting\_Minutes\_For Approval.docxs.13; s.16  
NAAD System Governance Council\_List of Outstanding Action Items for PAWG and SOREM.pdf, NAAD System Governance Council\_Terms of Reference\_May 13 2021 Meeting\_Minutes\_For Approval.docx, NAAD System Governance Council\_Terms of Reference\_Outstanding Changes for Review and Discussion\_September 2021.docx, NAAD System Governance Council\_October 13 2021 Meeting\_Agenda.pdf

Just in case.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Martin Bélanger <mbelanger@pelmorex.com>

**Sent:** October 6, 2021 7:53 PM

**To:** Evan Malay <evan.malay@gov.ab.ca>; Meghan Thomas <meghan.thomas@gov.ab.ca>; Stephen Carr <stephen.carr@gov.ab.ca>; Lenore Gibson <lenore.gibson@bell.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Sarah Miller <smiller@ccsaonline.ca>; Tania Bailie <tbailie@cwta.ca>; Ursula Grant <ugrant@cwta.ca>; Anne-Marie Migneault <anne-marie.migneault@radio-canada.ca>; Simon Desrochers <simon.desrochers@cogeco.com>; Dudley, Dennis (EC) <dennis.dudley@canada.ca>; Erik de Groot <erik.degroot@canada.ca>; Ken Macdonald <ken.macdonald2@canada.ca>; Carter Friesen <carter.friesen@goldenwest.ca>; Anderson, Edith (IC) <edith.anderson@canada.ca>; Ashley Keep <ashley.keep@gov.mb.ca>; johanu.botha@gov.mb.ca; Barry Rooke <barry@ncra.ca>; Luke Smith <luke@ncra.ca>; David McCormack <david.mccormack@canada.ca>; Greg MacCallum <greg.maccallum@gnb.ca>; Stacey Cooling <stacey.cooling@gnb.ca>; Mitch Rumbolt <mitchrumbolt@gov.nl.ca>; Ashley Geraghty <ashley\_geraghty@gov.nt.ca>; Emily King <emily\_king@gov.nt.ca>; Ivan Russell <ivan\_russell@gov.nt.ca>; Jason Mew <jason.mew@novascotia.ca>; Rod Legge <rodney.legge@novascotia.ca>; James Mearns <jmearns@gov.nu.ca>; Chris Pittens <chris.pittens@ontario.ca>; Ray Lazarus <ray.lazarus@ontario.ca>; Khawja, Teepu (SOLGEN) <teepu.khawja@ontario.ca>; Alex Leslie <aleslie@pelmorex.com>; Karen Kheder <kkheder@pelmorex.com>; Kurt Eby <keby@pelmorex.com>; Martin Bélanger <mbelanger@pelmorex.com>; Matt Mejaski (He / Him) <mmejaski@pelmorex.com>; Maureen Rogers <mrogers@pelmorex.com>; Omar Gilani <ogilani@pelmorex.com>; Pierre Morrisette <pmorrisette@pelmorex.com>; Sam Sebastian <ssebastian@pelmorex.com>; Stephanie Sousa <ssousa@pelmorex.com>; Tanya Mullally <tmullally@gov.pe.ca>; Vinodrai, Arjun <arjun.vinodrai@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Mikael, Karim <karim.mikael@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Grabowski, Monique <monique.grabowski@ps-sp.gc.ca>; pranavie.mayooran@ps-sp.gc.ca; Macdonald, Rob <rob.macdonald@ps-sp.gc.ca>; Stéphanie Durand <stephanie.durand@ps-sp.gc.ca>; VINCENT AUGER-SOUMIS <vincent.auger-soumis@misp.gouv.qc.ca>; Gerry Thompson <gerry.thompson@rci.rogers.com>; Simon-Pierre Olivier <simon-pierre.olivier@fidomobile.ca>; Kim.olsen@gov.sk.ca; Gunville, Murray SPSA <murray.gunville@gov.sk.ca>; Tamie Vandeven <tamie.vandeven@gov.sk.ca>; Dean Shaikh <dean.shaikh@sjrb.ca>; Carreen Unguran <carreen.unguran@telus.com>; Kevin.Lyslo@yukon.ca  
**Cc:** Melissa Faye <mfaye@pelmorex.com>  
**Subject:** October 13 Governance Council Meeting Presentation and Supporting Documents

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good evening,

Please find attached the following documents in preparation for our NAAD System Governance Council meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 13, 2021:

- October 13, 2021 Governance Council meeting agenda
- October 13, 2021 Governance Council meeting presentation
- Proposed Terms of Reference with changes from Public Safety Canada and decisions from the May 13 meeting
- March 24, 2021 Governance Council meeting minutes
- May 13, 2021 Terms of Reference meeting minutes
- s.13; s.16
- List of outstanding issues under consideration by PAWG and SOREM

At the meeting, Pelmorex will seek direction and decisions on the following items:  
s.13; s.16

Thank you,

Martin

**Martin Belanger | Director, Public Alerting**

*Pronouns: He, Him, His*

Pelmorex Corp.

T: 905.829.1159 x<sup>s.22</sup> | M: s.22

E: [mbelanger@pelmorex.com](mailto:mbelanger@pelmorex.com)



# NAAD System Governance Council

October 13, 2021 Meeting

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## **NAAD SYSTEM GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NAAD SYSTEM GOVERNANCE COUNCIL** held via video conference at 10:00 am EDT on March 24, 2021.

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**Agenda:**

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s.13 ; s.16



Page 211 of 277 to/à Page 214 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

**NAAD SYSTEM GOVERNANCE COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE NAAD SYSTEM GOVERNANCE COUNCIL** held via video conference at 11:00 am EDT on May 13, 2021.

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Page 216 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16



Page 218 of 277 to/à Page 222 of 277

Withheld pursuant to/removed as

s.13 ; s.16

## October 13, 2021 Governance Council Meeting Agenda

Copyright

## FW: Telus Silent Test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX  
<Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 25, 2021 7:10:38 PM PDT  
Madeline & Pader,

FYI - In preparation for the regular live November Alert Ready BI test Telus is conducting silent testing tomorrow at about 11:00 Pacific time to a small, select area (they do not share the exact location).

IOS phones do not have the capability to receive silent tests in a way that makes them visible/audible on the device. Android phones can "see" the tests, but only if users have made the appropriate changes in their phone settings. Consequently, the chances of someone receiving a silent test is very low. However, ECC and PDM staff have been informed in case anyone contacts EMBC to report receiving a silent test.

If someone does receive the test, it will indicate that it is a test and that the recipient should contact Telus if they have any questions or concerns.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

## RE: For Review: IPREM Policy Group Annotated Agendas re: Public Alerting

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Schina, Brittany EMBC:EX <Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Black, Leanne EMBC:EX <Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: October 27, 2021 10:37:09 AM PDT  
Attachments: image001.jpg

No, if the Minister has already seen the slide then I understand you need to use the same, and while I think the graphics could be a bit more accurate, they aren't "wrong" so I don't think it's worth the effort for you to change them. I think the more important element is that whoever is presenting understands the test vs trial element as I think there is quite a bit of room to raise expectations that don't match our current intentions (as I understand them; perhaps more is being planned behind the scenes that I am unaware of).

Thanks for being willing to engage on all this – appreciate the opportunity to provide input.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Schina, Brittany EMBC:EX <Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 27, 2021 10:25 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>; Black, Leanne EMBC:EX <Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Review: IPREM Policy Group Annotated Agendas re: Public Alerting

Hi Brendan,

Huge thanks for this. Have made your suggested change to the Provincial Annotated agenda before sending along to the DM and MO and we have a tiny bit more time to deal with the slide. CC'ing Leanne who's putting the deck together.

The slide came from Ivan who has used it in a Minister briefing. We don't want to put anything to this group that the Minister hasn't seen, since he will be attending. Is there a slide that already exists that you would prefer? Leanne can make some changes to the speaking notes.

Brittany Schina  
250-920-8939

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** October 27, 2021 8:31 AM  
**To:** Schina, Brittany EMBC:EX <Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For Review: IPREM Policy Group Annotated Agendas re: Public Alerting  
**Importance:** High

Brittany,

Thank you for the chance to review the materials and apologies for the delay. A few comments:

**Slide Deck**  
s.13

s.13

s.13

s.13

**Cliff 624801**

- No issues with any of the Suggested Messaging for Item 3: Public Alerting

**IPREM Policy Group Provincial Annotated Agenda**

- No major issues with any of the suggested bullets
- Very small note: one bullet references that s.13

s.13

s.13

I hope that all makes sense. Thank you for checking in on this point.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Schina, Brittany EMBC:EX <[Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 26, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>; Black, Leanne EMBC:EX <[Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For Review: IPREM Policy Group Annotated Agendas re: Public Alerting  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brendan,  
Thanks for the chat this morning!

Please see attached docs for review and context below from Leanne. Item 3 is Public alerting, and between the Minister's annotated agenda and the ADM/DM annotated agenda, there is not much difference. For your review, I would focus on the ADM Annotated agenda – the file name that starts with 1. Also only one slide in the PPT but it came from Ivan directly and the Minister has already seen this. Let me know if there's any concern there.

As we need to get these up through EApprovals to Dave/Tara/Minister ASAP, is it reasonable to ask you to get back to me by the end of the day? Whenever your day ends? Let me know.

Brittany Schina  
250-920-8939

---

**From:** Black, Leanne EMBC:EX <[Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** October 26, 2021 10:32 AM  
**To:** Schina, Brittany EMBC:EX <[Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brittany.Schina@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** For Review: IPREM Policy Group Annotated Agendas re: Public Alerting

Hi Brittany,

Please see attached the documents for the upcoming IPREM Policy Group meeting that have speaking notes for both the Minister and Tara regarding Public Alerting.

I have also included the Draft PowerPoint slide, public alerting is mentioned on slide 5.

If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know.

Kindly,  
Leanne

**Leanne Black**

Senior Project Manager

Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management in Metro Vancouver

Phone: (236) 468-1167 | Cell: (604) 314-0230 | [Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Leanne.Black@gov.bc.ca)





## RE: Silver Alerts

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>, Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 2, 2021 12:29:16 PM PDT

Madeline didn't really on Silver Alert besides saying that alerting was an active file at EMBC and that, in addition to tsunami and Amber Alert, had touch points with Silver Alerts and possibly in expansion of alerting to other hazards such as heat and/or wildfire.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 2, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Silver Alerts

Hello:

I just spoke with my counterpart in Quebec. He and his ADM were on the SOREM call and missed the part where Madeline presented about Silver Alerts. Do either of you know her position? And do you know what was shared in the meeting this morning?

If you don't know then should I be reaching out to Madeline's assistant?

Beverly Duthie, Public Alerting  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200  
2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5

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Cell: 778-679-4123  
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456  
EMBCPublicAlerting@gov.bc.ca

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*I would like to acknowledge the opportunity we have to live, work, and play on the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people.*

## RE: Alert Ready test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Sonia Woolford <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 8, 2021 1:00:16 PM PST

I believe the meeting is tomorrow. I will talk to Madeline/Alisha.

Thanks.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 11:25 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: Alert Ready test

Hi Brendan:

Regarding the government communications plan for the Alert Ready test on the 17<sup>th</sup>, do I reach out to Madeline's assistant to find out the communications plan? Is Alesha invited to the meeting this afternoon?

Thank you.

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 11:23 AM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: Alert Ready test

Hi Beverly,

I've filled in the form.

And I don't plan internal to gov messaging.

Thanks,.  
JT

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 11:20 AM  
**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Alert Ready test

Hi Jordan:

Please find attached the document we send to Pelmorex prior to the alert ready test on the 17<sup>th</sup>.

Are we communicating, in any way, to EMBC Staff? To the regions so they can send a message out to their local governments and First Nations? To All Government?

Beverly Duthie, Public Alerting  
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2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5

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Cell: 778-679-4123  
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456  
EMBCPublicAlerting@gov.bc.ca

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*I would like to acknowledge the opportunity we have to live, work, and play on the traditional territory of the W̱SÁNEĆ people.*

## GCPE EMBC media request: Alert Ready messaging: due asap

---

From: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
To: Chandler, Alex EMBC:EX <Alex.Chandler@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>, Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 8, 2021 1:54:10 PM PST  
Hi all,

For your review please – KMs about Alert Ready for an interview request with the minister. If you can review asap, that would be much appreciated.

### Reporter

Claire Fenton, Producer  
News 1130  
[claire.fenton@rci.rogers.com](mailto:claire.fenton@rci.rogers.com)  
604-877-4400 c: 604-351-2502  
**Deadline** ASAP

### Request

I am reaching out from CityNews (formally News 1130) to ask for an interview today with Minister Mike Farnworth regarding the funnel cloud over the weekend and the province's efforts to ensuring people in the area had notice and information regarding how to respond in the emergency?

Also would like to speak generally about Alert Ready and expanding it to different emergencies

I have several times available and if possible a zoom with the Deputy Premier would be ideal.

### Recommendation

#### 1. Why didn't you use the public alerting system during the heat dome and heat waves this summer?

- B.C. is actively examining the role broadcast Intrusive alerting systems will play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.
- With the reality of climate change causing increased heat waves in British Columbia, we can't ignore the potential for this to become more common in the future.
- We're currently working with our federal partners to make sure BC's program aligns with the dangers in this province, including heat waves.
- Last summer's heat dome and heat waves are a stark reminder of the impacts of climate change and the need to prepare for hotter weather and more frequent heat events – as people, as a government and as a health system.
- Given the number of British Columbians who have wireless devices, this evolution in alerting is the next logical step in emergency management to save lives and promote greater resilience in the face of disaster.

#### 2. Other jurisdictions, such as Alberta, use public alerting for wildfire evacuations. Why doesn't B.C. use it?

- B.C. is actively examining the role Broadcast Intrusive alerting systems will play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.
- In 2022, we're running an Alert Ready pilot project for wildfire evacuations.
- In the last five years, we've experienced three of the most severe wildfire seasons in B.C. history, with thousands of people evacuated in 2017, 2018 and 2021.
- Given the number of British Columbians who have wireless devices, this evolution in alerting is the next logical step in emergency management to save lives and promote greater resilience in the face of disaster.

#### 3. How will the pilot program work?

- We have a team planning the pilot project now, and we hope to release more details as we get closer to the summer.

#### 4. Would public alerting have made a difference for the wildfire that destroyed Lytton?

- No, given how quickly the Lytton fire started and spread, a public alert would not have made a difference.
- A tactical evacuation began by the RCMP who were immediately notifying residents on the ground as the fire was being reported.

#### 5. Why didn't the province issue a warning for the tornado over the weekend?

- Alerting for tornados in BC is handled by the Federal Government through Environment and Climate Change Canada, as they are the experts and those events move rapidly.
- You will have to contact the ECCC for anything further.

Thanks so much,

**Aimée Harper** (she/her)  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Emergency Management BC  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
P: 778 698-1608  
C: 250 883-4731

## RE: Nov 17 Alert Ready Test -- EIBC

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>, O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX <Jane.OHigginsWilson@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 8, 2021 4:39:19 PM PST  
Attachments: image002.jpg, image003.png, image004.png, image001.jpg  
Hey Jen,

Happy to add you to tomorrow's meeting if you actually have the time to attend.

Thank you for this.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 7:31 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX <Jane.OHigginsWilson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov 17 Alert Ready Test -- EIBC

Thanks Brendan.

Ryan is away this week. Options are to add me to tomorrow's meeting or push to next Monday.

Jen

**Jennifer McLarty**  
A/ Director Engagement, Education & Digital Services  
[Emergency Management BC](#)  
Cell: 250 217-0950

*Follow PreparedBC*



---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 7:12 AM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX <Jane.OHigginsWilson@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov 17 Alert Ready Test -- EIBC

Hey Jen,

Thank you for leaning in on this. I have scheduled a meeting for tomorrow this week (when the PDM who will be launching the alert will be on shift) to ensure all appropriate staff are on the same page re.:

- The operational launch of the Alert Ready test
- Supporting social media communications
- And that GCPE is looped in

I am hoping to have PDMs (Jane and/or Tyler) engaged with the @EmergencyInfo material but have also invited Ryan and will certainly be grateful if he is in the background to support them.

Thanks again.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX s.17  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 1:54 PM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; Adams, Janet EMBC:EX <Janet.Adams@gov.bc.ca>; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX <Tim.Walshaw@gov.bc.ca>; Birney, Tyler EMBC:EX <Tyler.Birney@gov.bc.ca>; O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX <Jane.OHigginsWilson@gov.bc.ca>; Caldwell, Martin EMBC:EX <Martin.Caldwell@gov.bc.ca>; Bennett, Ryland EMBC:EX <Ryland.Bennett@gov.bc.ca>; Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov 17 Alert Ready Test -- EIBC

Hi Jen,

I have Janet, Tim, Tyler and Ryland on shift for Nov 17. They've been CC'd above.

Thank you.

**Mitchell Lee** | Provincial Duty Manager  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5  
Ph: 250-952-4278 Fax: 250-952-4872  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

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---

**From:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 12:13 PM  
**To:** O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX <Jane.OHigginsWilson@gov.bc.ca>; Birney, Tyler EMBC:EX <Tyler.Birney@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX s.17 ; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Nov 17 Alert Ready Test -- EIBC

Hi all.

Just checking in to confirm who's running point on EmergencyInfoBC for the Nov. 17 Alert Ready test.

Below is what's currently planned based on past comms.

Day before:

- Promo post and tweet via EmergencyInfoBC/@emergencyinfobc linking to our [info page](#).
- Promo post and tweet via PreparedBC Facebook + @preparedbc

Day of:

- Morning reminder tweet via @emergencyinfobc linking to the [info page](#).
- "Did you get it?" tweet via @emergencyinfobc with link to external survey.

NOTE: Survey link TBD. It belongs to Alert Ready and they had issues with high demand in May.

Thanks,  
Jen

**Jennifer McLarty**

A/ Director Engagement, Education & Digital Services

[Emergency Management BC](#)

Cell: 250 217-0950

*Follow PreparedBC*





## FW: PEASI Alert Ready Test Survey

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 8, 2021 7:57:05 PM PST

Word is getting around (somehow) re. the alerting test. Peasi is, to some extent, a competitor to Pelmorex as they produce their own app that they market to communities.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 8, 2021 12:28 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: PEASI Alert Ready Test Survey

See below.

**Sonia Woolford** | Operations Specialist  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200  
2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC V8M 2A5

Ph: 778-698-5777  
24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1 800 663-3456

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---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 16:37  
**To:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FW: PEASI Alert Ready Test Survey

Word gets around

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Rick Arter <[rick@peasi.com](mailto:rick@peasi.com)>  
**Sent:** November 4, 2021 4:35 PM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: PEASI Alert Ready Test Survey

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Beverly,

Sorry for the late reply, slammed in meetings and negotiations the last couple days.

No strong thoughts or feelings one way or the other with regards to ATWG. Just pursuing all avenues that can help promote greater awareness of the survey in order to get as many respondents, as possible. If you feel unnecessary to pass the survey website links along to ATWG members so that their respective organizations can post them online, I'm good with that.

How's things otherwise? I heard rumour that EMBC may undertake an Alert Ready pilot with a municipality, whereby the municipality could send an alert through Alert Ready. Any truth to that?

# PEASI

**Rick | CEO**

rick@peasi.com | 1 (403) 970-9585

888 4 Ave SW #1906, Calgary, AB T2P0V2

www.peasi.com

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn Blog

ALERTABLE | Community Notifications | Stay Aware & Plan Ahead

On Nov 2, 2021, at 5:45 PM, Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Rick:

Thank you.

I will add this to our website. And get permission to share the links as we did before.

The information was shared in the Communications meeting that all the provinces and territories attend. Do you think it would be helpful to share it with the ATWG group as well. I would suggest it may be unnecessary?

Take care,

**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Rick Arter <rick@peasi.com>

**Sent:** November 2, 2021 3:01 PM

**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>

**Subject:** PEASI Alert Ready Test Survey

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Beverly,

Hope you are well.

As you would have heard from Jake at last week's ATWG meeting, we'll be running another survey for the upcoming November test of the Alert Ready system and I wanted to supply you with the links to the survey in case EMBC wanted to promote those again on social media and on it's website:

English:

<https://peasi.com/emergency-alert-test-survey.html>

French:

<https://peasi.com/enquete-de-test-dalerte-durgence.html>

With respect to the other ATWG members, as the chair for that group, would you like to forward them those links or would it be easier for you if I did that? Naturally, we want to continue increasing the number of survey respondents to provide greater statistical benefit for the results. The more that ATWG group members can share and post, the better.

Let me know what's most convenient for you.

Thanks, Beverly.

## PEASI

**Rick | CEO**

rick@peasi.com | 1 (888) 400-5661

888 4 Ave SW #1906, Calgary, AB T2P0V2

www.peasi.com

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#) [LinkedIn](#) [Blog](#)

**BOOK A MEETING**

## RE: External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:46:24 AM PST  
Hey Alisha,

I had indicated to Bev that I would look into this. Perhaps just pause while I get things sorted out on this side and then I'll loop back with you. My experience is that Madeline prefers these communications to route to her, potentially through you, via me or Pader, as opposed to Bev.

We have a week, and so some time. More to follow on this.

Thank you.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 9:37 AM  
**To:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

Hi Alisha:

This is the Public Alerting test on November 17. EARES?

We will be testing the alert system. The PDM sends out the alert with my assistance. They don't really need the assistance any more but we try to get the "newer" PDMs to do the alert as it is live and is good experience for them.

This is not a meeting.

What has sometimes happened in the past is that a day or so prior to the test, so Monday or Tuesday, an email will go out to one or all of the entities below, reminding them of the test and it's purpose. I can forward you all the media protocol documents if you don't have them.

Let's chat when you have a moment. I have a call at 10 and at 11.

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 9:21 AM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

Hi Bev,

Is this the NPAS test being conducted by EARES?

If so, I haven't received any information on it other than 1 slide at SOREM last week. I'm checking with the secretariat to get the meeting invite and details. Once I have that, I will run your questions by Madeline.

Where did your attached document come from? Who filled out our activity info? I'm really out of the loop on this.

Thanks!  
Alisha

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 9:02 AM  
**To:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <[Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** FW: External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

Good morning Alisha:

In regard to the Alert Test on November 17, do you know if Madeline is planning on sending out any of the following?

- An email to the regions that they can forward to their communities?
- An email to all of EMBC notifying them of the alert test?
- An email to all Government notifying them of the alert test?
- Anything else?

Thank you.

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
**Ph:** 778-974-3730 | **e:** [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 8:04 AM  
**To:** 'Karen Kheder' <[kkheder@pelmorex.com](mailto:kkheder@pelmorex.com)>  
**Subject:** RE: External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

Hi Karen:

I have been struggling to get all the information together. Here is what I got yesterday. I am still hoping for some internal communication. I will let you know if there are any updates.

Thank you!

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
**Ph:** 778-974-3730 | **e:** [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Karen Kheder <[kkheder@pelmorex.com](mailto:kkheder@pelmorex.com)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 7:17 AM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** External Activity re: Alert Ready Test

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Hi Bev,

I hope all is well. I may have missed it, so I wanted to follow up with you...is BC doing any external communications for the upcoming test?

If so, could you let me know?

Apologies if you have sent the update already...

Thanks,

Karen

--

**Karen Kheder | Director, Communications & Administration**  
Pelmorex Corp.  
T: 905.829.1159 s.22 M: s.22  
E: [kkheder@pelmorex.com](mailto:kkheder@pelmorex.com)  
[pelmorex.com](http://pelmorex.com)

No worries – so many emails. We will get it sorted out today/tomorrow.

Thanks

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations

Emergency Management BC <<http://www.gov.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>>

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061

24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:45 AM  
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

My apologies Brendan:

I completely missed that. I'm being pushed by Pelmorex for this information – we are the last of the provinces to provide it – and reached out to Alisha.

Take care,

Beverly Duthie | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:41 AM  
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

I believe I indicated that I would reach out to her in the attached, but maybe that wasn't clear.

Anyway, we will get things sorted out today.

Thanks.

Brendan Ralfs | Director, Operations

Emergency Management BC <<http://www.gov.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>>

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061

24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 9, 2021 9:15 AM  
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

Today.

Take care,

Beverly Duthie | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:07 AM  
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

When did you email Alisha?

Brendan Ralfs| Director, Operations

Emergency Management BC <<http://www.gov.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>>

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061

24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

From: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:05 AM  
To: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Subject: RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

Hi Brendan:

I am not sure, exactly what you have planned for the meeting this morning. Just in case this will help, I have attached a few documents for those who may not have received it. You can share them if you like or I can upload them into the meeting. Or, if everyone has the documents already we can just speak about them.

Please note in the Activity document that we do not yet have activities identified from Madeline's side. Usually that comes from Jordan or Public Engagement but they don't have any information this time. I have emailed Alisha Nichols, Madeline's EA, to see if there will be any communications coming from Madeline's office.

In the Alert Ready Media Relations Test Alert Protocol they suggest the following protocol. I think responses to these topics should be agreed upon within our group.

Before the test:

- Key Messages



- The need and benefits of a test
- Plans for the test
- What the EMO hopes to achieve
- Role of the EMO in alerting
- Alert Ready and its use during actual emergencies
- Responsibilities of citizens during a test or an actual alert

After a successful test (I will have an idea of what is happening across the country and will be able to share that with the group even before our test):

- Key Messages
- Impressions of the test
- Cancelled tests (if applicable)

If the test has issues:

- Issues related to the content of the messages (e.g. language, spelling, grammar, abbreviations)
- Text to Speech issues
- Geographic distribution of the alert (e.g. alert not issued for entire province)
- Cancelled tests (if applicable)

I also, usually, pull information from different sources after an alert and provide that information to you and others within the organization. Please let me know if you would like to see this information collected this time.

Take care,

Beverly Duthie | Public Alerting

Ph: 778-974-3730 | e:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>

Sent: November 8, 2021 7:21 PM

To: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX; Bennett, Ryland EMBC:EX; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX; O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX; Birney, Tyler EMBC:EX; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX; Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX

Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX

Subject: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

When: November 9, 2021 11:00-12:00 (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Moving this meeting to ensure someone from the Pub Ed can attend, given their historical connection with this event and the leg work they have already completed - BR

All,

Hoping we can meet this week to make sure we are all on the same page for the Alert Ready test on Nov. 17. I don't think we will need the full hour, but better safe than sorry.

Thank you.

BR

---

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app

Click here to join the meetings.<sup>s.15; s.17</sup>  
<sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

Or call in (audio only)

<sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

<sup>s.15; s.17</sup>  
<tel

· Canada, Victoria

Phone Conference ID: <sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

Find a local number <sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

Reset PIN <sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

<sup>s.15; s.17</sup>

## RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 9:47:38 AM PST  
No worries – so many emails. We will get it sorted out today/tomorrow.

Thanks

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 9:45 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

My apologies Brendan:

I completely missed that. I'm being pushed by Pelmorex for this information – we are the last of the provinces to provide it – and reached out to Alisha.

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

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**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

I believe I indicated that I would reach out to her in the attached, but maybe that wasn't clear.

Anyway, we will get things sorted out today.

Thanks.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

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**Subject:** RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

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Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

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**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <[Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

When did you email Alisha?

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

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**Sent:** November 9, 2021 9:05 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX <[Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sonia.Woolford@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

Hi Brendan:

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I also, usually, pull information from different sources after an alert and provide that information to you and others within the organization. Please let me know if you would like to see this information collected this time.

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**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>

**Sent:** November 8, 2021 7:21 PM

**To:** Woolford, Sonia M EMBC:EX; Walshaw, Tim EMBC:EX; Bennett, Ryland EMBC:EX; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX; O'Higgins-Wilson, Jane EMBC:EX; Birney, Tyler EMBC:EX; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX; Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX

**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX; Wey, Melody GCPE:EX

**Subject:** Nov. 17 Alert Ready Test

**When:** November 9, 2021 11:00-12:00 (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** Microsoft Teams Meeting

*Moving this meeting to ensure someone from the Pub Ed can attend, given their historical connection with this event and the leg work they have already completed - BR*

All,

Hoping we can meet this week to make sure we are all on the same page for the Alert Ready test on Nov. 17. I don't think we will need the full hour, but better safe than sorry.

Thank you.

BR

---

## Microsoft Teams meeting

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### Or call in (audio only)

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Canada, Victoria

Phone Conference ID: s.15; s.17

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

---

## FW: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 9, 2021 2:33:28 PM PST  
Attachments: IB Public Alert Test November.docx, QA Alert Ready Test November.docx  
Aimee,

I approve the attached IB and have added my suggested edits to the QA document.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

For sure!

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 2:05 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Can you send me the most recent versions?

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 2:03 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Hi Brendan,

Thanks again for the chat. Do you have any other edits to the IB or QA?

Thank you!

Aimée

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 12:26 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Oops, now I see that we do already have links to the survey in the IB! Looks the same as the info on Emergency Info BC so I think we're good.

Here's my updated QA if you have time to review before the meeting, but no worries if not – I can incorporate any changes.

Thanks,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 12:17 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Jen McLarty is probably your best contact re. the survey, but please also include Jane O'Higgins-Wilson as a Regional Operations representative.

Thank you for this.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 12:16 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Thanks Brendan. For sure, I am available. I realized when reviewing a few minutes ago that the bullet about the pilot project on the first page is incorrect – I've updated it to be consistent with the bullet in Q7, which was approved yesterday.

Melody also mentioned that there's going to be a survey about the alert – do you have any info on that, or is Public Education leading?

Thanks,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 12:12 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Aimee,

I was actually just reviewing the notes. Are you, Jordan and/or Melody available to meet at 13:30?

I would like to explain my current understanding of the "pilot project." I don't think the current bullet in the QA is accurate, but I think I need to provide some context for you to decide what you want in there.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 12:09 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Hi Brendan, I'm just going to make some updates to the IB based on notes from Melody from the meeting this morning – should have the updated versions to you by 1:30pm

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 10:16 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Thanks Brendan, much appreciated. Most of it is from the previously approved materials in May so hopefully shouldn't take too long.

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 10:10 AM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Aimee,

I have an opening in my schedule from 13:30-14:00 that I have now booked for this. I'll do my best within this window.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <[Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 9, 2021 10:09 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** For review - IB & QA: Alert Ready Test

Hi Brendan,

For your review please – IB and QA about the upcoming Alert Ready test. The highlighted Q&A's were approved up to MO yesterday for a media request, and the rest are the same as the QA from May.

I've also made one other note in the QA about Silver Alerts – though maybe that question should go to Heather's team? Let me know.

If you're able to review by 2pm that would be great.

Thank you!

**Aimée Harper** (she/her)  
Senior Public Affairs Officer  
Emergency Management BC  
Government Communications & Public Engagement  
P: 778 698-1608  
C: 250 883-4731



---

## INFORMATION BULLETIN

[release number]  
November 15, 2021

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor  
General  
Emergency Management BC

### **B.C. conducting test of emergency alert to wireless devices**

VICTORIA – At 1:55 p.m. PST on Nov. 17, 2021, a test of B.C.'s wireless alerting system will be conducted as part of the national Alert Ready system to improve public safety in the event of emergency.

This is part of a bi-annual test of the national Alert Ready system, which was launched in B.C. on April 6, 2018. This testing is designed to assess the system's readiness for an actual emergency and identify any adjustments that need to be made. The last scheduled test was held on May 5, 2021.

During the test, an alert will be broadcast on radio and television stations, as well as on compatible wireless devices. The test message will read: "This is a TEST of the British Columbia Emergency Alerting System, issued by Emergency Management British Columbia. This is ONLY a TEST. If this had been an actual emergency or threat, you would now hear instructions that would assist you to protect you and your family. For further information go to [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca). This is ONLY a TEST, no action is required."

The National Public Alerting System (NPAS), publicly branded as Alert Ready, is a collaborative initiative between federal-provincial-territorial governments and industry partners. It provides a standard alerting capability to rapidly warn the public of imminent or unfolding hazards to life.

#### **Quick Facts:**

- To receive alerts, mobile phones must be connected to an LTE cellular network (the device must be turned on and cannot be set to do not disturb or airplane mode), be alert-compatible, be within the alert area, and have up-to-date cellular software. Alerts will be broadcast automatically, at no cost to the user.
- Currently, in accordance with a 2014 Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) decision, all radio and television broadcasters in Canada are mandated to broadcast public alerts. On April 6, 2017, the CRTC mandated wireless service providers to be capable of sending wireless public alerts in Canada by April 6, 2018.
- British Columbians may wish to participate in a short online survey following the test to help determine the reach of the Alert Ready test. This survey is administered by Public Emergency Alerting Services Inc (PEASI).

- Survey link in English: <https://peasi.com/emergency-alert-test-survey.html>
- Survey link in French: <https://peasi.com/enquete-de-test-dalerte-durgence.html>

**Learn More:**

- To find out if your wireless device is compatible with the Alert Ready system, or for more information about the system, visit: [www.alertready.ca](http://www.alertready.ca)
- PreparedBC is a one-stop shop for disaster readiness information. For tips on how to prepare an emergency plan and what to include in an emergency kit, visit: <http://www.preparedbc.ca>
- Follow on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PreparedBC/>
- Follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PreparedBC](https://twitter.com/PreparedBC)
- For information during active provincial emergencies, visit [www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca](http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca)
- Follow on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC](https://twitter.com/EmergencyInfoBC)

**Contact:**

Emergency Management BC  
Media Relations  
250 880-6430

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES

### *Alert Ready Test November 17, 2021*

#### Key Messages

- Tests of the wireless emergency alerting system have been successful in B.C. and across Canada.
- On Nov. 17, 2021, at 1:55 p.m. PST, B.C. will test its wireless alerting system at the same time as regular and radio television network broadcast alert tests.
- The last scheduled test was held in May 2021.
- Testing improves public awareness about the system and what to expect in the event of an actual emergency alert.
- It also provides an opportunity to address issues with the system before it's used for a real emergency to ensure it functions as intended.
- Wireless alerts are just one method to receive emergency information. The aim is to reach as many people as possible on as many communication platforms as possible:
  - These wireless compatible device alerts are concurrently broadcast on radio and television.
  - They also build on other alert tools in B.C. such as the Provincial Emergency Notification System (used for tsunami events), social media, and in a number of communities, subscription text alerts, sirens, and other alerting mechanisms.
- The public alerting system is currently only used in B.C. for tsunami notifications, AMBER Alerts and policing incident alerts. We're looking at how alerting for other hazards might be integrated.
- In 2022, we're running an Alert Ready proof of concept exercise to help determine how Broadcast Intrusive alerts might best be used to support pilot project for wildfire evacuations.
- Given the number of British Columbians who have wireless devices, this evolution in alerting may be the next logical step in emergency management to save lives and promote greater resilience in the face of disaster.

**Commented [RBRE1]:** Despite the name, PENS is only used for tsunami events. Strictly speaking, BI Alert Ready messages are part of PENS, and the only part that communicates directly with the public. The rest of PENS supplies notifications to communities and other trusted partners (e.g. Coast Guard, Crown Corps, etc.) so that they can initiate their own tsunami plans (e.g. Tofino receives a PENS alert and then decides if they are going to sound their tsunami sirens).

**Commented [RBRE2]:** Based on our recent conversation, I understand this might not resonate well, but there are significant complexities involved and we have not determined if/when BI alerts will support wildfire evacuations.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES**  
***Alert Ready Test***  
***November 17, 2021***

**Questions and Answers**

**About the Test**

**1. How will people know the wireless alerting system test is only a test?**

- The message will include clear instruction that it is ONLY a test and that no action is required.

**2. What is the timeline, how often do these alerting tests happen?**

- This is part of a bi-annual test of the national Alert Ready system, which was launched in B.C. on April 6, 2018.
- This testing is designed to assess the system's readiness for an actual emergency and identify any adjustments that need to be made.

**3. What should people do in the event an alert comes through that is not a test?**

- Follow the instructions on the alert.

**4. How does the wireless alerting system work?**

- Emergency alerts, on radio, television and compatible wireless devices, begin with a distinct sound, known as the Canadian Alert Attention Signal.
- Emergency alerts sent to compatible wireless devices will also cause the phone to vibrate.
- On compatible wireless devices, the emergency alert will display an "EMERGENCY ALERT" banner, followed by text that describes the situation and provides instructions on what actions to take and where to find more information.
- At the top of each emergency alert, the issuing government agency will be clearly indicated.

**Using the system for other alerts**

**5. Why isn't the public alerting system being used for wildfire evacuations, like the ones that happened this summer?**

- B.C. is actively examining the role Broadcast Intrusive alerting systems will play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES

### *Alert Ready Test*

*November 17, 2021*

- EMBC is prioritizing the expansion of the Alert Ready System to other types of emergencies, such as wildfire.
- It is important to also note that many programs are already in place to alert the public about emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems. We must work to ensure any expansion of Alert Ready complements systems already in place.
- It is important to note that the development of alerting protocols comes with complexity and, as experiences from other provinces and states have shown, it is important that we get this right and implement an approach based on:
  - how an alerting system complements other forms of notifications
  - broadcast intrusive versus informational alerts
  - role of the province in providing training and accreditation, monitoring alerts and potentially intervening if an alert is issued in error or to issue a notification on behalf of someone that is unable for any reason
  - how the province manages jurisdictional overlap as well as clearly defining the alert area to prevent over alerting.
  - provide the service to any community that chooses to not participate at the local level so that there are no gaps in alerting.

#### **6. Why didn't you use the public alerting system during the heat dome and heat waves this summer?**

- Last summer's heat dome is a stark reminder of the impacts of climate change and the need to prepare for hotter weather and more frequent heat events – as people, as a government and as a health system.
- B.C. is actively examining the role broadcast Intrusive alerting systems will play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.
- With the reality of climate change causing more extreme weather events in British Columbia, we can't ignore the potential for this to become more common in the future.
- We're currently working with our federal, provincial and territorial partners to make sure B.C.'s use of Alert Ready aligns with the dangers in this province, including heat waves.
- Given the number of British Columbians who have wireless devices, this evolution in alerting *is may be* the next logical step in emergency management to save lives and promote greater resilience in the face of disaster.

#### **7. Other jurisdictions, such as Alberta, use public alerting for wildfire evacuations. Why doesn't B.C. use it?**

- B.C. is actively examining the role Broadcast Intrusive alerting systems will play in notifying the public of other events beyond tsunamis, Amber Alerts and civil emergencies.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES

### Alert Ready Test

November 17, 2021

- s.13

- In 2022, we're running an Alert Ready proof of concept exercise to help determine how Broadcast Intrusive alerts might best be used to support wildfire evacuations.

- 

- In the last five years, we've experienced three of the most severe wildfire seasons in B.C. history, with thousands of people evacuated in 2017, 2018 and 2021.
- Given the number of British Columbians who have wireless devices, this evolution in alerting may be the next logical step in emergency management to save lives and promote greater resilience in the face of disaster.

#### 8. How will the pilot program work?

- We have a team planning the exercise s.13 project now, and we hope to release more details as we get closer to the spring.

#### 9. Would public alerting have made a difference for the wildfire that destroyed Lytton?

- Public alerting s.1 has the potential to add to the ways that residents are notified about certain emergencies, including local government emergency notification systems, and door-to-door notifications from groups like the RCMP, the BC Search and Rescue Association, local firefighters and BC Wildfire Service crews.
- In the case of Lytton, a tactical evacuation began by the RCMP who were immediately notifying residents on the ground as the fire was being reported.
- Given how quickly the Lytton fire started and spread, an intrusive alert would likely not have made a difference.

#### 10. Why isn't the public alerting system being used for COVID-19 orders? Are you going to be using it?

- British Columbians are very engaged in what is happening with COVID-19, and at this point in time our government does not believe a broadcast intrusive alert is necessary.
- While the Alert Ready system is useful in a situation where public safety relies on immediate notification, the alert system only informs on a moment in time. The Province has been providing regular briefings as the situation is continually evolving.
- The communication of orders has also gone out through a variety of channels, including media, highway signs, social media, online content, stakeholders, and community leaders.
- That said, Emergency Management BC is continually looking at what additional roles an alerting system could play in emergencies.

**Commented [RBRE3]:** Just a caution that heat emergencies come on slowly and typically would not be said to require "immediate notification."

#### 11. Will you be changing public alerting to include "Silver Alerts"?

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES

### *Alert Ready Test November 17, 2021*

- The safe and speedy return of missing seniors who have wandered and become lost, are suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or other cognitive disabilities, is an important public safety consideration given our aging population.
- And that's why this government has committed to exploring the implementation of a Silver Alert public notification system to ask for the public's help in finding missing seniors.
- Local police have primary responsibility for locating missing individuals. Currently, these agencies effectively use localized channels, including social and traditional media, to advise and seek help from the public when searching for missing individuals.
- Our government is committed to making sure we're doing everything we can to locate missing seniors, and we're exploring all opportunities to address the issue.
- s.13

•

- B.C. will continue to work with all stakeholders, including local governments and police forces, as well as the federal government, which is working on a national dementia strategy, to ensure the safety of our vulnerable seniors is considered.
- Any changes would need to consider whether the Alert Ready system is the most appropriate solution to address this issue or if we need to consider other avenues.

#### **12. Are Amber Alerts part of the Alert Ready system here in B.C.?**

- Yes.

#### **13. Are you going to be using public alerts for active shooter situations?**

- We're continually looking at what additional roles an alerting system could play in emergencies.
- The EMBC alert system is available to police in large scale civil emergencies.
- Police in B.C. are working with EMBC to examine the usefulness of public alerting in mobile active shooter situations and have developed an appropriate alerting protocol through the Missing Persons section of the RCMP E-Division.
- An alert in this type of situation would only be made by police and at their direction to ensure that all operational factors are considered.

#### **Alerting system/compatible devices**

##### **14. Why didn't I receive an alert? What is a compatible wireless device and how will people know if they can receive alerts?**

s.13

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES

### *Alert Ready Test November 17, 2021*

- In order for emergency alerts to be received on a wireless device, the device must be:
  - Wireless public alerting compatible;
  - Connected to an LTE (or 4G) cellular network at the time the emergency alert is issued;
  - Within the emergency alert area; and
  - Updated with the latest cellular software.
- There is information on wireless compatibility on the alertready.ca website.
- Testing the system will also give people the opportunity to see if their devices are compatible to receive alerts.

#### **15. Will people have to subscribe to the service?**

- No. Alerts will be broadcast without a subscription and at no cost.
- The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) has mandated that all compatible wireless devices receive all relevant alerts and tests.

#### **16. Will this replace current emergency notification systems (emergencyinfo.bc.ca, the Provincial Emergency Notification System (PENS) etc.)?**

- No. This limited public wireless emergency alerting will complement, not replace, emergency alerting already performed by EMBC by broadcasting intrusive alerts directly to the public.

**Commented [RBRE6]:** I think this still works, but just to be clear, the part of PENS that communicates directly to the public is Alert Ready BI alerts.

#### **17. Will people get alerts if their phone is in 'do not disturb' or 'airplane' mode?**

- No. People must have their devices on and not set to do not disturb or airplane mode.

#### **18. Will non-test alerts be issued province-wide or regionally?**

- Wireless alerts will be issued only to the affected regions or areas within B.C. However, some alerts could be issued province-wide or could affect more than one region. The wireless alerts will be geographically limited to those areas with LTE networks.
- This means that if an alert reaches your compatible wireless device, you are likely located in an area where there is an imminent danger.
- Wireless public alerting is geo-targeted and can be more specific to a limited area of coverage, unlike radio and television broadcasting, which often have broad areas of coverage.



**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS/ KEY MESSAGES**  
***Alert Ready Test***  
***November 17, 2021***

## HQ Ops Weekly Summary: Nov 06-12, 2021

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From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Oliver, Chrissy EMBC:EX <Chrissy.Oliver@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>, Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>, Wright, Kerissa EMBC:EX <Kerissa.Wright@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 12, 2021 3:57:43 PM PST  
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png  
*Apologies for the delay – flood impacts to Keating have dominated the day*

### ED/DM/ADM Awareness

- Public Alerting Project
  - Caution raised by GCPE Director that there may be discrepancies between Minister/DM expectations of project and current work plan of project team
  - Suggest meeting at ED/ADM/DM level on this topic ASAP (in advance of potential statements in the house next week associated with the regular semi-annual test alert)
- Keating Facility Impacted by Flooding
  - BCP actions currently underway to ensure continuity of ECC/PDM/PECC (including ESS Call Centre) operations
- SAR
  - Renewed inquiries and requests from GSAR community for EMBC to make vaccination mandatory for all GSAR members
- Wildfire Response
  - Operational level AAR of 2021 wildfire event held between EMBC Regional Ops and BCWS Nov 10 with goal to identify challenges and successes of the two organizations in working together and establish a shared workplan for winter 21/22
  - Notes and outcomes to be shared with ED & ADM Regional Ops once collated
- Next Week
  - Semi Annual Alert Ready BI Test Alert to be held Nov 17 @ 13:55

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Block A – Suite 200, 2261 Keating Cross Rd  
Saanichton, BC CANADA V8M 2A5

Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061 Fax: 250-952-4872  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

*Follow PreparedBC*



## RE: ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey / Enquête d'alerte publique du CCOGU

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 6:38:57 AM PST  
Attachments: image002.png, image003.png, 2021-11-04 Public Alerting Survey.docx  
Please find suggested replies attached.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 4:53 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey / Enquête d'alerte publique du CCOGU  
**Importance:** High

Hi Brendan –

For action

Thanks

Madeline L. Maley (she/her)  
Assistant Deputy Minister Regional Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Phone: 250 704-3046 | Cell: s.17  
**24 Hour Emergency Reporting: 1-800-663-3456**  
Follow EMBC at [@EmergencyInfoBC](#) and [@PreparedBC](#)  
Follow the OFC at [@BC\\_FireSafety](#) and [@BCFireSafety](#)

*With gratitude, acknowledging I am working on the traditional territory of Tk'emlups Te Secwepemc people*



---

**From:** Mieka Pittman <mieka.pittman@canops.org>  
**Sent:** November 5, 2021 3:26 PM  
**To:** Lawless, Alexandra (SOLGEN) <alexandra.lawless@ontario.ca>; Blaine Heffernan <BHeffernan@GOV.NU.CA>; Davies, Chris (SOLGEN) <Chris.D.Davies@ontario.ca>; Craig Mahovsky <craig.mahovsky@gov.ab.ca>; Danny Kelly <dannykelly@gov.pe.ca>; Dean Diguier <Dean\_Diguier@gov.nt.ca>; Emily King <Emily\_King@gov.nt.ca>; EMPS MB <emps@gov.mb.ca> <emps@gov.mb.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>; greg.maccallum@gnb.ca; Collins, Helen (MMAH) <helen.collins@ontario.ca>; Ivan Russell <ivan\_russell@gov.nt.ca>; Jamesie Mearns <Jmearns@gov.nu.ca>; Matwyshyn, Jamie (MI) <Jamie.Matwyshyn@gov.mb.ca>; Mew, Jason C <jason.mew@novascotia.ca>; Johanu Botha <Johanu.Botha@gov.mb.ca>; Forge, Kathryn EMBC:EX <Kathryn.Forge@gov.bc.ca>; Katia Petit <katia.petit@msp.gouv.qc.ca>; Grantis, Katrina (SOLGEN) <Katrina.Grantis@ontario.ca>; Kevin Lyslo <Kevin.Lyslo@yukon.ca>; Kim Olsen <kim.olsen@gov.sk.ca>; Len Hancock <Len.hancock@gov.ab.ca>; Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>; Julian, Michelle D

<Michelle.Julian@novascotia.ca>; Mitch Rumbolt (NL) <mitchrumbolt@gov.nl.ca>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Paul Mason <paul.mason@novascotia.ca>; QC EMO <oscq@msp.gouv.qc.ca>; Ray Lazarus <ray.lazarus@ontario.ca>; Stacey Cooling <Stacey.Cooling@gnb.ca>; Stephen Lacroix (stephen.lacroix@gov.ab.ca) <stephen.lacroix@gov.ab.ca>; Tara Kelly <tarakelly@gov.nl.ca>; Teepu Khawja <teepu.khawja@ontario.ca>; THOMAS POIRIER-BLANCHET <THOMAS.POIRIER-BLANCHET@msp.gouv.qc.ca>; Tanya Mullally <tmullally@gov.pe.ca>; Nicole Wainwright <Nicole.Wainwright@gov.mb.ca>; Wiebe, Sara (MI) <Sara.Wiebe@gov.mb.ca>; Yukon EMO (EMO.Yukon@gov.yk.ca) <EMO.Yukon@gov.yk.ca>

**Cc:** Duane McKay <duane.mckay@canops.org>; Brianne Fraese <brianne.fraese@canops.org>; Secretariat <secretariat@canops.org>

**Subject:** CCEMO Public Alerting Survey / Enquête d'alerte publique du CCOGU

**Importance:** High

**[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.**

Good evening,

Please find attached the survey regarding public alerting across Canada as discussed in the CCEMO meeting yesterday. With this information, we will be putting a comprehensive report on public alerting across Canada together for the Council. Please have your response back to the Secretariat email at [secretariat@canops.org](mailto:secretariat@canops.org) by Monday November 22, 2021.

Thank you.

Bonsoir

Veuillez trouver ci-joint le sondage concernant l'alerte publique dans l'ensemble du Canada, tel qu'il a été discuté lors de la réunion de CCOGU d'hier. Grâce à cette information, nous présenterons un rapport complet sur les alertes publiques partout au Canada à l'attention du Conseil. Veuillez envoyer votre réponse au courriel du Secrétariat à [secretariat@canops.org](mailto:secretariat@canops.org) d'ici le lundi 22 novembre 2021.

Merci.

*Mieka Pittman*

Chief Operating Officer/CCEMO-CCOGU Secretariat  
Canadian Public Safety Operations Organization (CanOps)  
705.427.5735

[www.canops.org](http://www.canops.org)

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Thank you for your cooperation.

# CCEMO Survey of P/Ts on Public Alerting Issues and Current Situation

| Type of Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Identify who has the Responsibility<br>(individual P/T, PAWG, CCEMO,<br>SOREM, DM SOREM, PSC)         | Relative priority for<br>your jurisdiction<br>(high/medium/low) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1. Governance</b>                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Oversight of Pelmorex</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                        | SOREM/PAWG/Public Safety Canada                                                                       | Medium                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Setting and amendment of NPAS policy and strategic direction                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consensus based?</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | SOREM<br>SOREM's goal is to be consensus based, but ultimately issues can be decided by majority vote | High                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term viability of NPAS (either financial or organizational)</li> </ul>                                                                                             | Within BC: the Province<br>Nationally: SOREM/PAWG                                                     | Medium                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Financial oversight and transparency</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         | Within BC: the Province<br>Nationally: SOREM/PAWG                                                     | Medium                                                          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expectations and frequency of reporting from Pelmorex to FPTs</li> </ul>                                                                                                | SOREM                                                                                                 | Medium                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| <b>2. Technological Developments</b>                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of national alerting app</li> </ul>                                                                                                                         | SOREM/PAWG                                                                                            | High                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigation and development of new alerting mediums</li> </ul>                                                                                                        | Public Safety Canada                                                                                  | Medium                                                          |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| <b>3. User Community/technical issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                       |                                                                 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update of Broadcast Immediate event list</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     | SOREM                                                                                                 | High                                                            |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What groups require access to issue alerts</li> </ul>                                                                                                                   | SOREM/PAWG                                                                                            | Medium                                                          |

## Additional Cross-jurisdictional information:

- Does your P/T have a mobile application? If yes, can you please share information on it?  
The Province of BC Does not have a mobile application (but multiple Local Governments in BC use various mobile applications for non-BI public alerting of emergencies)
- If your P/T does not use the NAAD System, what mediums are alerts issued through, and is transmission automatic to all mediums?  
BC Uses NAADS
- What type of alert issuing model does your P/T use (i.e. centralized, distributed, hybrid)?  
BC currently uses a hybrid model where BI alerts are issued by the Province for tsunami and by the RCMP for Amber Alerts and Civil Emergencies under the authorization of the Province. Local non-BI alerts are issued to varying extents by different Local Governments and other agencies through a variety of mobile applications.
- What level of staffing is dedicated to alerting in your P/T EMO (either FTE or \$)?  
This is a little challenging to parse out, but I would estimate 6 FTE (approximately half the PDM cadre and then an additional dedicated public alerting position).

## CCEMO Survey of P/Ts on Public Alerting Issues and Current Situation

- Are there any public alerting activities (research/development/areas of interest) that are currently ongoing in your P/T?

s.13

## RE: For review: EMBC Media Request: Interview & Alert Ready

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Oliver, Chrissy EMBC:EX <Chrissy.Oliver@gov.bc.ca>, Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 15, 2021 12:58:58 PM PST  
Approved.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Oliver, Chrissy EMBC:EX <Chrissy.Oliver@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 12:58 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Re: For review: EMBC Media Request: Interview & Alert Ready

I'm good with this pending confirmation from Brendan. Thank you.

Chrissy

Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 15, 2021, at 12:55 PM, Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca> wrote:

Hi Brendan and Chrissy,

We received a question about Alert Ready in relation to the current event – I've pulled together some lines below for your review please. These are from the approved QA.

Thank you,  
Aimée

---

**From:** Aimee Harper <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 15, 2021 12:03 PM  
**To:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** EMBC Media Request: Interview & Alert Ready

### Reporter

Julia Lipscombe, Producer  
CBC Radio Vancouver  
[Julia.Lipscombe@cbc.ca](mailto:Julia.Lipscombe@cbc.ca)  
780-468-7579

### Deadline ASAP

### Request

Hoping to speak with someone from Emergency Management BC about the current flooding and mudslides.

Ideally we'd book a live interview with our host, Stephen Quinn, tomorrow at 7:10 a.m. It would be seven min over the phone.

Also have two questions:

Was BC's emergency alert system employed anywhere in the province ahead of this weather system?

If not, why?

### **Recommendation**

- No, the Alert Ready system hasn't been used during the current event.
- The public alerting system is currently only used in B.C. for tsunami notifications, AMBER Alerts, and policing incident alerts.
- We're looking at how alerting for other hazards might be integrated.
- Given the increasing threats our communities are facing due primarily to climate change, it's clear the Province needs to expand the Broadcast Intrusive Alerts through the Alert Ready system in B.C.



## RE: For review - EMBC Media Request: Alert Ready test

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 16, 2021 2:32:48 PM PST  
Approved.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Harper, Aimee GCPE:EX <Aimee.Harper@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 1:49 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Director 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.dir1@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** For review - EMBC Media Request: Alert Ready test

Hi Brendan,

Media request for your review please.

Thanks,  
Aimee

### Reporter

Mike Smyth, Host  
CKNW AM 980  
[nightlinebc@hotmail.com](mailto:nightlinebc@hotmail.com)  
250-896-3365

### Deadline ASAP

### Request

Can you check these tweets below, brought to my attention today. They say Emergency Management BC had planned a test of the Alert Ready system tomorrow (Wednesday) at 1:55 pm.  
Follow-up tweet says the test was then dropped.

Can you confirm if this is accurate?  
Was the system scheduled for a test tomorrow and the test was cancelled?

<https://twitter.com/micksweetman/status/1460411182221647872?s=21>

<https://twitter.com/micksweetman/status/1460501071072165892?s=21>

### Recommendation

- B.C. had planned to take part in the Canada-wide Alert Ready test on Wednesday, Nov. 17.
- Given the current flooding situation in B.C., we made the decision to cancel the test.
- Wireless alerts are just one method to receive emergency information. The aim is to reach as many people as possible on as many communication platforms as possible.
- They also build on other alert tools in B.C. such as the Provincial Emergency Notification System (used for tsunami events), social media, and in a number of communities, subscription text alerts, sirens, and other tools.
- Other jurisdictions, such as Quebec during flooding, have also cancelled Alert Ready tests during emergencies to avoid confusion.

## RE: Online Chatter - Alert Ready & City of Abbotsford

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: EMBC PECC Online Communications 2 EMBC:EX <pecc.oncom2@gov.bc.ca>, EMBC PDM EMBC:EX s.17, Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 16, 2021 8:08:35 PM PST  
Attachments: image001.png, image003.png, image004.png, image005.png, image002.png  
Copy

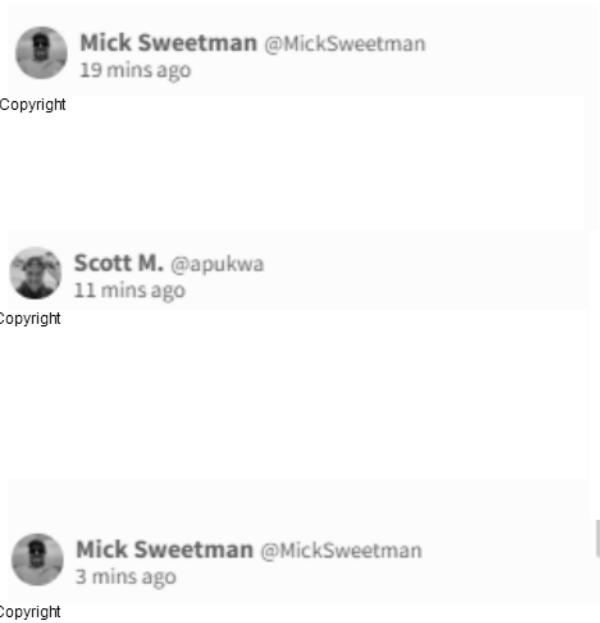
**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** EMBC PECC Online Communications 2 EMBC:EX <pecc.oncom2@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 8:08 PM  
**To:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX s.17, Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Online Chatter - Alert Ready & City of Abbotsford

Hello again,

Just also noting some growing online chatter asking why we didn't use Alert Ready in this circumstance, e.g.:



Best wishes,

Devon McDonald  
Online Communications, [Emergency Management BC](#)  
250-480-9717

---

**From:** EMBC PECC Online Communications 2 EMBC:EX  
**Sent:** November-16-21 7:59 PM

**To:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX<sup>s.17</sup>

Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>; Brach, Pader W EMBC:EX <[Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Pader.Brach@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Emergency Update - City of Abbotsford

Hi All,

Just a heads up that I retweeted this urgent emergency update from City of Abbotsford.



Copyright

Best wishes,

Devon McDonald  
Online Communications, [Emergency Management BC](#)  
250-480-9717

## RE: Draft Statement so far - Need Provincial Actions ASAP

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 16, 2021 10:18:54 PM PST  
Suggestion below in red font?

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 10:11 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>; Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>; Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Draft Statement so far - Need Provincial Actions ASAP

Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

"The City of Abbotsford has issued an immediate and urgent notice to all residents that did not evacuate the Sumas Prairie earlier today to evacuate immediately.  
"The City has indicated that conditions within the Sumas Prairie within the last hour have escalated and pose a significant risk to life due to the imminent failure of the Barrowtown Pump Station.  
"This evening, I have been in continual contact Mayor Braun, and Emergency Management BC has been working with Abbotsford Emergency Management staff and the Abbotsford Police Department.  
"Emergency Management BC has been ready and available to issue a broadcast intrusive alert through the Alert Ready system. The City of Abbotsford has indicated that they do not want to issue an alert at this time. While the Province issues alerts, it is the city of Abbotsford's decision to send.  
"The Province is supporting the City of Abbotsford by...  
s.13

"If you are in the Sumas Prairie and have not already evacuated, you must do so immediately. Do not stay for livestock or animals. Flood conditions have escalated quickly and pose a significant risk to life. This event is anticipated to be catastrophic. Residents who can't evacuate safely, please call 9-1-1 and report your location immediately."

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre  
**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

## RE: Draft Statement so far - Need Provincial Actions ASAP

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>, Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 16, 2021 10:26:02 PM PST

I had suggested the content below in red font.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 16, 2021 10:11 PM  
**To:** Richards, Tara R EMBC:EX <Tara.Richards@gov.bc.ca>; Cunnings, Ian EMBC:EX <Ian.Cunnings@gov.bc.ca>; Maley, Madeline L EMBC:EX <Madeline.Maley@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** Draft Statement so far - Need Provincial Actions ASAP

Statement from Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General

"The City of Abbotsford has issued an immediate and urgent notice to all residents that did not evacuate the Sumas Prairie earlier today to evacuate immediately.  
"The City has indicated that conditions within the Sumas Prairie within the last hour have escalated and pose a significant risk to life due to the imminent failure of the Barrowtown Pump Station.  
"This evening, I have been in continual contact Mayor Braun, and Emergency Management BC has been working with Abbotsford Emergency Management staff and the Abbotsford Police Department.  
"Emergency Management BC has been ready and available to issue a broadcast intrusive alert through the Alert Ready system. The City of Abbotsford has indicated that they do not want to issue an alert at this time. While the Province issues alerts, it is the city of Abbotsford's decision to send.  
"The Province is supporting the City of Abbotsford by...

s.13

"If you are in the Sumas Prairie and have not already evacuated, you must do so immediately. Do not stay for livestock or animals. Flood conditions have escalated quickly and pose a significant risk to life. This event is anticipated to be catastrophic. Residents who can't evacuate safely, please call 9-1-1 and report your location immediately."

**Jordan Turner**  
Communications Director | EMBC  
Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre  
**Phone:** (236) 478-0210 **Cell:** (250) 896-1928

## RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>, Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>, McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
Cc: Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>, Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>, Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>, Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 17, 2021 12:16:16 PM PST

Yes, Jen's is great – thank you.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 12:14 PM  
**To:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Madeline just approved the one from Jen (attached for reference). We will send out shortly. Thanks very much everyone!

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 12:10 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Good morning:

Can we say “many areas of the Province, we”?

Take care,  
**Beverly Duthie** | Public Alerting  
Ph: 778-974-3730 | e: [Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 12:06 PM  
**To:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Alisha,

How about:

**Subject Line:**  
Alert Ready test CANCELLED today

**Content:**  
EMBC ALL,

Please be advised the broadcast intrusive Alert Ready test previously scheduled for 13:55 (1:55 PM) today has been cancelled. Given the quickly evolving emergency situation in many areas of the, the Province does not want to add stress and confusion for the public.

At this time, the test has not been rescheduled.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <[Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 11:59 AM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <[Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca)>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <[Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca)>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <[Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca)>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <[Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca)>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Hi everyone,

Where did we land on this? What do Gemma and I need to send out from Madeline's email to EMBC ALL?

My apologies for the delay; it's been all-out this morning.

Thanks,  
Alisha

---

**From:** Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 9:56 AM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <[Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Cc:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>; EMBC PDM EMBC:EX s.17 ; EMBC PECC Online Communications 1 EMBC:EX <[pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca)>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <[Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca)>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <[Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca)>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <[Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca)>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <[Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca)>  
**Subject:** Re: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

I think this message works. We need to keep it simple.

Beverly Duthie, Public Alerting  
Emergency Management BC  
Sent from my iPhone

On Nov 17, 2021, at 9:53 AM, McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <[Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca)> wrote:

Do you have messaging for us to work from? An NR we can draw from? Wasn't part of the discussion, so not sure about KMs for an internal audience.

Otherwise, it's just basically sharing a very short statement.

<image002.jpg>

**Jennifer McLarty**

A/ Director Engagement, Education & Digital Services  
Emergency Management BC  
Cell: 250 217-0950

Follow PreparedBC  
<image006.jpg>  
<image007.jpg>

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:56 AM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Online Communications 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>; Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>; Bosworth, Gemma EMBC:EX <Gemma.Bosworth@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Jen,

Would your team have capacity to draft a simple message for EMBC ALL announcing the cancelation of the test and then forward to Alisha & Gemma to be sent out from Madeline's email?

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:53 AM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Online Communications 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Jordan?

We'll draft something and get set to send.

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:51 AM  
**To:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>; Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca>  
**Cc:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <s.17>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca>; EMBC PECC Online Communications 1 EMBC:EX <pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Agreed.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** McLarty, Jennifer EMBC:EX <Jennifer.McLarty@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 8:49 AM



**To:** Turner, Jordan GCPE:EX <[Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Jordan.Turner@gov.bc.ca)>; Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <[Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca)>

**Cc:** EMBC PDM EMBC:EX <[REDACTED]>; Duthie, Beverly EMBC:EX <[Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Beverly.Duthie@gov.bc.ca)>; EMBC PECC Online Communications 1 EMBC:EX <[pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca](mailto:pecc.oncom1@gov.bc.ca)>; Turcot, Ryan EMBC:EX <[Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Ryan.Turcot@gov.bc.ca)>; Swan, Vicki EMBC:EX <[Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Vicki.Swan@gov.bc.ca)>

**Subject:** Alert Ready Test: Cancellation Tweet/Post

Good morning.

Assuming we're good share the AlertReady test cancellation? Not sure if this has already gone out via BCGovNews?

It's already out on @AlertReady. Recommend we also share on EmergencyInfoBC.

<image008.jpg>

Thanks,  
Jen

**Jennifer McLarty**

A/ Director Engagement, Education & Digital Services

Emergency Management BC

Cell: 250 217-0950

*Follow PreparedBC*

<image006.jpg>

<image007.jpg>

## RE: FOR ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey

---

From: Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX  
To: Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
Sent: November 17, 2021 5:11:35 PM PST  
Attachments: RE: ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey / Enquête d'alerte publique du CCOGU  
Sorry, just hit reply all when I sent it Monday morning.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 17, 2021 5:10 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey

I hate to bug you when you're busy saving the world, but wanted to flag this before we run out of time. Madeline needs to review it, and it's due to CCEMO on Nov 22.

---

**From:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 6:34 PM  
**To:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** RE: FOR ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey

Yes, I had Sonia do an initial draft that I will now edit/finalize. You should have it for start of day Monday.

Thanks.

**Brendan Ralfs** | Director, Operations  
Emergency Management BC  
Ph: 250-419-8598 Cell: 778-676-2061  
24 Hour Emergency: 1-800-663-3456

---

**From:** Nichols, Alisha EMBC:EX <Alisha.Nichols@gov.bc.ca>  
**Sent:** November 10, 2021 3:07 PM  
**To:** Ralfs, Brendan R EMBC:EX <Brendan.Ralfs@gov.bc.ca>  
**Subject:** FOR ACTION: CCEMO Public Alerting Survey

Hi Brendan,

Would you be able to take a run at filling out the attached survey from CCEMO please?

If you can get it back to me by Nov 17 for Madeline to review, I would really appreciate it.

Thanks,  
Alisha