

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND SOLICITOR GENERAL
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC
BRIEFING NOTE FOR INFORMATION**

TO: Honourable Mike Farnworth, Minister, Public Safety and Solicitor General and Deputy Premier

ISSUE: Structures Threatened by Watercourses Following the November 2021 Atmospheric River

BACKGROUND:

- Following flood events, structures including houses are occasionally threatened by watercourses due to increased erosion activity because of high water flows in rivers and creeks. In some instances, the structures must be moved or demolished prior to being impacted by or falling into watercourses and may have public safety, environmental, public infrastructure (bridges & roads) and even health (drinking water) implications.
- Management of structures threatened by watercourses is guided by *The Structures Threatened by Watercourses Guidelines* dated October 20, 2014 (Attachment A).
- Following the November 2021 Atmospheric River, EMBC and Ministry of Environment, in support of impacted First Nations and Local Governments, undertook assessments and prioritization ranking of the impacted structures (Urgent, High, Medium, and Low). During this review various options are considered including no intervention, bank protective works, move structure, neutralize structure/threat, and dismantle structure. In the most urgent cases identified in the TNRD (9 structures), moving the structure was the recommended option.
- A written notice of the recommendation was provided to the First Nation or Local Government to support a collaborate solution.
- The next steps in the process are for the First Nation or Local Government, supported by Provincial Ministries, to work with the homeowner to ensure they aware of the risk/recommendation and work on a case-by-case basis to support individual requirements including:
 - Insured: insurance coverage support and ensure understanding of any Provincial permits required.
 - Uninsured: ensure application is made to Disaster Financial Assistance.
 - Demolition or relocation of residence may be supported, if DFA eligibility conditions are met.
 - Homeowner-funded mitigation works.

- Within the EMBC Central Region the following recommendations have been made:
 - Regional District of Okanagan Shuswap – 3 structures
 - 2 homes recommended to be moved
 - 1 home recommended for demolition
 - Cooks Ferry First Nation - 1 structure
 - 1 home recommended to be moved
 - Nooaitch Indian Band - 4 structures
 - 3 homes recommended to be moved
 - 1 anticipated demolition
 - Shackan Indian Band - 1 structure
 - 1 barn at risk; recommended to move or protect
 - TNRD - 10 structures
 - 5 homes recommendation to be moved
 - 4 homes recommendation to check homes due to proximity to bank
 - 1 barn recommendation to remove or protect barn (e.g., rip rap)

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES CONSIDERATIONS:

- There are a number of First Nations structures that have been impacted, primarily along the Nicola/Coldwater River. EMBC will liaise with Indigenous Services Canada to support relocation or other options identified.

OTHER MINISTRIES IMPACTED/CONSULTED:

- Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

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DM		
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Attachment:

Attachment A: Structures Threatened by Watercourses Provincial Support Guidelines

STRUCTURES THREATENED BY **WATERCOURSES** **PROVINCIAL SUPPORT GUIDELINES**

Version 1
October 20, 2014

Multi-Ministry Agreement Statement

These guidelines have been contributed to and reviewed by the Flood Issues Management Group (Flood IMG) members of the Inter-Agency Emergency Preparedness Council (IEPC). The members of the Flood IMG have reviewed and agreed to the procedures and practices described in the guidelines.

These guidelines will be implemented and activated in any situation where a structure is assessed to be at risk of being impacted by any watercourse in the province as part of common emergency management activity in the province.

The use and application of this guideline is not restricted to any particular activity level in the emergency management structure (site, site support, regional support and provincial coordination) and will be referred to at all times by all provincial ministries involved in the emergency response activities in support of the local authority that is leading the emergency response in their jurisdiction.

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Background

In many areas across the province structures including houses, are occasionally threatened by watercourses due to increased erosion activity during occurrences of high water flow rates in rivers and creeks. In some instances the structures have been moved or demolished prior to being impacted by, or having fallen into the watercourse. These incidents typically have public safety, environmental, public infrastructure (bridges & roads) and even health (drinking water) implications. In the past local authority and provincial ministry engagements have been inconsistent, and at times, determining the most effective and appropriate response has been challenging. With the common goal being to prevent the structure from entering the watercourse, responders have been challenged by a lack of clarity with respect to the appropriate response procedures, authorities, and roles & responsibilities; including the legislated mandates or obligations of any particular provincial ministry to respond.

Purpose

This purpose of these guidelines is to outline the Province's expectations for prevention, preparation, response and recovery activities in circumstances where structures are threatened by watercourses. The guidelines are intended to provide increased transparency with respect to the respective mandates of the typical responders to the situation; local authorities, provincial government and homeowners. These guidelines are going to be utilised by provincial ministries to support decision making and shared with local authorities to inform them of province's approach. They outline:

- the agency/ministry responsibility for supporting the local authority and coordinating the provincial response;
- what information should be considered to inform decision making and actions; and,
- which response options and procedures are determined to be most appropriate.

Note:

1. It is recognised the impacts of existing land use planning can be a significant contributor to structures threatened by watercourses situation; however it is beyond the scope of these guidelines to address any land use planning issues.
2. These guidelines are also not intended as guidance for general large scale flooding response they are specific to the situation described.
3. These guidelines follow the BCERMS response structure and align with the BC Flood Response Plan.

Audience

These guidelines are intended to provide support and guidance to responding provincial ministries, local authorities and structure owners when considering and planning response actions to structures that may be threatened or being impacted by watercourses.

Roles and Responsibilities

Homeowners: It is the responsibility of homeowners to take any and all reasonable actions in order to mitigate known risks to their property and belongings. Property owners are expected to perform due diligence when purchasing property by verifying appropriate zoning and permitting approvals, and adhering to relevant bylaws put in place by the local authority. In all emergency situations, including structures threatened by watercourses scenarios, homeowners are expected to work closely with their local authority and take all reasonable measures to protect their personal safety and belongings.

Local Authorities: Under the *BC Emergency Program Act* all emergency incident or event activity requirements occurring within their jurisdiction are to be directed and controlled at the site by the local authority. However, as local authorities become overwhelmed, provincial plans and resources will be used to provide escalating support to the local authority.

- The local authority is responsible for consulting and liaising with residents, securing appropriate engineering studies, conducting detailed design, and obtaining permits and approvals. Local authorities have the responsibility for floodplain management activities and land use planning within their jurisdictions. Local authorities are also responsible for activities of emergency management including mitigation, preparation, response and recovery.
- The *Emergency Program Act* (EPA) requires local authorities (municipalities and regional districts) to establish an emergency management organization, to develop emergency plans (addressing preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies) and to implement that plan when it is deemed required. The activities contained in a local authority's emergency plan and the decisions to activate the plan are at the local authority's discretion.
- The *BC Flood Response Plan* presumes that local authorities will initiate actions that will undertake primary threat assessments (with the assistance of subject matter experts/contractors if necessary), will activate emergency plans, and will assume site command for all response activities within their jurisdictions.

Other Authorities: in a scenario that is being addressed by these guidelines there may be other authorities that would become involved as required; for example:

- Drinking water purveyor;
- Parks - provincial or federal; and
- Commercial enterprises from the private sector.

Provincial Ministries: The *Emergency Program Management Regulation* details the responsibilities of the provincial government (ministries and crown corporations) for emergency management and describes the requirement for the provincial government to provide support to the local authorities if overwhelmed in responding to, and recovering from, an emergency. The resources and expertise available from some of the provincial ministries is summarized below:

- **Ministry of Forest Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) (Water Stewardship):** Primary role is to provide technical specialist and professional expertise in hydrology. This includes: providing forecasts of expected changes in river levels, extent of erosion, assessment of potential actions and outcomes of each with respect to at risk building(s), providing engineering or hydro technical assessment of the conditions at the site, anticipated progression of flood or erosion threats to buildings on site and possible actions which may be taken with respect to the individual structures at risk. Related activities may include assistance in assessing potential consequences of the structure in question ending up in the watercourse.
- **Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI):** Primary role is the protection of provincial public transportation infrastructure. This includes: staging of staff and equipment, provide subject matter experts, performing mitigative works, and acting as incident command at site when addressing the protection of provincial transportation infrastructure in their provincial right of way jurisdictions.
- **Ministry of Environment (MOE):** Primary role is the protection of the environment and public health safety. This can include: assessing the threat of pollution to the environment and public safety (when a threat of pollution is identified or brought to MOE attention), provision of Environmental Emergency Response Officer (EERO) inspection reports, issuing orders to comply with legislation, and spill site activities (incident or unified command) to address environmental emergencies.
- **Ministry of Health (MOH) (Regional Health Authorities):** Primary role is the protection of public health through drinking water assessment. This includes: acting to prevent threats to public drinking water from pollution entering or contaminating rivers or drinking water sources, issue orders to comply with legislation to correct the threat and/or cause corrective action to be taken at the water purveyor's (owner's) expense.
- **Ministry of Justice (JAG) (Emergency Management BC - EMBC):** Primary role is to lead the collaboration and coordination amongst all provincial ministries in the provision of support to the local authority to assure public safety. This includes: hosting coordination calls with stakeholders, collecting situational information, engaging subject matter experts and ministry contacts, and assisting in the determination of the risk to public safety. Support response actions to emergencies that can include: expenditure approval for consultative reports, hosting coordination calls, reviewing expense authorisation requests (EAF's), locating and/or providing extraordinary resources, providing for Emergency Social Services and related supports including storage of people's chattels.

Procedures

This section outlines a recommended sequence of actions to be followed when the threat of a structure being overtaken by a watercourse has been identified. This includes determination of the extent of the threat, predicted impact assessment, identification of provincial ministry support to local authority and a decision making process for determining the most appropriate action. The table below outlines a recommended sequence of actions from pre-event (where possible) to completion of any chosen response action.

i. Pre-Event	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Local Authorities develop inventory of structures at known risk○ Homeowners understand responsibility for monitoring and mitigating○ Provincial government provides as much information as is available to assist in the mitigation of any hazards
ii. Threat Alerting and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Urgency based on predictive indicators (weather etc.)○ Reports of threat to structures from homeowner or local authority○ Physical indicators (river flow gauges, weather forecasts)○ Multi agency site team assessment
iii. Responsibility Determination	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Site situation information and impact assessment○ Ministry roles and involvement determination
iv. Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Incident specific considerations○ Response option selection○ Associated actions
v. Follow-Up	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Site cleanup, including bank cleanup downstream;○ Local authority – covenant on land/rezoning;○ Consideration of Disaster Financial Assistance; and,○ Emergency Social Services extension– as/when needed.

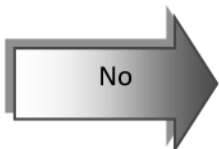

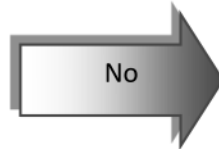

i. Pre - Event Activities

This section provides greater detail on activities that could be conducted by homeowners, local authorities and provincial ministries before an event becomes imminent and when mitigation measures may still be possible.

- **Homeowners** – that have become aware that their homes and other buildings may be threatened due to changes in any water course conditions (erosion, high stream flows, flooding) should contact the local authority and jointly work to determine what information needs to be collected (engineering reports, hydrological assessments, etc.) and what measures might be taken to mitigate potential impacts.
- **Local Authorities** – are often aware of “at risk” areas of their jurisdiction long before an incident even occurs. It is the expectation of the province that they maintain an inventory of these areas and:
 - establish appropriate emergency plans to respond;
 - work with owners to monitor and mitigate potential emergency situations where possible;
 - maintain a safe evacuation plan and communications strategy; and,
 - share this information with regional EMBC staff in order to help inform advance planning.
- **Ministries** – will continue to encourage local authorities and homeowners to take preventative action on areas that are known to be at any risk.
 - EMBC will continue to conduct seasonal readiness sessions and discussions with local authorities and all other emergency management stakeholders. These sessions will reinforce the need for local authorities, and homeowners, to be proactive in planning for and addressing structures potentially threatened by watercourse behaviours.
- **Provincially Directed Actions/Orders:** Advance notice of a structure presenting a threat of a hazard to health, public safety, environment or public transportation infrastructure may come to the attention of officers of EMBC, MOH/RHA, MOE or MOTI. In these circumstances, these officers may be obliged to make and issue orders to the local authority or homeowner to take remedial action. If not attended to, the province may perform the required action and bill the local authority or homeowner if not addressed.

ii. Threat Alerting and Assessment

The steps to be taken when a threat of a watercourse to a structure has been identified and an assessment of the risk is to be completed are described below. Reports of a structure threatened by a watercourse can be received from a number of sources. These include: the homeowner, local authority, local media sources, and regional ministry staff from EMBC, FLNRO, MOE, or MOTI. This section should assist local authorities and provincial government responders to define the extent of the emergency and what action may be needed.

THREAT ASSESSMENT		ACTION
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Do indicators (unstable bank/undercutting) suggest that the structure will be threatened by the watercourse in the near future? Does it appear that bank erosion will continue until impacting on structure? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No response needed Suggest local authority add to inventory of potentially at risk structures Communications message – no response needed
		
<p>Does the threat of an emergency appear imminent?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rapid engineering assessment indicates imminent threat? Indicators suggest (water rising, high rate of erosion, watercourse approaching structure) that the structure may be swept into watercourse within the near future? 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No immediate response Continue to monitor in connection with local authority Communications message – no immediate action needed but caution added to the site
		
<p>Potential for Multi-Agency site analysis team to be deployed to assist in assessment of site and prepare Site Situation Report which includes the potential consequences of the structure actually being impacted by the watercourse and assists in determining any actions needed.</p>		

Site Situation Assessment

Regardless of the source if the determination is made (see table above) that there is a potential threat, the Site Situation Assessment (tables following) can be utilized to identify the required stakeholders and then in conjunction with relevant ministry policies and checklists better determine the nature of the threat. The table below outlines the type of impact that would likely occur should the structure actually fall into the watercourse and relates these impacts to a provincial ministry role/mandate.

SITE SITUATION ASSESSMENT

CONSIDERATIONS	TYPE OF IMPACT	MINISTRY ROLE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dams, dikes, past mitigation work upstream or downstream? 	Downstream Impact	FLNRO Water Stewardship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stream flow trends and predictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would material in the house or property (septic, oil, insulation, asbestos, paint, etc) present a risk to the environment? 	Public Health and Environmental Impact	MOE + RHA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Pollution (MOE - EERO) Medical Health Officer
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will house debris/contents need to be cleaned off of river banks? What is the severity of the potential pollution? Would impacts alter the usefulness of the environment? 	Cleanup of debris in and around watercourse	MOE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental Pollution (MOE - EERO)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there public transportation infrastructure (bridges/roads) downstream that may be damaged by debris? 	Public Transportation Infrastructure Impact	MoTI
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would building material floating downstream present a public safety risk (boaters, swimmers, etc) downstream? 	Public Safety Impact	Local Authority And EMBC
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would building material floating downstream present a Public Health risk (physically or chemically - drinking water inlet downstream?) 	Public Health (Drinking Water) Impact	Regional Health Authority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medical Health Officer

ADDITIONAL IMPACT INFORMATION

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of structures at risk Type of structure (vacant, primary residence, seasonal residence, commercial) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the number and size of houses at risk Empty garage, barn, outbuilding vs. home with oil tanks, septic etc.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Watercourse behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Short term high-water/erosion event or longer term, significant river movement? Is river flow/volume projected to rise, continue, or decrease?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Values at risk downstream (fishing lodge, swimming holes, riverside business, critical infrastructure, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Asses the value at risk
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeframe 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How imminent is the structure to falling in the watercourse?

SITE HISTORY INFORMATION

- Has Disaster Financial Assistance (EMBC) been received in the past? If so, how many times?
- Has the property received the appropriate building permit (local authority)?
- Has mitigation work been conducted or attempted by homeowner or local authority in the past?

iii. Responsibility Determination

If no clear provincial ministry or agency lead can be identified from the site situation assessment, and/or the local authority is unsure of next steps, overwhelmed, and/or not engaged, then appropriate ministries and agencies should be directed to build a **Multi- agency site team** (consisting of regional subject matter experts from the Regional Health Authority, FLNRO, MOE, and MOTI) that are deployed to work with the local authority to further assess the threat type, potential impacts and courses of action to be taken.

The information below will be considered by the Multi-agency site team to aid in the identification of the provincial ministry whose mandate is most related to the threat of the structure falling into the watercourse, and upon whose legislation action may have to be taken. Other ministries with associated or supportive mandates and expertise will assist as appropriate.

RESPONSIBILITY ASSESSMENT

TYPE OF IMPACT	CONSIDERATIONS	LEGISLATIVE TRIGGER	MINISTRY	POTENTIAL ACTIONS
Downstream Impact	Dams, dikes, past mitigative work upstream or downstream?	<i>Emergency Program Management Regulation - Schedule. 1</i>	FLNRO - Water Stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide stream flow trends and predictions at the site and for the broader area
Environmental Impact	<p>Would material in the structure or property (septic, oil, asbestos, insulation, paint, etc) present a risk to the environment, or need to be cleaned off river banks?</p> <p>What is the severity of the potential pollution? (Would impacts alter the usefulness of the environment?)</p>	<i>Environmental Management Act</i> S.80	MOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If a spill has occurred that may pose a hazard to health or the environment, or that there is an imminent threat of a spill that may pose such a hazard, and action is necessary to address the hazard or threat, the government may carry out actions to assess, monitor, prevent, stabilize, contain, remove, clean up, evacuate person from the area of or otherwise address the perceived hazard or threat.
Public Transportation Infrastructure Impact	Is there provincial infrastructure (bridges/roads) downstream that may be damaged?	<i>Transportation Act</i> S. 8 S. 16 - 23	MoTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministry may, do one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide, remove or repair access from the land to a provincial public undertaking and, for that purpose, take possession of, use or move anything on the land. may require remedial action to protect a provincial public undertaking
Public Safety Impact	<p>Hazards to person or property</p> <p>Would building material floating downstream present a public safety risk (boaters, swimmers, etc) downstream?</p>	<i>Emergency Program Act</i> S. 7, 8	EMBC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The minister or a person designated in a provincial emergency plan may, whether or not a state of emergency has been declared, cause a provincial emergency plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the minister or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens. A local authority or a person designated in the local authority's local emergency plan may, whether or not a state of local emergency has been declared, cause the plan to be implemented if, in the opinion of the local authority or the designated person, an emergency exists or appears imminent or a disaster has occurred or threatens
Public Health Impact	Would building material floating downstream present a Public Health risk (physically or chemically - drinking water inlet downstream?)	<i>Public Health Act</i> S.31- 32 <i>Drinking Water Protection Act</i> S. 23-26	Regional Health Authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A health officer may order a person to do anything that the health officer reasonably believes is necessary for any of the following purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to determine whether a health hazard exists; to prevent or stop a health hazard, or mitigate the harm or prevent further harm from a health hazard A health officer may issue an order to the owner or occupier of a place where a health hazard is located

iv. Actions

The Multi agency site team will work with the local authority to complete a single integrated site assessment that includes recommendations on applicable response actions. This will be informed by the options and considerations outlined in the tables following and will be provided to the regional emergency management structure for action (likely the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) or local authorities emergency operations centre (EOC), if activated).

Ultimately the Central Coordination Group (CCG) will have final decision on provincial ministry assigned to lead the situation on behalf of the province.

GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALL RESPONSE OPTIONS

The following considerations should be applied to all options below:

- **Site history** (past river bank preventative works, previous events, previous Disaster Financial Assistance received, building permit, etc);
- **Engineering report/river forecasting analysis** on the rate of erosion, potential river bank preventative works effectiveness, downstream impacts and potential upstream causes;
- **Time available** for safe response activity;
- **Capacity** for response – for Local Authority and Provincial ministries (staff, equipment, materials, etc);
- **Size and type of structure and contents** (empty garage vs. home with oil tanks, septic etc.);
- **Risk, Cost/Benefit, Impact vs. other options;**
- **Cleanup expenses** – if structure was to enter watercourse;
- **Legislative triggers & enablers;**
- **Determination of funding mechanism;** and,
- **Homeowner and Local Authority agreement to accept recommended action.**

Response Options and Considerations:

For all response options, whenever possible and following the emergency management structure, the local authority will implement (or contract) the response action and related activities with provincial ministries and agencies in support. If the local authority is unable (or unwilling) to respond and a provincial legislated mandate(s) has been triggered, the lead provincial ministry (as identified earlier) may direct the required response action with technical support from other ministries as required. There are option specific activities that must be conducted by the local authority however, and these are identified below.

RESPONSE OPTIONS	OPTION SPECIFIC CONSIDERATIONS	RESPONSE ACTION & ACTIVITIES
Option 1 <u>No INTERVENTION</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General considerations listed Ministry mandates may not be applicable Impact level too low – and danger of engaging in any response is too high Insufficient time available for response Potential liability if downstream impacts result in personal injury or death 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure structure and area, consider evacuation order (if needed) Monitor in connection provincial agencies Communicate warnings downstream If structure enters watercourse, conduct cleanup of debris
Option 2 <u>IMMEDIATE RIVER BANK PREVENTATIVE WORKS</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General considerations listed Potential for environmental damage, and legislative requirements Existing provincial policy (re: gabions, rip/wrap, in-stream works) can apply Implementation agreement (who will implement works, costs, etc) Maintenance agreement (homeowner or Local Authority to maintain) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement In Stream Preventative Works Local Authority Specific Activity: Implementation/ongoing maintenance agreement (implementation of works, maintenance costs, etc)
Option 3 <u>MOVE STRUCTURE</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General considerations listed Alternate safe, long-term location available (on property supplied by owner) Homeowner and Local Authority agreement to movement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Move Structure to a secure location Local Authority Specific Activity: Detailed Recovery Plan Rezoning/covenant on land to prevent future development or occupation
Option 4 <u>NEUTRALIZE STRUCTURE/THREAT</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General considerations listed Other options not viable due to: equipment access issues, time available for response, prediction that erosion may not be long term, ability to safely engage in other response options (river undercutting a portion of the structure, etc) Can be used in combination with in stream bank preventative works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep structure intact and disconnect utilities, pump septic, remove personal property (if possible), secure structure and surrounding area Agreement & implementation with homeowners (and/or) contractor
Option 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General considerations listed Can be used in combination with river bank preventative works 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Disconnect utilities, pump septic, remove personal property (if possible), secure structure and

<u>DISMANTLE STRUCTURE</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other options are not viable due to considerations above including: Risk, Cost/Benefit, response options impact, prediction that erosion will be long term, etc) 	<p>surrounding area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demolish and remove structure from area Organisation of dismantling of the structure and tipping costs
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GENERAL LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSE ROLES

The following general local authority response roles will apply to most response options:

- Communication to homeowner
- Provision of staff and equipment (if possible)
- Acting as site incident command (if possible)
- Executing response option (if possible)
- Declaration of a state of local emergency (if needed) and associated powers (evacuation orders, etc)
- Contact EMBC for issuance of task number
- Activation of EOC for resource support and advanced planning

RCMP/Police/Conservation Officers Services – may be required for tactical evacuations and security services.

Recommendations for Response

Based on the options and considerations above, the lead provincial agency on the Multi agency site team will work with the team and local authority to determine recommendations for response to be provided to the PREOC or EOC. Whenever possible the local authority will implement (or contract) the response action and related activities. Other ministries with applicable mandates and expertise will be identified to assist as appropriate. These recommendations will include the following:

- recommended response activity;
- legislation upon which the response is based;
- local authority role (if engaged) within their Emergency Response Plan;
- financial mechanism - in all cases the financial mechanism will be linked to the legislation upon which the response action is based; and,
- suggested communications messaging.

If ***no provincial responsibility is identified***, there may still be provincial support required to the local authority in planning and actioning response activities, and in key public communication messaging.

Communications Messaging

All communications and public messaging to include the following:

- Summary of situation
- Commitment to public safety/health/environment and support to those impacted
- Agencies involved and roles
- Govt policy/position (high level)
- Specific action to be engaged and why
- Expectations of local authorities and homeowner in houses in watercourses situations

v. Follow Up

Once the response actions are completed there will be follow-up actions required. These may include:

- Site cleanup, including bank cleanup downstream;
- Local authority – covenant on land/rezoning;
- Consideration of Disaster Financial Assistance; and,
- Emergency Social Services extensions – as/when needed.

Appendix A - Related Legislation

Ministry	Related Legislation
EMBC/JAG	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Emergency Program Act</i>• <i>Emergency Program Management Regulation</i>• <i>Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation</i>• <i>Compensation and Disaster Financial Assistance Regulation</i>
MOE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Environmental Management Act (Section 80)</i>• <i>Environmental Assessment Impact Regulation</i>
MOH	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Public Health Act</i>• <i>Drinking Water Protection Act & Regulations</i>
MOTI	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Transportation Act</i>
FLNRO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Water Act (Section 9)</i>• <i>Dike Maintenance Act</i>

Note: that is not an exhaustive listing of all potential legislation that stakeholders may need to refer to in the described scenario. This is exemplary of the more common statutes used.

Appendix B – Site Report and Recommendations Template

Structures Threatened by Watercourses

Site Situation Summary Report

Location Address (name of watercourse): _____ Date: _____

Description of Structure(s): _____

EMBC Rep Name: _____

Question	Yes	No
Has the local authority issued a state of local emergency?		
Is evacuation of the people and belongings required? Or has it occurred?		
Have people downstream from this location been advised of the situation?		

Local Authority Rep Name: _____

Question	Yes	No
Is there a need to implement the local emergency plan?		
Is there a need to issue a state of local emergency?		
Does the resident or property owner need to be evacuated or supported?		

MoE Rep Name: _____

Question	Yes	No
Is there a potential for a pollution release from this location?		
Is the amount of pollution significant?		
Are there any water licensees downstream of this location?		

MoTI Rep Name: _____

Question	Yes	No
Does this pose any threat to a provincial public transportation asset?		

MoH/RHA Rep Name: _____

Question (Name of drinking water supply/purveyor) _____	Yes	No
Does this situation pose any threat to public health?		
- Public health risk exposure environmentally?		
- Drinking water quality or assurance of quality?		

FLNRO Water Stewardship Rep Name: _____

Question	Yes	No
Is there a high likelihood of the watercourse actually impacting the structure?		
Are there any related issues with dams, dikes or past mitigative works upstream or downstream?		
	1 - 2wks	1 - 2 day
How soon is the impact likely to occur?	Now	Too Late

Structures Threatened by Watercourses Site Situation Summary Report

Other Considerations (completed by appropriate rep)

1. In terms of historical incidents at this location how does this incident relate? _____

2. Has there been a risk to cost analysis been completed? _____

3. Has DFA ever been issued for this location before? _____

If Yes, When? _____

4. Articulation of any other relevant factors to this situation: _____

Multi Agency Site Team Recommendation

Response Option	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Assigned Lead to the actions agreed to
Option 1 – No intervention		
Option 2 – Immediate River Bank Preventative Work		
Option 3 – Move Structure		
Option 4 – Neutralize Structure/Threat		
Option 5 – Dismantle Structure		

Additional Comments:
