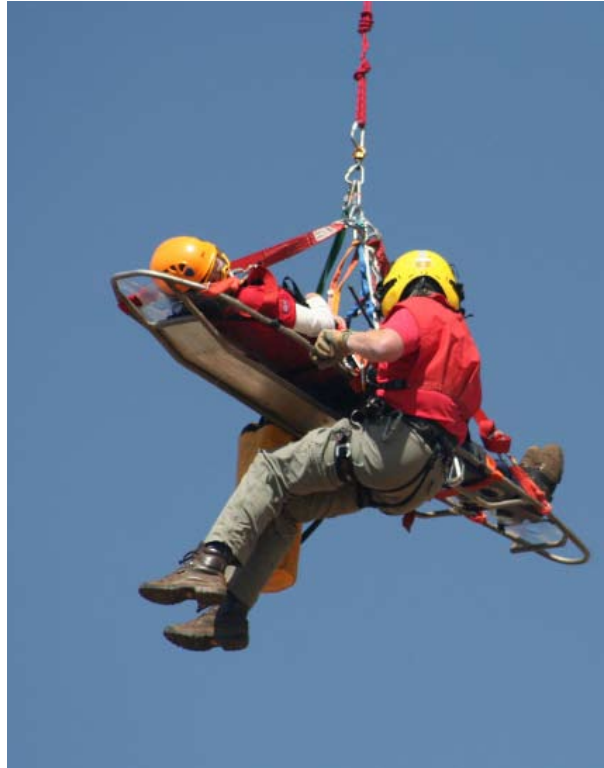


Thirty three specific actions are proposed to implement the recommendations. Selected actions from the project findings include:

- Ensure evacuation plans are developed for all communities within the OBAC region.
- Ensure livestock evacuation plans are developed.
- Develop pandemic response plans for communities.
- Establish an Emergency Social Services Mobile Support Team that is based in the North West area of the province.
- With the support of the province, conduct regional exercises to practice implementation of emergency plans.
- Continue to address hydrological issues related to Mountain Pine Beetle through watershed assessments and modified harvesting practices
- Encourage cooperation between all communities, government agencies and crown land users to address wildfire risks throughout the OBAC region.
- Determine the level of preparedness of individuals and families within the OBAC region and monitor over the long term.
- **Develop public information plans for all OBAC communities**

These actions and overall implementation of this strategy will require key and timely decisions and actions by the provincial and federal governments. OBAC communities look forward to working with key implementers to make the vision a reality.



Regional Emergency Management Project

July 2009



To obtain a copy of the Regional Emergency Management Project or for information on the Coalition please visit our web site at www.ominecacoalition.ca or contact us:

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What is OBAC?

The Omineca Beetle Action Coalition is developing long-term strategies that are designed to build economic and social resilience in the wake of the mountain pine beetle infestation.

OBAC is led by the region's Mayors and Regional District Chairs working to ensure sustainable development and resiliency for the region. Local government leaders joined forces in late 2005 with funding support from the Province of BC.

OBAC is a coalition of community leaders. We are building partnerships, knowledge, methods, strategies and a diversification plan that supports forestry and many other diverse opportunities in our region's future.

OBAC Benefits

Interior British Columbia has witnessed the largest mountain pine beetle outbreak in recorded history. This beetle epidemic is causing widespread mortality of lodgepole pine, the interior's most abundant commercial tree species. By working together, community leaders and communities gain:

- A stronger voice together;
- Capacity and enablement through pooled resources and knowledge;
- Improved economic and service synergies between communities and across the region;
- Capacity to build relationships with external organizations that can help.

What is the Regional Emergency Management Project?

Over the last several years there have been a number of changes which have impacted, and are expected to impact, emergency management activities throughout the world. Within the OBAC region, the mountain pine beetle infestation, climate change, and industrial traffic increases present the potential for elevated threats to communities. Communities have worked hard to prepare for and manage the current level of emergencies and disasters and plan for any subsequent changes as a result of these phenomena.

OBAC communities are generally well prepared for emergencies or disasters and have made best use of the existing resources available to them. However, inter-community and cross-regional collaboration between governments, practitioner organizations and professionals can assist in further developing and ensuring that all communities will be able to deal with potential increases in frequency and severity of emergencies and disasters. Ensuring a state of readiness to protect people and property against natural or human-caused emergencies and disasters is paramount and can support the region's overall diversification efforts.

The overall goal of the Regional Emergency Management Project is to suggest ways that OBAC communities can strengthen emergency management and personal preparedness in the region by using a collaborative approach that addresses both local and regional level emergencies and takes full advantage of available synergies and economies of scale.

Five recommendations have been developed to help achieve this goal.

1. Facilitate inter-community and regional planning and response where it will provide efficiencies and increase overall emergency preparedness.
2. Provide additional resources, policy direction, and information to local governments and First Nations where this is needed to improve their capacity and preparedness.
3. Improve training, recruitment, and retention of emergency staff and volunteers by creating synergies at the inter-community and regional levels.
4. Take steps to mitigate the impacts of future threats.
5. Develop local emergency preparedness awareness and education programs to ensure that OBAC residents are prepared for emergencies and disasters.

