

Exercise Coastal Response 2016 Southwestern British Columbia Full-scale Earthquake and Tsunami Response Exercise

The Exercise Scenario:

Exercise Coastal Response 2016 will be based on a magnitude 9.0 earthquake resulting from a rupture of the Cascadia Subduction Zone off the coast of southwestern B.C. In this exercise scenario, strong shaking lasting several minutes would occur in areas of Greater Vancouver, Greater Victoria and central Vancouver Island, causing some destruction in the major urban centres and widespread damage in the Port Alberni valley. The earthquake would also generate a tsunami on the west coast of Vancouver Island minutes after the initial shock.

Purpose:

A strong and effective provincial response to a catastrophic earthquake hinges on B.C.'s ability to coordinate with internal and external agencies at all levels.

The purpose of Exercise Coastal Response 2016 is for Emergency Management BC (EMBC) to bring together some key stakeholder groups – multiple levels of government, various jurisdictions in Canada and the U.S., and a number of provincial ministries, First Nations, Crown corporations and first responders – in a coordinated and integrated way to activate the B.C. Earthquake Immediate Response Plan (IRP). The goal is to exercise elements of the IRP and strengthen relationships among and across partners and stakeholders to enhance operational coordination.

Pre-exercise Events:

Leading up to the event, EMBC will host a series of planning conferences, working group meetings, drills and tabletop exercises.

The Exercise: June 7-10, 2016

The main exercise will be a four-day, full-scale functional exercise in Port Alberni, B.C. and will include real-time activities and simulated situations involving certain functions, such as emergency operations, logistics, medical care, mass care, public information and operational communications.

During the same time frame, neighbouring states and the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency will be conducting an exercise called Cascadia Rising 2016. As well, Canadian federal departments involved in earthquake response will be conducting Exercise Pacific Quake 2016 in the lower mainland of B.C.

Contact:

To learn more about Exercise Coastal Response 2016, please contact:
Rob Dodds, Exercise Specialist, EMBC; Rob.Dodds@gov.bc.ca
Lyle Herod, Training & Exercise Coordinator, EMBC; Lyle.Herod@gov.bc.ca



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