

ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Len Hancock, Executive Director, Policy and Training

November 6, 2018



Emerging Trends in Emergency Management

SYNERGY CONFERENCE 2018

November 5 - 6, 2018

Alberta 

Presentation Objectives



Support an emergency management professional community of practice



Foster greater collaboration and networking



How the Emergency Management Strategy for Canada strives for a resilient future

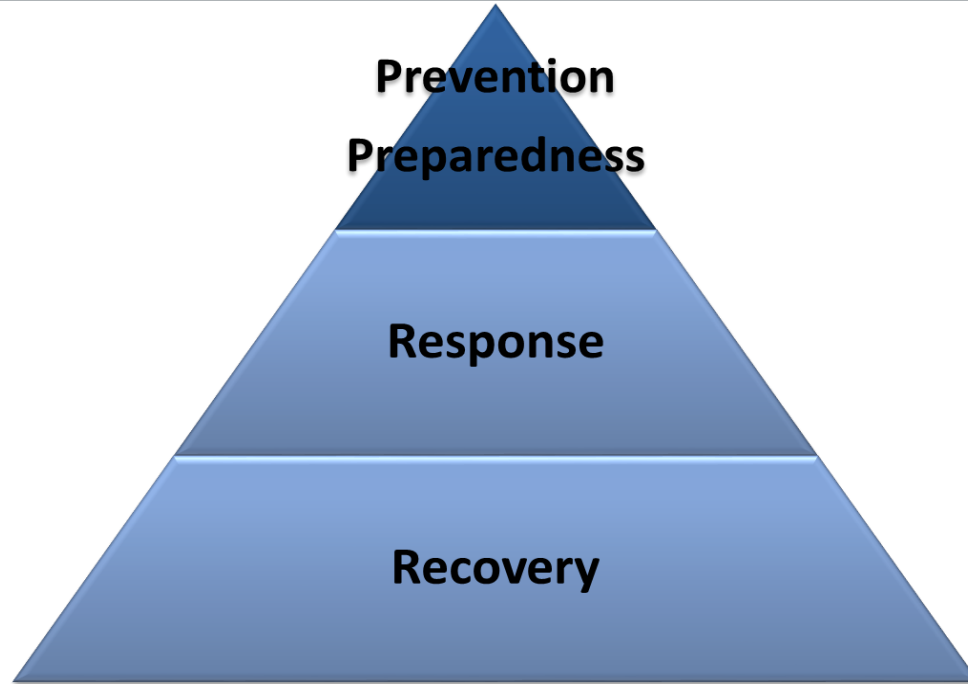


Leverage the Three C's

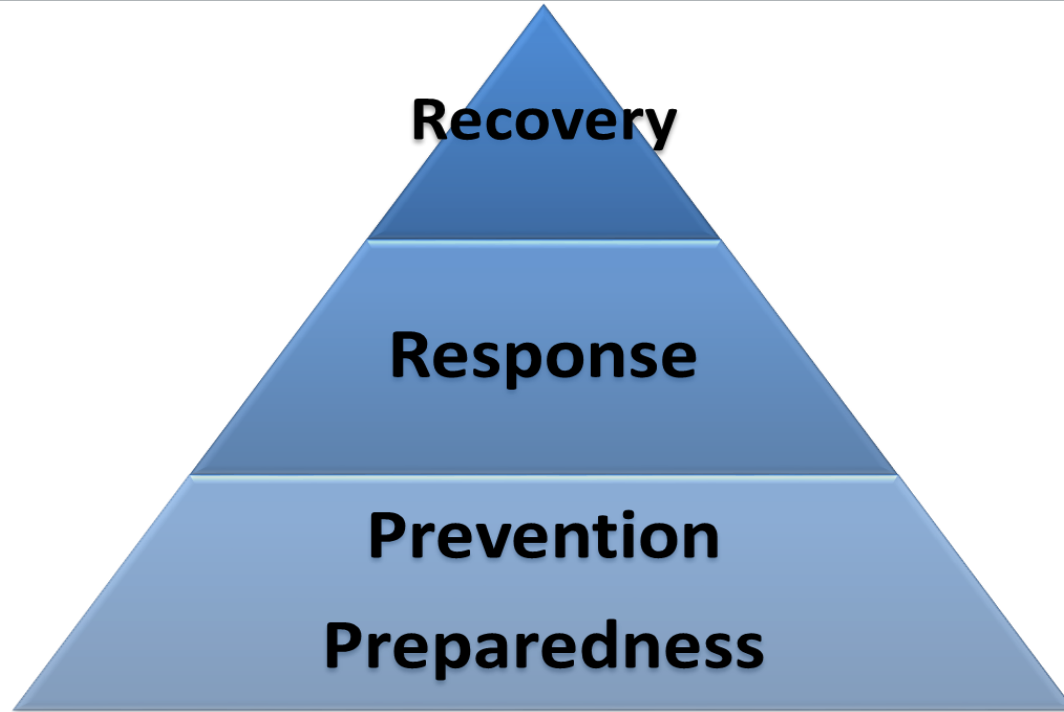


Proposed amendments to the *Emergency Management Act*

Emergency Management CURRENT Focus



Emergency Management DESIRED Focus



National Emergency Management Strategy

- The Emergency Management Strategy for Canada follows the approval of the Emergency Management Framework by Federal/Provincial/Territorial Ministers Responsible for Emergency Management in May 2017.
- The Strategy is intended to build on domestic and international initiatives, including:
 - the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction;
 - the Pan-Canadian Framework for Clean Growth and Climate Change; and
 - the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

Why we need a National EM Strategy

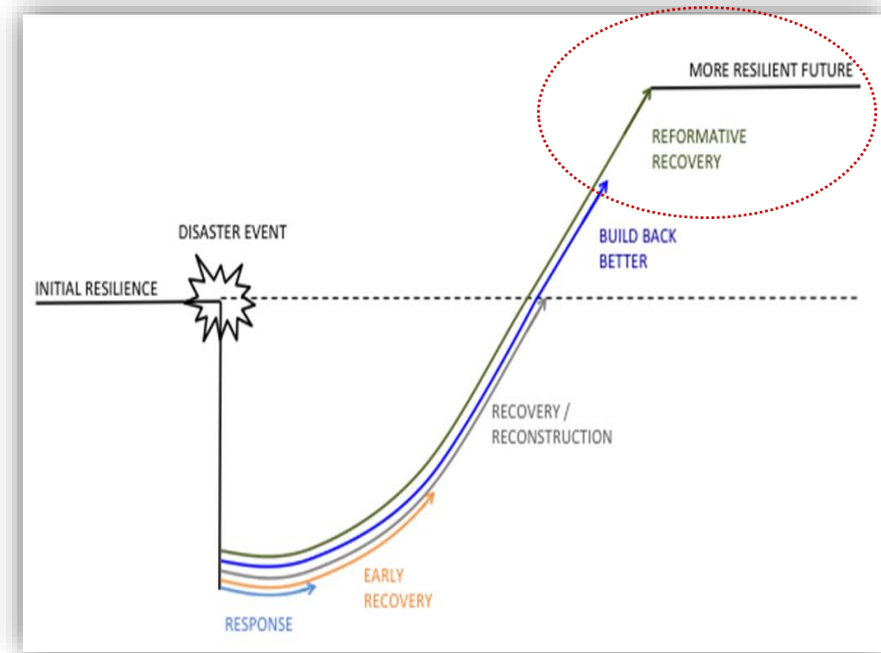
- A whole-of-society approach seeks to recognize and mobilize the contributions of all sectors of society;
- Strengthen Canada's ability to assess risks; and
- Prevent/mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

National Emergency Management Strategy

- The EMS establishes priorities areas to strengthen the resilience of Canadian society by 2030.
- Priority Areas:
 - Enhance whole-of-society collaboration and governance to strengthen resilience;
 - Improve understanding of disaster risks in all sectors of society;
 - Increase focus on whole-of-society disaster prevention and mitigation activities;
 - Enhance disaster response capacity and coordination and foster the development of new capabilities; and
 - Strengthen recovery efforts by building back better to minimize the impacts of future disasters.

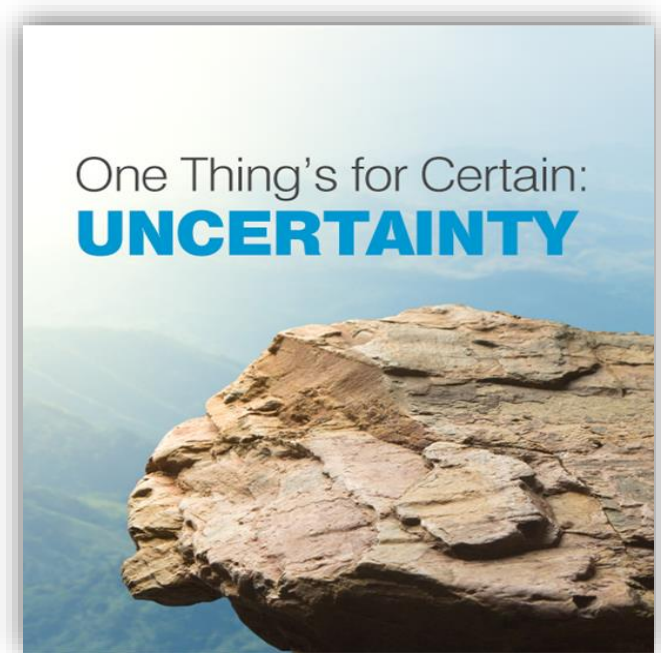
What is Resilience ?

- Capacity of a system, community, or society to adapt to disturbances resulting from hazards or changing environmental factors by persevering, recuperating, or changing.
- The ability to recover from, and bounce forwards following, short-term shocks and long-term stresses.



Why is Resilience important ?

- We are increasingly designing our world to CREATE disruption and change, not to avoid it.
- Climate change contributes to the unpredictability of future hazards.
- Our “systems” are increasingly complex and interconnected, and therefore more vulnerable to change.



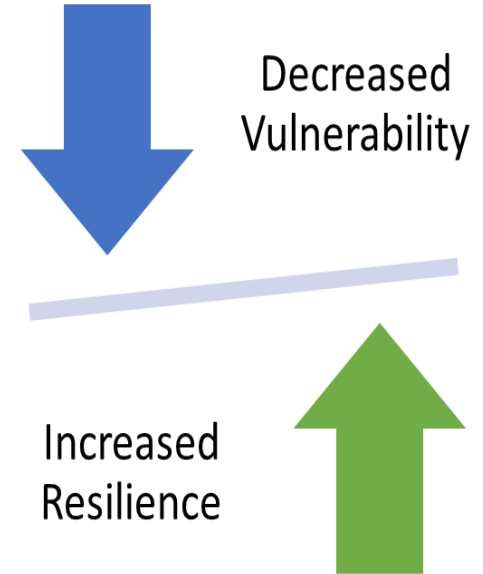
Small changes can cause...

...Huge Impacts



Why pursue Resilience ?

- Supporting capacity minimizes vulnerability;
- Resilience is built with an ongoing, preventative focus, and is not specific to events and hazards; and
- Empowering citizens, responders, organizations and communities to share the responsibility to keep hazards from becoming disasters.



What is a Resilient Community ?

- Resilient communities:
 - Plan, prepare for and understand hazards;
 - Have and promote strong social networks;
 - Are self-sufficient;
 - Ensure equitable access for all community members, including vulnerable and marginalized populations (e.g., Indigenous communities, LGBTQ2S+, women, children etc.); and
 - Capitalize on opportunities to improve following disaster.



Where are we going ?



PIONEERED BY THE
ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

100



CITIES



Emergency Management Strategy for
Canada: Toward a Resilient 2030

Current Emergency Management Framework

- Emergency Management: The organization and management of resources and responsibilities for dealing with emergencies.
 - Includes prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.
- The *Emergency Management Act* provides the legislative framework for local and provincial management of emergencies and disasters.
 - Establishes two regulations:
 - Disaster Recovery Regulation
 - Provides regulatory authority for the administration of disaster financial assistance for uninsurable losses caused by disasters through a discretionary grant program.
 - Government Emergency Management Regulation
 - Outlines roles and responsibilities of Government of Alberta departments for emergency management.

Drivers for Change

- Since 2011, Alberta has experienced a series of unprecedented disasters:
 - 2011 Slave Lake wildfires
 - 2013 southern Alberta floods
 - 2016 Wood Buffalo wildfires
- Post-incident assessments following these disasters and cross-jurisdictional scans have identified gaps in the emergency management framework.
 - Some identified gaps can only be corrected through legislative changes.
 - Clarification of evacuation order provisions; and
 - Lack of clear guidance to municipalities on how to fulfill already legislated responsibilities.

Proposed Changes

- The *Emergency Management Amendment Act* (Bill 8) will:
 - Clarify evacuation orders;
 - Establish authority to create the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR); and
 - Make several clarifying and technical amendments.

Engagement Process

- Sought feedback on Bill 8 and proposed LEMR
- In-person engagement held May – July 2018
 - 174 stakeholders from 92 municipalities and 5 organizations attended in person engagement sessions.
- Written engagement
 - 43 completed Discussion Guides were received from 32 municipalities and 4 organizations.

Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation

- LEMR will provide increased direction to municipalities on their emergency management roles and responsibilities.
- Topics include:
 - Emergency Advisory Committee Requirements
 - Emergency Management Agency Requirements
 - Regional Collaboration
 - Training Requirements
 - Emergency Management Plans
 - Emergency Management Exercises

LEMR Outcomes

- Expected Outcomes
 - Effective emergency management and response
 - Improved community resilience
 - Increased collaboration between communities

Next Steps

- Bill 8 is scheduled to be debated and voted on in the Fall 2018 sitting of the Legislature.
- The LEMR is currently being drafted and will be presented to Cabinet for consideration during the Fall sitting.

The Three C's

- **Communicate**
 - Engage all parties/entities involved in the preparation, response, and recovery process.
- **Collaborate**
 - Invest in building and maintaining cross-sector networks throughout the emergency management continuum.
 - Federal/Provincial/Territorial Partners; Internal and external stakeholders; Private sector; Academia; Faith-based Organizations etc.
 - Focus on setting the conditions for successful collaboration under significant stress.
- **Community**
 - Emergency Management is a people business.
 - Leverage community assets, “lessons learned” from post-incident assessments, and best practices.

Questions?

