



British Columbia Emergency Response Management System
Advisory Committee

May 2008

Last fall the British Columbia Emergency Response Management System Advisory Committee (BAC) reconvened. Phil Taudin-Chabot Manager, Coastal Fire Centre MOFR&H and Cam Filmer Executive Director PEP provided an overview and background information about the how the BCERMS structure was developed and evolved over the past number of years. BCERMS is based on the ICS principles and provides a solid foundation. The following are key points of their presentation:

- Membership involvement over the years
- All BCERMS documentation will need to be reviewed.
- Many local governments have adopted BCERMS
- The JIBC and other BCERMS approved training providers support BCERMS
- Recent responses (i.e.; Firestorm 2003, Abbotsford – Avian influenza) proved that BCERMS worked well
- BCERMS Advisory Committee has the authority to make affective changes
- There is a reporting relationship to Interagency Emergency Preparedness Council (IEPC) which is a provincial government Executive DM/ADM
- Determine how members can bring issues to the table to be resolved
- Senior Officials have recently been provided training on BCERMS
- Business Continuation Planning (BCP) has also incorporated BCERMS

More recently the BAC updated the Terms of Reference. Over the next year committee members will be surveying agencies to ensure any updates to BCERMS reflect the needs of the users. Any Fire Service issues you may have can be forwarded to myself for inclusion in our recommendations. The following Sub-Committees and Working groups have been established Training and Certification, Documentation & Publications, Exercises, Emergency Management Systems & Technology and a Communications group to assist with external messaging.

Respectfully submitted,

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