



Agriculture Emergency Plan

Squamish-Lillooet Regional District



Prepared by:



2025

Acknowledgments

We gratefully acknowledge the financial support of the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

The Government of British Columbia and the Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC are pleased to participate in the delivery of this publication. We are committed to working with our industry partners to address issues of importance to the agriculture and agri-food industry in British Columbia. Opinions expressed in this report are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Investment Agriculture Foundation of the Government of British Columbia.



Executive Summary

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District (SLRD) Agriculture Emergency Plan (AEP) addresses the unique vulnerabilities faced by the agricultural sector in this mountainous and forested region of British Columbia. Emergency-related challenges include remote access, poor communication networks, and the increasing risk of climate-driven events such as wildfires, floods, and landslides. With 117 reported commercial farms and many more informal operations, the AEP recognizes the importance of tailored emergency strategies for rural and often isolated agricultural communities. The AEP was developed through engagement with the agricultural community in the form of interviews and in-person and online workshops. The community engagement provided the foundation for the recommendations in the AEP.

The recommendations presented in the AEP are actions that the SLRD can implement to further strengthen regional resiliency while offering support for the agricultural community. The recommendations are developed in a manner to serve the widest possible number of agricultural operations, whether they include those with horses, livestock, or no farm animals at all, and whether they are commercial operations, hobby farms, or homesteads. The goal is to cast a wide net to offer solutions that will benefit as much of the community as possible.

The single recommendation that would provide the most immediate benefit would be to hire a full time dedicated Agricultural Emergency Coordinator (AEC) to provide locally-tailored emergency mitigation, planning, response, and recovery services. This position would be hosted outside of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) environment and provide a point-person for the ongoing implementation of the recommendations in this plan, as well as mitigation and preparedness support for the agricultural sector. A dedicated year-round AEC position could provide crucial, on-the-ground support in developing relationships, implementing recommendations, and supporting the sector during emergencies.

In addition to the recommendation of hiring an AEC, there are 15 recommendations identified for the entire SLRD and additional recommendations for community-specific pilot projects. Key recommendations include enhancing communications infrastructure, identifying livestock relocation zones, increasing farm registration in the provincial Premises ID program, and supporting community-specific emergency preparedness efforts. Recommendations are structured by resource requirements and timelines, with high-impact actions focused on infrastructure protection, tailored emergency education, livestock tracking systems, and partnerships with trusted local organizations. The AEP presents an implementation strategy that identifies recommendations that can be completed with existing staff resources and those that require additional resources, such as the hiring of an AEC, to complete.

In summary, the AEP builds a robust framework for agricultural emergency management in the SLRD, grounded in trust, local knowledge, and targeted action. It is designed to foster regional resilience, protect food security, and support the well-being of producers, livestock, and rural communities in the face of emergencies.

Table of Contents

<i>Acknowledgments</i>	<i>ii</i>
<i>Executive Summary</i>	<i>iii</i>
<i>Table of Contents</i>	<i>iv</i>
<i>List of Tables</i>	<i>vi</i>
<i>Acronyms</i>	<i>vii</i>
<i>1.0 Introduction</i>	<i>1</i>
1.1 Plan Purpose and Scope	1
1.2 Plan Structure	2
<i>2.0 Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency Planning</i>	<i>3</i>
2.1 Role of the Provincial Government	3
2.2 Role of Local Governments in Emergency Planning.....	3
2.3 Role of the Agricultural Community in Emergency Planning	6
<i>3.0 Agriculture in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>4.0 Engagement Findings</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>5.0 Recommendations</i>	<i>12</i>
5.1 Overarching Recommendation: Agricultural Emergency Coordinator Support	12
5.2 Recommendations Benefitting All SLRD Communities	13
5.3 Community-Specific Pilot Project Recommendations	16
<i>6.0 Implementation Strategy</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>7.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework</i>	<i>23</i>
<i>Appendices</i>	<i>l</i>
Appendix I: Farms and Ranches in the SLRD	l
Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities During an Emergency	IV
Appendix 3: Roles and Responsibilities During an Emergency - Infographic.....	IX

Appendix 4: Key Contact List for Emergencies.....	XII
Appendix 5: Checklist for Emergencies: Before, During, and After	XV
Appendix 6: Checklist for Emergencies: Before, During, and After: Infographic	XIX
Appendix 7: Key Resources for Agricultural Emergency Preparedness	XX
Appendix 8: Agricultural Emergency Coordinator Role and Job Toolkit	XXII
Appendix 9: Producer “Resource Pods”: Concept Plan.....	XXIX

List of Tables

Table 1. Indicators of the number of farms and ranches in the SLRD.....	7
Table 2. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Areas 'A' and 'B' and District of Lillooet areas.	8
Table 3. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'C' and Village of Pemberton area.....	8
Table 4. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'D' and District of Squamish area.	8
Table 5. Agricultural emergency mitigation and preparedness themes raised during engagement.....	9
Table 6. Agricultural emergency response themes raised during engagement.	10
Table 7. Agricultural emergency recovery themes raised during engagement.....	11
Table 8. Recommendations that would benefit all agricultural communities.	14
Table 9. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and the Lillooet area.	16
Table 10. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Area 'C' and Pemberton area.....	17
Table 11. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Area 'D' and Squamish area.	18
Table 12. Recommendations that could be completed with existing staff resources.	19
Table 13. Recommendations that could be completed with a full time AEC.	20
Table 14. Recommendations that could be completed with a full time AEC and additional external resources.	22
Table 15. Monitoring and Evaluation: Performance Indicators.....	23
Table 16. Monitoring and Evaluation: Process Indicators.	24
Table A1. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Areas 'A' and 'B' and District of Lillooet areas (total = 29).	I
Table A2. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'C' and Village of Pemberton area (total = 42).	II
Table A3. Farms and ranches in SLRD Area 'D' and District of Squamish area (total = 23).	III

Acronyms

AEC	Agricultural Emergency Coordinator
AEP	Agriculture Emergency Plan
AF	BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
ALC	Agricultural Land Commission
ALUI	Agricultural Land Use Inventory
ALR	Agricultural Land Reserve
BC	British Columbia
EDMA	Emergency and Disaster Management Act
EMCR	Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness
EOC	Emergency Operations Centre
LAFS	Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society
PECC	Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre
PREOC	Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre
SLRD	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

1.0 Introduction

The Squamish-Lillooet Regional District's (SLRD) electoral areas are characterized by steep mountainous terrain and densely forested wildlands, interspersed by fertile, agriculturally-productive valley bottoms. The recent Agricultural Census by Statistics Canada indicated 117 commercial farms and ranches in the region, however it is understood that dozens of additional small agricultural holdings also exist. There are a number of small to medium sized communities within the region, some of which are connected by Highway 99. However, many agricultural communities such as Paradise Valley, Pemberton Meadows, Birken, and Texas Creek are connected by less-maintained roads that experience seasonal closures. Connectivity issues across the region further exacerbate vulnerabilities, with poor or nonexistent cell service and reliance on Wi-Fi-dependent communications leaving communities at risk during power outages. As climate change progresses, and the risks of wildfire and extreme rainfall events increase, the impacts are expected to be acutely felt in the area through property damage, road closures and limited capacity for emergency services to access farms and ranches in remote areas. The agriculture community in the region therefore faces unique challenges due to the remoteness of individual agricultural operations, the complications associated with livestock transportation, and insufficient communication networks, leaving them vulnerable to sudden and extreme impacts of natural disasters. To address these challenges, emergency plans must include tailored solutions for the agricultural community.

1.1 Plan Purpose and Scope

The SLRD seeks to build relationships with the agriculture community, including both commercial and non-commercial farms and ranches, horse owners, and hobby farmers to improve resiliency in the face of future, anticipated emergency situations. The purpose of this Agriculture Emergency Plan (AEP) is to improve the resilience of the agricultural community within the SLRD to emergencies, including fire, flood, landslides, and debris flows. This AEP aims to identify threats, address needs, and outline actionable strategies to safeguard food security and rural livelihoods during emergencies.

While the focus of the plan is on farms and ranches located within the SLRD's Electoral Areas, efforts were also made to connect and align with emergency preparedness occurring at the municipal level and within First Nations communities in the region. In an attempt to 'cast a wide net', no type of operation was expressly *excluded* from the AEP.



Figure 1. Map of the SLRD, Electoral Areas, and major communities.

1.2 Plan Structure

The Agriculture Emergency Plan includes an overview of emergency management in the SLRD and a profile of farm and ranch operations in the Electoral Areas across the region, in order to present a baseline context for the scale and scope of agricultural activities and emergency resources. A summary of feedback and input received at engagement activities is presented, which informs the key recommendations.

There are three key components of the AEP:

- 1) A set of recommendations for the SLRD to consider implementing.
- 2) An implementation strategy based on three capacity scenarios:
 - a. Status quo with agricultural emergency work undertaken by existing staff;
 - b. A year-round dedicated Agricultural Emergency Coordinator (AEC); or
 - c. A temporary AEC position during Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) activation only.
- 3) A monitoring and evaluation framework to track the implementation progress of the AEP.

In addition to the AEP, several educational materials were developed to fill gaps in resources and/or ensure that the information available was embedded in local context as much as possible. These include:

- A description and explanation of the roles and responsibilities during an emergency.
- A checklist of actions to take before, during, and after an emergency.
- An infographic to accompany the checklist.
- A list of key contacts and phone numbers to consult during an emergency.
- An updated SLRD Emergency Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide.
- A job tool-kit for an Agricultural Emergency Coordinator position.
- Links to external resources, including a Ministry of Agriculture Buddy Farm / Ranch template.

These are provided as standalone documents via the SLRD website and as Appendices to this document.

2.0 Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency Planning

From the provincial government to individual farmers and ranchers, everyone has a role to play in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The following summarizes the various actors and their roles and responsibilities in emergency situations. A more detailed account of roles and responsibilities is available in the Appendix.

2.1 Role of the Provincial Government

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) coordinates the province's management of emergencies and disasters. In November 2023, the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) came into force and effect, which outlines standard goals and roles of various levels of government, and protocols for the four phases of an emergency:

1. **Mitigation:** Preventing and minimizing disasters by eliminating or reducing hazards.
2. **Preparation:** Preparing to respond and cope during disasters.
3. **Response:** Effectively reacting when disasters occur.
4. **Recovery:** Restore the health and safety of people and property and increase resilience to future disasters as much as possible.

The provincial government also oversees the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC), which can provide support and guidance to local governments and First Nations in times of emergency.

2.2 Role of Local Governments in Emergency Planning

Local governments (villages, districts, municipalities and regional districts) are legally mandated by the provincial government to develop and maintain Emergency Management Plans and programs that support emergency preparedness, response and recovery. During emergencies, local governments lead

local responses based on the plans they have developed. If the emergency is beyond their capacity to manage, they can call on their regional PREOCs for support.

During an emergency, local governments rely on key partners such as BC Wildfire Service and other agencies such as Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Emergency Management Branch, for guidance and expertise. After an emergency, local governments are often the connectors between residents and provincial funding programs, such as those that reimburse agricultural operators for situations such as evacuating livestock during fires or floods, sourcing feed during a drought, or mending fences that may become damaged during wildfires.

2.2.1 SLRD Emergency Program

The SLRD Emergency Program was established in 2004 with a mandate to develop and implement organizational plans that will prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies and disasters. Since that time, the SLRD has responded to many emergencies including: wildfires, floods, landslides, severe weather, transportation accidents, and the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2025, the SLRD Emergency Program is organized within the Protective Services Department, alongside SLRD's Fire Services and the SLRD's Wildfire Mitigation Program. The Protective Services Department is responsible for the SLRD's FireSmart Program, its volunteer fire departments and fire services agreements, 9-1-1 service agreements, and other public safety initiatives. The SLRD Protective Services Department works closely with all other SLRD departments to ensure that public safety is promoted across all services provided by the Regional District.

During emergency response, the SLRD activates its EOC to coordinate disaster relief activities. The EOC is staffed by SLRD employees from across its different departments and is often bolstered by independent contractors during large-scale or sustained activations. The EOC is organized using a common "Incident Command System" structure to ensure interoperability with other emergency response partners.

The SLRD EOC is supported by the province through the provisions of the EDMA. This Act sets out requirements for the SLRD to conduct risk assessments and plan for emergencies. It also sets out provisions for declaring a State of Local Emergency and the use of emergency powers to alleviate the impacts of disasters. Typically, the SLRD EOC plays a coordination role during emergencies by issuing evacuation alerts and orders, issuing emergency public notifications, working with first responders, and supporting response activities at the incident site by mobilizing various types of resources. This is accomplished with funding from the EMCR that is provided on a case-by-case basis. The EDMA includes requirements for the SLRD to consult and cooperate with Indigenous Governing Bodies to ensure that emergency response is carried out in accordance with the BC *Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act*.

The other key pieces of legislation that govern the SLRD Emergency Program and EOC activities are the BC *Local Government Act*, which establishes general rules by which regional districts must operate, the BC *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which describes rules that the SLRD must follow to ensure government transparency and protect individual privacy, and the BC *Heritage Conservation Act*,

which facilitates the protection of heritage values. The SLRD Emergency Program is required to follow this legislation and act in the public's best interest at all times.

The SLRD Emergency Program also has a role in advocating for public safety interests to various provincial ministries. For example:

- BC Ministry of Forests, which operates the BC Wildfire Service, forestry tenures, and resource roads.
- BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Resource Stewardship, which is responsible for waterways, in partnership with the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans.
- BC Ministry of Transportation and Transit, which operates and maintains roads and highways.
- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, which operates the Agricultural Emergency Management Branch.

These ministries are governed by their own legislation, which provides further context for SLRD public safety initiatives.

In order to achieve its mandate, the SLRD Emergency Program is committed to maintaining positive relations and open communication with all other government bodies, non-government organizations, private individuals, and especially First Nations and related organizations who have been caring for their traditional territories since time immemorial. Collaboration, information sharing, and respect for people is important to achieving the common goals of emergency management.

[2.2.2 SLRD Emergency Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide](#)

In 2017, the SLRD produced a livestock relocation guide for commercial livestock operators. The guide was updated in 2025, and provides a disaster response framework, an overview of who qualifies for livestock relocation assistance, animal welfare essentials, EOC procedures, and sample forms. A contact list is also provided. It explains that, during an emergency, the main objectives are to ensure the health and safety of responders and the public. The protection of human life will always be the highest priority when allocating limited government emergency response resources. This underscores the need for livestock and horse owners to be self-sufficient and self-reliant in planning for the well-being of their animals.

2.3 Role of the Agricultural Community in Emergency Planning

The agricultural community also plays an important role in mitigating, preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies. All residents are responsible for their personal readiness, which includes having an emergency plan for the farm or ranch.

This responsibility lies with both landowners and those leasing land.

The welfare of poultry and livestock during an emergency is the responsibility of the agricultural operator. Therefore, a farm or ranch-level livestock emergency plan should be in place, and the farm should be registered with the provincial Premises ID program and the SLRD emergency alert system prior to an emergency. Livestock operators will need to determine whether to evacuate their animals or shelter them in place, and what is needed to accomplish this safely and effectively.

The [Premises ID](#) program is a provincially-managed location identification tool as described in Emergency Management and Climate Readiness Policy 2.01. Producers are required to self-register with the program in order to have their farm or ranch assets and livestock recorded.

The program assists authorities in determining whether (and how) to allocate resources to a region in the event of an emergency. Participation in the program is also a prerequisite for being compensated for any livestock relocation expenses. The Province can only share data with local officials during an active emergency, limiting the ability to plan and coordinate effectively in advance.

3.0 Agriculture in the Squamish-Lillooet Regional District

Understanding the location and nature of farms in the region can facilitate the preparation and response to emergencies that may impact agriculture. In particular, understanding where livestock are present can help support evacuation strategy planning and the deployment of limited resources.

Several data sets were used to develop an agricultural profile of the region, which is further broken down into the subareas of:

- Upper Bridge River Valley and Electoral Area A;
- Lillooet and Electoral Area B;
- Pemberton and Electoral Area C; and
- Squamish and Electoral Area D.

The profile includes farms and ranches that are commercial in nature and/or are self-reporting as agricultural, and those with only horses or who are not selling any products but are operating more as a homestead. In an effort to 'cast a wide net', no type of operation was expressly *excluded* from the review.

The datasets used to develop the inventory of farms included:

- Provincial Agricultural Land Use Inventory (ALUI): reports on the number of parcels of land with agricultural activity. A limitation is that many farm operations are often spread over multiple parcels. Therefore, the number of farms found in the area is likely less than the number of parcels with agricultural activity.

- Federal Agricultural Census: reports on the number and type of farms in the census area every five years. A limitation is that it only includes farms that report revenues to the Canada Revenue Agency. Therefore, this tends to be an underestimate of agricultural activity.
- Provincial BC Assessment Farm Tax Status: this is parcel-based data collected by BC Assessment and is based on voluntary financial disclosures from landowners.
- Squamish Lillooet Food Asset Map: map-based inventory available online.

Provincial Premises ID data was not included in this review because it can only be shared with local governments during an active emergency. The information regarding farms in the region that is publicly available is presented in the following tables.

Table 1. Indicators of the number of farms and ranches in the SLRD.

Indicator	Area	Data Source	Year
11 parcels used for agriculture	Electoral Area 'D' and District of Squamish	BC ALUI	2017
199 parcels used for agriculture	Pemberton Valley and Electoral Area 'C'	BC ALUI	2009
106 parcels used for agriculture	Electoral Area 'B' and District of Lillooet	BC ALUI	2013
70 commercial farms	SLRD Electoral Areas 'C' and 'D'	Agricultural Census	2021
47 commercial farms	SLRD Electoral Areas 'A' and 'B'	Agricultural Census	2021
77 parcels with farm tax status	District of Squamish and 'Rural Squamish'	BC Assessment	2020

The engagement and secondary research conducted during the development of this plan allowed for additional information to be gathered about the numbers and types of farms in the region. Information was provided directly to the consulting team or discovered through publicly available forums (e.g. Google search, Facebook, Instagram, or farmers market listings). It is likely that this information is not entirely accurate, as farms and their related activities are dynamic and often change quickly over time. However, along with the data presented in Table 1, it provides a good snapshot of the types of farms found in the region. These are presented in Tables 2, 3, and 4. Since some farms in the region prefer not to advertise their activities or whereabouts, a safe estimate would be to use these figures as a conservative estimate for emergency planning purposes. More details about these farms are provided in the Appendix.

Most farms in the SLRD can be characterized as specializing in vegetables, small fruits (such as berries and grapes), orchards, ranching, or mixed livestock. Many also have small scale poultry (less than 100 birds). In terms of the number of farms with the types of larger livestock that may need to be evacuated in an emergency (e.g. horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, llamas), there are:

- At least 3 horse and cattle ranches in Upper Bridge River Valley and Area A;
- At least 9 horse, cattle, and/or small mixed livestock farms in Lillooet and Area B;
- At least 14 horse, cattle, and/or small mixed livestock farms in Pemberton and Area C; and
- At least 10 horse, cattle, and/or small mixed livestock farms in Squamish and Area D.

These lists can be used as a starting point for a more concerted effort to be made at a local level to determine the location and needs of horse and livestock operators during an emergency.

Table 2. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Areas 'A' and 'B' and District of Lillooet areas.

Main Activity	Number
Vegetables and/or herbs	7
Large livestock (cattle / horses)	6
Orchards and/or berries	4
Livestock (mixed)	4
Grapes and/or winery	3
Bees	2
Hops	1
Equestrian (horses) only	1
Cannabis	1
Nursery plants	1

**Note: total count was 30 – some identify with more than one agricultural activity category.*

Table 3. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'C' and Village of Pemberton area.

Main Activity	Location
Vegetables	23
Horses	6
Livestock (mixed)	5
Vegetables and fruit trees	5
Flowers	4
Large livestock (cattle / horses)	3
Berries	3
Hops	2
Mushrooms	2
Bees	1

**Note: total count was 42 – some identify with more than one agricultural activity category.*

Table 4. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'D' and District of Squamish area.

Main Activity	Location
Vegetables	7
Horses	5
Bees	4
Livestock (mixed)	3
Flowers	3
Large livestock (cattle / horses)	2
Hops	2
Mushrooms	1
Microgreens	1

**Note: total count was 23 – some identify with more than one agricultural activity category.*

4.0 Engagement Findings

Engagement activities provided additional local context, including the nuances of emergency situations, past and present challenges faced during emergencies, existing assets, potential gaps to emergency preparedness, and response and recovery for the agriculture and livestock sectors. The engagement work took the form of interviews, in-person, and online workshops.

The interviews were held with representatives from provincial (7), local (2), and regional (1) government staff, producers (2), BC Wildfire Service (1) and First Nations staff (1) over the fall of 2024. The workshops were attended by producers and were held in October 2024 in Squamish, Pemberton, and Lillooet and one online session on Zoom. A total of 29 participants attended the October 2024 workshops. Two additional online workshops were held in March 2025 to provide a preview of the AEP and the accompanying resources to the agricultural community for feedback. A total of 19 individuals attended the March workshops.

Table 5 provides a summary of the key themes that were raised during these conversations, organized by the mitigation and preparedness, response, and recovery stages of an emergency.

Table 5. Agricultural emergency mitigation and preparedness themes raised during engagement.

Mitigation and Preparedness Themes	Key Points Raised
Vulnerabilities to planning	• Management of forests, maintenance of dikes and flood mitigation infrastructure by other agencies result in farmers and ranchers feeling threatened by factors outside of their control and unmotivated to spend resources (time, funds) on preparing for an emergency that feels ‘inevitable’. • Many farms and ranches are in flood-prone or fire-prone areas with single access routes, amplifying vulnerability. Producers would feel supported if tailored solutions, such as pre-identified livestock relocation sites and community-specific evacuation plans could be prepared with government agencies.
Farm-level emergency plans	• There are a lot of guides, kits, and resources available, but many are overwhelming. • There are a lack of community-specific resources. • FireSmart assessments are popular but challenging to book for farms & ranches. • Not many farms or ranches have undertaken farm-level emergency plans. • Registration to the provincial Premises ID program has not been widely adopted by producers in the SLRD, with many indicating they had never heard of the program. • Managing livestock safety is emotionally challenging and financially burdensome.
Community-level emergency plans	• Localized workshops that address specific risks for sub-areas and/or communities would be beneficial. • Community emergency preparedness “pods” or “kits” would be useful. • It will be important to identify key leaders outside of government who are trusted within the farming and ranching community and can assist in relaying information.

	Producers are in support of developing a centralized inventory of local resources such as livestock trailers/liners, a list of locations for livestock to be moved to (designated safe zones), maps, and contact lists.
Infrastructure Protection	- For producers, protecting livestock and agricultural infrastructure are the highest priority after human health and safety. - Equipment such as generators, water pumps, sprinkler systems, flood protection systems, and pre-positioned emergency supplies to protect critical infrastructure is expensive and grants or other support would be welcomed.

Table 6. Agricultural emergency response themes raised during engagement.

Response Theme	Key Points Raised
Communications	- Notifications regarding emergencies are not community-specific and are often too generalized. - There is a need for effective communications strategies that provide information about emergencies as they evolve. - Remote-based farms and ranches rely on a variety of communications tools: landlines, limited cell service, satellite phones. Power outages can disrupt wi-fi communications such as texts or social media messaging, or apps such as SLRD Alert. - Informal networks such as community leaders, social media, door-to-door visits play a critical role in reliable communication but don't have formal support. - The SLRD's website and the BC Wildfire maps webpage are challenging to navigate. - GoogleMaps can provide erroneous evacuation route suggestions, including decommissioned logging roads, further exacerbating health and safety risks.
Roles and Responsibilities	- Farmers and ranchers are sometimes confused about "who is in charge" in an emergency: province, regional district, municipality. - There is an opportunity to describe the role of the SLRD during emergencies in a clear manner, as this is not well understood by producers. - On-the-ground presence from emergency coordinator/team and clearer coordination protocols would improve trust and effectiveness. - Cooperation with industry groups such as the BC Cattleman's Association and the Range Riders program are seen as opportunities.
Evacuation Alerts and Evacuation Orders	- Producers would like clarity regarding their ability to return to their farm or ranch once an evacuation order has been issued. - The SLRD's ability to grant emergency access to producers to access their farm/ranch during an emergency varies by situation, creating complexities around temporary access permissions for farmers and ranchers.

	Without the certainty that they will be able to return to check on livestock, horses, and/or infrastructure some producers may decide to shelter in place rather than leave their property.
--	---

Table 7. Agricultural emergency recovery themes raised during engagement.

Recovery Theme	Key Points Raised
Resource Needs	- Producers need financial assistance for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing lost assets, to ensure the continuity of business operations. - Inventories of existing resources within the community would help support recovery efforts.
Barriers to Recovery	- Producers are not fully aware of existing government programs in place to support recovery. - Administrative and bureaucratic processes can be cumbersome and difficult to navigate, and this can lead to delays in accessing funds and other forms of support. - Increasing insurance rates and companies removing coverage are creating situations whereby many farms and ranches are having to forego insurance entirely. This highlights the need to invest and support loss mitigation strategies such as fire and flood protection equipment and/or relocating critical infrastructure away from vulnerable areas.

5.0 Recommendations

The SLRD benefits from strong community networks in each of its Electoral Areas, where local agricultural organizations are active and well-regarded. These networks offer a strong foundation for enhancing emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery efforts. The recommendations presented in this section are actions that the SLRD can implement to further strengthen regional resiliency while offering support for the agricultural community. The recommendations are developed in a manner to serve the widest possible number of agricultural operations, whether they include horses, livestock, or no animals at all, and whether they are commercial operations, hobby farms, or homesteads. The goal is to cast a wide net to offer solutions that will benefit as much of the community as possible.

5.1 Overarching Recommendation: Agricultural Emergency Coordinator Support

The single recommendation that would provide the most immediate benefit would be to hire a full time dedicated Agricultural Emergency Coordinator (AEC) to provide locally-tailored emergency mitigation, planning, response, and recovery services. This position would be hosted outside of the EOC environment and provide a point-person for the ongoing implementation of the recommendations in this plan, as well as mitigation and preparedness support for the agricultural sector. The position may be filled through a new SLRD staff role or through a contractor and would be a person who is knowledgeable of the agriculture sector in the region. Communities often rely on word of mouth and have more trust in information coming from someone they know. Therefore, a dedicated year-round AEC position could provide crucial, on-the-ground support in developing relationships, implementing recommendations, and supporting the sector during emergencies.

Specific responsibilities would include:

- Implementing the recommendations in this AEP;
- Providing mitigation and preparedness support to producers;
- Working closely with farmers, ranchers and First Nations to bridge communication gaps;
- Assisting producers in livestock evacuation planning;
- Providing real-time updates during emergencies;
- Facilitating situational awareness and resource coordination related to agriculture with other SLRD staff; and
- Utilizing local agricultural connections and knowledge to enhance agricultural emergency response within the EOC during an emergency.

Until a new AEC is hired, it is important that the SLRD have information on-hand related to the agriculture community to refer to during an active emergency. In some cases, once EMCR has issued a task number for the emergency, funding can be received to hire a temporary AEC during an active emergency. In instances where resources (either funding or a suitable candidate) is not available, a SLRD staff member may be assigned to act as a temporary AEC.

For further context, as of 2025, MAF will no longer be providing dedicated support for every EOC, and it will be increasingly important for local governments to identify and hire their own AEC to address this gap. MAF will maintain a more limited presence, with MAF representatives assigned to six broad regional

areas across the province. These MAF representatives will engage with multiple EOCs within their respective regions, emphasizing the need for localized agricultural expertise at the community level.

Additional resources regarding the AEC role and responsibilities and resources to support this role, including a job tool-kit is provided in the Appendix.

5.2 Recommendations Benefitting All SLRD Communities

There are 15 recommendations that have been identified for the SLRD that would benefit all agricultural communities within the regional district. They are presented on the following pages in Table 8. These are followed by additional community-specific recommendations, which could be developed into pilot projects, in Tables 9, 10, and 11.

All recommendations are considered high priority, and all should be commenced within the next 6-12 months.

For each recommendation the anticipated resource level and recommended timeline for completion are identified. Definitions of the resource levels and timelines are as follows:

Resource Level:

- Low: may be completed using existing staff resources
- Medium: may be completed with the assistance an AEC.
- High: requires resources in the form of an AEC plus additional resources (such as external funding).

Timeline (assumes adequate resources are provided):

- Ongoing: will require maintenance over time, usually to foster a new or developing relationship
- Short: should be completed within 18 months
- Medium: should be completed within 36 months
- Long: should be completed within 60 months

Table 8. Recommendations that would benefit all agricultural communities.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Resource Level	Timeline
1	Before (Mitigation)	Advocate for mitigation resources from the province for farm / ranch - based or community-level initiatives	Advocate to the province for financial programs targeting agricultural adaptation and mitigation initiatives, including funds for building infrastructure and protecting or re-locating assets at the community level.	Low	Long
2	Before (Mitigation)	Support regional disaster risk reduction	Support disaster risk reduction approaches within the SLRD along with opportunities for collaboration on planning, policy development, and infrastructure development. This may involve working in collaboration with key regional organizations such as the Pemberton Valley Diking District to move forward on stronger flood protection in agricultural areas.	High	Long
3	Before (Mitigation)	Explore flood control levels for agricultural buildings	Consult with the agricultural community to explore options (such as permits) that would require new agricultural buildings within existing floodplains to be developed with minimum flood control levels to mitigate flood losses.	Medium	Medium
4	Before (Mitigation)	Seek opportunities for disaster resilience and mitigation resources	Continue to pursue opportunities that can support regional programs targeting the SLRD's disaster resilience and mitigation goals through provincial mitigation programs.	Medium	Long
5	Before (Mitigation)	Support alternatives to open burning on farmland	Work with the agricultural community to support alternatives to open burning on farmland, to mitigate wildfire risk. This is particularly acute during the vulnerable spring and summer months. Support may include directing producers to information regarding where legislation resides, providing information regarding jurisdictional enforcement, disseminating provincial resources and/or establishing regional programs to collect and chip/mulch agricultural vegetative waste.	Medium	Short
6	Before (Mitigation)	Connect producers to wildfire preparedness resources	Offer workshops to the agricultural community on wildfire preparedness and advocate to UBCM to support funding for the provision of a regionally-coordinated and integrated approach to offering FireSmart assessments at both the residential and farm/ranch level for local governments. This will require the ability to continue partnering with provincial agencies to deploy the program with set follow-up timelines regarding funding availability for site improvements.	Low	Medium
7	Before (Preparedness)	Foster collaboration with First Nations in emergency planning	Continue to work with First Nations in agricultural emergency planning efforts and sharing of resources between all levels of government and communities.	Low	Ongoing

8	Before (Preparedness)	Leverage a variety of communications tools	Enhance the specificity and timeliness of emergency alerts by leveraging tools such as email lists, phone trees, and social media forums (e.g., Facebook community pages), and the SLRD Alert app.	Medium	Short
9	Before (Preparedness)	Encourage registration in the provincial Premises ID program	Encourage participation in provincial programs such as the Premises ID system to allow the SLRD to communicate with the province about the level of resources needed in each area and the timing to deploy support. Emphasize the program's role in re-entry, relocation, and recovery efforts. The SLRD could collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture to raise awareness about the program.	Low	Short
10	Before (Preparedness)	Support investments in community-level equipment and maintain databases	Work with the agricultural community to uncover funding solutions to invest in equipment such as backup generators, fuel reserves, and livestock feed storage to enhance response and recovery at the community level. Maintain a database of community-shared resources for agriculture, including generators, water pumps, and flood protection tools, that can be deployed during response efforts.	Medium	Long
11	Before (Preparedness)	Pre-identify horse and livestock relocation sites and streamline temporary pass protocols	Pre-identify and prepare 'safe zones' for horses and livestock for use during temporary relocation. Ensure these locations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, such as water and fencing. Encourage producers to enter into "buddy farm" agreements with other operators and share information about their farm or ranch needs with the SLRD in order to inform the development of streamlined local temporary pass protocols in the event of an emergency evacuation.	Medium	Short
12	Before (Preparedness)	Provide frequent updates to Community Emergency Plan documents	Provide updates to the Community Emergency Plans and the Livestock Evacuation Plan every year (or more frequently if required due to changing legislation). Ensure agriculture is consulted and considered within the community plans.	Medium	Short
13	Before (Preparedness) and During (Response)	Map and share information on agricultural assets and evacuation routes	Work with the agricultural community to use GIS tools, such as Google Earth and GoogleMyMap, to map agricultural assets and evacuation routes, helping to prioritize areas for mitigation and response efforts.	Medium	Long
14	During (Response)	Ensure farmers and ranchers know that the SLRD is available to support them during an emergency	During an emergency, ensure the SLRD's presence is known by having the AEC be familiar with local producers. This will facilitate the coordination of a pass system, allowing producers to enter their farms and ranches if conditions are safe to do so.	Medium	Ongoing
15	After (Recovery)	Advocate for recovery resources	Advocate for financial assistance programs targeting agricultural recovery, including funds for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing assets.	Low	Long

5.3 Community-Specific Pilot Project Recommendations

5.3.1 Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and the Lillooet Area

SLRD Electoral Areas 'A', 'B', and Lillooet area community members have experienced a number of wildfire and landslide events in recent years. Many are aware of the area's limited access and egress routes, which can challenge evacuation. Many local producers, especially those with livestock, express a preference to shelter in place during a wildfire event rather than evacuate, making timely and clear communication essential. Concerns have been raised about maintaining the security of an area that has been entirely evacuated from looters and/or trespassers. Previous fires have highlighted the need for improved security and accommodations for animals during evacuations. There is an established, yet informal, phone tree system that has been successful for emergency communications in specific communities (e.g. along Texas Creek Rd.). Given the limited access to cellular networks in most areas outside of the District of Lillooet, the agricultural community has used satellite phones, walkie-talkies, and radios for remote communications, although there are limitations in the range available on these devices.

Table 9. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Areas 'A', 'B' and the Lillooet area.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Resource Level	Timeline
B.1	Before (Preparedness)	Create clearer messaging for risks and evacuation threats in this area	Work with the Lillooet area agricultural community to develop specific terminology that could be used to better describe the emergency risk for the purpose of mobilizing livestock - for example, more detailed subcategories of timelines that identify when to start moving larger animals.	Medium	Medium
B.2	Before (Preparedness)	Develop a livestock identification system for horses and cattle in the area	Support Electoral Area A and B horse and livestock producers in creating identification tags for their animals, such as leg tags or painting of hooves prior to evacuation so that they are identifiable during recovery. This could involve assistance with finding funding or other support to implement the animal identification program. It could be developed as a pilot project and extended to other Electoral Areas if successful.	High	Medium
B.3	Before (Preparedness)	Support LAFS in increasing their emergency communications role	Support the Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) or other local group in maintaining a list of key agricultural contacts and acting as a liaison to SLRD staff.	Medium	Long

5.3.2 Electoral Area 'C' and Pemberton Area

Many community members in the Pemberton Valley and elsewhere in Electoral Area 'C' have experienced the impacts of wildfires, floods, and landslide hazards in recent years. These challenges have been compounded by the increasing number of recreational visitors to the area who are sometimes unaware of ongoing active emergency response situations. Different communities within Electoral Area 'C' can feel more or less isolated from resources located within the Village of Pemberton or along the Highway 99 corridor, leading to varying perceptions of disaster resilience.

Table 10. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Area 'C' and Pemberton area.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Resource Level	Timeline
C.1	Before (Preparedness)	Connect with those who lease / rent farmland	Work with the Pemberton Farmers Institute and other local leaders to ensure that tenants leasing farmland are included in contact lists. Lessees are often hard to communicate with as they are not listed as the primary contact, complicating emergency communication efforts.	Medium	Medium
C.2	Before (Preparedness)	Support the Pemberton Farmers Institute in increasing their communications role	Support the Pemberton Farmers Institute or other local group in maintaining a key contact list. This is currently limited in the Pemberton Valley compared to neighbouring Squamish and Lillooet.	Medium	Medium
C.3	Before (Mitigation)	Share drainage and diking information to the agricultural community	Support the dissemination of information regarding drainage and diking infrastructure, maintenance, and upgrade plans in Electoral Area C.	Low	Long
C.4	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Develop subarea emergency pods	Work with the agricultural community to develop emergency "pods" for specific areas (e.g. upper Pemberton Meadows, Birken, D'Arcy). Ensure that equestrian facilities and horse owners are involved in this process. More details about the "pod" system are in the Appendix.	High	Medium
C.5	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Explore Crown land opportunities for livestock evacuation	Advocate to the province to identify opportunities to temporarily open access to Crown land for emergency grazing if livestock evacuation occurs within Electoral Area C.	Low	Long
C.6	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Explore the development of an agricultural search and rescue program	Explore the opportunity of developing an Agricultural Search & Rescue program, to enhance localized emergency responses in the Pemberton Valley.	High	Long

5.3.3. Electoral Area 'D' and Squamish Area

Community members in Electoral Area 'D' have recent experience in flood, wildfire, and landslide events. Residents in these areas are very attentive to flood risk alerts from the BC River Forecast Centre, highway impacts identified by the Ministry of Transportation and Transit, and wildfire activity identified on the BC Wildfire Service online wildfire dashboard. Local non-governmental organizations such as SquamishCAN and local tourism businesses are vital for supporting emergency preparedness. For example, SquamishCAN has created an online inventory of farms and food assets, and events hosted by local foundations such as Ashlu Creek can be used for emergency contact sign-ups. Continuing to build partnerships with these groups will foster trust within the agricultural community during all stages of an emergency.

Table 11. Recommendations for pilot projects in the Electoral Area 'D' and Squamish area.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Resource Level	Timeline
D.1	Before (Preparedness)	Build upon existing online inventories	Coordinate with SquamishCAN to improve and amplify the online farm and food asset inventory accessible on Google Maps, which could aid in emergency planning.	Medium	Ongoing
D.2	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Bridge relationships with the tourism community to better account for horses and trailers	Connect with Sea-to-Sky and Squamish tourism groups and associations, these could be valuable partners to facilitate connecting with groups such as horse and trail ride operators, U-pick farms, and campgrounds. This will allow for more accurate planning around livestock and horse relocation needs during an emergency.	Medium	Medium
D.3	Before (Preparedness)	Support local livestock feed storage options	Explore how the SLRD and/or District of Squamish could support bulk horse and livestock feed purchasing or creating a local feed silo to strengthen livestock feed resiliency in the community.	High	Long

6.0 Implementation Strategy

While it may be possible to implement some recommendations with existing staff resources (those marked “Low” resource levels), most will require the support of the dedicated AEC, which should be hired as a full-time equivalent to provide year-round implementation. Table 12 presents the recommendations that could likely be implemented with existing staff resources. Table 13 presents the recommendations that will require the support of a dedicated AEC. Table 14 present recommendations that will require the support of a dedicated AEC as well as additional external funding.

Table 12. Recommendations that could be completed with existing staff resources.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline
1	Before (Mitigation)	Advocate for mitigation resources from the province for farm-based or community-level initiatives	Advocate to the province for financial programs targeting agricultural adaptation and mitigation initiatives, including funds for building infrastructure and protecting or re-locating assets at the community level.	Long
6	Before (Mitigation)	Connect producers to wildfire preparedness resources	Offer workshops to the agricultural community on wildfire preparedness and advocate to UBCM to support funding for the provision of a regionally-coordinated and integrated approach to offering FireSmart assessments at both the residential and farm/ranch level for local governments. This will require the ability to continue partnering with provincial agencies to deploy the program with set follow-up timelines regarding funding availability for site improvements.	Medium
7	Before (Preparedness)	Foster collaboration with First Nations in emergency planning	Continue to work with First Nations in agricultural emergency planning efforts and sharing of resources between all levels of government and communities.	Ongoing
9	Before (Preparedness)	Encourage registration in the provincial Premises ID program	Encourage participation in provincial programs such as the Premises ID system to allow the SLRD to communicate with the province about the level of resources needed in each area and the timing to deploy support. Emphasize the program's role in re-entry, relocation, and recovery efforts. The SLRD could collaborate with the Ministry of Agriculture to raise awareness about the program.	Short
15	After (Recovery)	Advocate for recovery resources	Advocate for financial assistance programs targeting agricultural recovery, including funds for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing assets.	Long
C.3	Before (Mitigation)	Share drainage and diking information to the agricultural community	Support the dissemination of information regarding drainage and diking infrastructure, maintenance, and upgrade plans.	Long
C.5	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Explore Crown land opportunities for livestock evacuation	Advocate to the province to identify opportunities to temporarily open access to Crown land for emergency grazing if livestock evacuation occurs.	Long

Table 13. Recommendations that could be completed with a full time AEC.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline
3	Before (Mitigation)	Explore flood control levels for farm buildings	Consult with the agricultural community to explore options that would require new farm buildings within existing floodplains to be developed with minimum flood control levels in order to mitigate flood losses.	Medium
4	Before (Mitigation)	Seek opportunities for disaster and mitigation resources	Continue to pursue opportunities that can support regional programs targeting the SLRD's disaster resilience and mitigation goals through provincial mitigation programs.	Long
5	Before (Mitigation)	Support alternatives to open burning on farmland	Work with the agricultural community to support alternatives to open burning on farmland, to mitigate wildfire risk. This is particularly acute during the vulnerable spring and summer months. Support may include directing producers to information regarding where legislation resides, providing information regarding jurisdictional enforcement, disseminating provincial resources and/or establishing regional programs to collect and chip/mulch agricultural vegetative waste.	Short
8	Before (Preparedness)	Leverage a variety of communications tools	Enhance the specificity and timeliness of emergency alerts by leveraging tools such as email lists, phone trees, and social media forums (e.g., Facebook community pages), and the SLRD Alert app.	Short
10	Before (Preparedness)	Support investments in community-level equipment and maintain databases	Work with the farming community to uncover funding solutions to invest in equipment such as backup generators, fuel reserves, and livestock feed storage to enhance response and recovery at the community level. Maintain a database of community-shared resources for agriculture, including generators, water pumps, and flood protection tools, that can be deployed during response efforts.	Long
11	Before (Preparedness)	Pre-identify horse and livestock relocation sites and streamline temporary pass protocols	Pre-identify and prepare 'safe zones' for livestock for use during temporary relocation. Ensure these locations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, such as water and fencing. Streamline local temporary pass protocols in the event of an emergency evacuation.	Short
12	Before (Preparedness)	Provide frequent updates to Community Emergency Plan documents	Provide updates to the Community Emergency Plans and the Livestock Evacuation Plan every 5 years (or more frequently if required due to changing legislation). Ensure agriculture is consulted and considered within the community plans.	Ongoing

13	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Map and share information on agricultural assets and evacuation routes	Work with the agricultural community to use GIS tools, such as Google Earth and GoogleMyMap, to map agricultural assets and evacuation routes, helping to prioritize areas for mitigation and response efforts.	Long
14	During (Response)	Ensure farmers know that the SLRD is available to support them during an emergency	During an emergency, ensure the SLRD's presence is known by having the AEC be familiar with local producers. This will facilitate the coordination of a pass system, allowing producers to enter their farms if conditions are safe to do so.	Ongoing
B.1	Before (Preparedness)	Create clearer messaging for risks and evacuation threats	Work with the local agricultural community to develop specific terminology that could be used to better describe the emergency risk for the purpose of mobilizing livestock - for example, more detailed subcategories of timelines that identify when to start moving larger animals.	Medium
B.3	Before (Preparedness)	Support LAFS in increasing their emergency communications role	Support the Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society (LAFS) or other local group in maintaining a list of key agricultural contacts and acting as a liaison to SLRD staff.	Long
C.1	Before (Preparedness)	Connect with those who lease / rent farmland	Work with local leaders to ensure that tenants leasing farmland are included in contact lists. Lessees are often hard to communicate with as they are not listed as the primary contact, complicating emergency communication efforts.	Medium
C.2	Before (Preparedness)	Support the Pemberton Farmers Institute in increasing their communications role	Support the Pemberton Farmers Institute or other local group in maintaining a key contact list. This is currently limited in the Pemberton Valley compared to neighbouring Squamish and Lillooet.	Medium
D.1	Before (Preparedness)	Build upon existing online inventories	Coordinate with SquamishCAN to improve and amplify the online farm and food asset inventory accessible on Google Maps, which could aid in emergency planning.	Ongoing
D.2	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Bridge relationships with the tourism community to better account for horses and trailers	Connect with tourism groups and associations, these could be valuable partners to facilitate connecting with groups such as horse and trail ride operators, U-pick farms, and campgrounds. This will allow for more accurate planning around livestock and horse relocation needs during an emergency.	Medium

Table 14. Recommendations that could be completed with a full time AEC and additional external resources.

ID	Emergency Stage	Action	Description	Timeline
2	Before (Mitigation)	Support regional disaster risk reduction	Support disaster risk reduction approaches within the SLRD along with opportunities for collaboration on planning, policy development, and infrastructure development. This may involve working in collaboration with key regional organizations such as the Pemberton Valley Dyking District to move forward on stronger flood protection in agricultural areas.	Long
B.2	Before (Preparedness)	Develop a livestock identification system	Support horse and livestock producers in creating identification tags for their animals, such as leg tags or painting of hooves prior to evacuation so that they are identifiable during recovery. This could involve assistance with finding funding or other support to implement the animal identification program. It could be developed as a pilot project and extended to other Electoral Areas if successful.	Medium
C.4	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Develop subarea emergency protocols	Work with the agricultural community to develop emergency "pods" for specific areas (e.g. upper Pemberton Meadows, Birken, D'Arcy). Ensure that equestrian facilities and horse owners are involved in this process. More details about the "pod" system are in the Appendix.	Medium
C.6	Before (Preparedness); During (Response)	Explore the development of an agricultural search and rescue program	Explore the opportunity of developing an Agricultural Search & Rescue program, to enhance localized emergency responses.	Long
D.3	Before (Preparedness)	Support local livestock feed storage options	Explore how the SLRD and/or District of Squamish could support bulk horse and livestock feed purchasing or creating a local feed silo to strengthen livestock feed resiliency in the community.	Long

7.0 Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

A monitoring and evaluation framework is helpful in guiding progress of the implementation of actions and in measuring success. Tables 15 and 16 presents descriptions of indicators along with examples of success (what is being measured), evaluation mechanisms (how it is being measured), and data sources for each.

The indicators are presented as “performance” or “process” related:

- “Performance” indicators note the overall success of the plan as actions play out on the ground.
- “Process” indicators signal the overall implementation of specific actions over time.

Table 15. Monitoring and Evaluation: Performance Indicators.

Indicator	Measure of Success	Evaluation Mechanism	Data source	Frequency of Reporting
1. Increased resilience of the farming community to emergencies	Total number of farms that have undertaken mitigation and/or preparedness steps.	# farms registered for alerts	SLRD Alert database	Every 2 years
		# farms registered for Premises ID	Ministry of Agriculture and Food	
	Messaging from SLRD about roles and responsibilities is clear.	# farms completed Farm and Ranch FireSmart program.	Communication with farmers	
2. Identification of agri-community leaders in each Electoral Area	Number of local leaders designated as key contacts for SLRD staff during an emergency.	Outreach to community leaders to confirm participation.	Community emergency plans	Annually
	Increased completeness of inventories.	Test communication methods using dry-run exercises.	SLRD Agricultural Advisory Committee	
3. Increased adherence to BMPs	Number of farms that use open burning alternatives.	Communication with farmers, MoE, and with AF.	Farming community survey	Annually
	SLRD support exists in providing vegetative debris collection, chipping.			

Table 16. Monitoring and Evaluation: Process Indicators.

Indicator	Measure of Success	Evaluation Mechanism	Data source	Frequency of Reporting
4. Number of SLRD mitigation and preparedness initiatives underway that support the agricultural community.	Success of grant applications. Number of contracts established.	Comparison of project numbers annually.	SLRD staff	Annually
5. Number of resources for landowners with horses and/or livestock.	Consideration of sites for horse & livestock evacuation. Animal identification pilot project. Community-scale feed storage options.	Tracking of actions completed over time.	SLRD staff Pemberton Farmers Institute Industry associations	Annually
6. Support for sub-regional emergency planning and resources	Community emergency plans are up-to-date Sub-area emergency playbooks are developed with ag community. Community-level mitigation and response infrastructure is increased.	Tracking the develop of new / updated plans Funding for sub-area infrastructure, tools, equipment	SLRD staff	Annually
7. Annual Budget allowance for continued AEC and the implementation of the plan	Budget allocated each year for implementation.	Track SLRD budget allocations for AEC as well as budget for specific projects related to plan actions.	SLRD Board commitments for budget.	Annually

Appendices

Appendix I: Farms and Ranches in the SLRD

This inventory is current as of March 2025. The farms and ranches were contacted directly by the consulting team or discovered through publicly available forums (e.g. Google search, Facebook, Instagram, or the farmers market listing), therefore the tables may be subject to errors, and in particular the agricultural activity is subject to change.

Table A1. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Areas 'A' and 'B' and District of Lillooet areas (total = 29).

Name	Agricultural Activity	Location
Amlec Organic - T'it'q'et	Vegetables	Area B
Armitspring Orchard	Orchard	Area B
Askom Valley Herb Farm	Herbs	Area B
Bruins End Orchard	Fruit trees apples	Lillooet
Buck Creek Ranch	Chickens, rabbits, pigs	Area B
Chilcotin Holidays Guest Ranch	Cattle, horses	Area A
Diamond S Ranch	Cattle, horses	Area B
Farma-C	Orchard	Area B
Fluster Cluck Farm	Vegetables and flowers	Lillooet
Fort Berens Estate Winery	Wine grapes	Lillooet or Area B
Gillians Herbs	Vegetables	Area B
Golden Cariboo Honey	Bees	Lillooet or Area B
Green Dirt Farm	Vegetables	Area B
Harvesters of Organic Hops (HOOP)	Hops	Area B
Hidden Valley Horses	Horses, therapeutic farm	Lillooet
High Mountain Organics	Cannabis	Area B
JAR Enterprises	Nursery, compost, soil amendments	Lillooet
One Love Farm	Vegetables	Area B
Rex Peak Ranch	Cattle, horses	Area A
Riley Creek Farm	Apples	Area B
Rose Hill Farm	Chickens, cows	Area B
Seed to Culture	Value added	Lillooet or Area B
Splitrock Environmental Nursery	Nursery plants	Area B
Spray Creek Ranch	Cows, sheep, pigs, poultry	Area B
Texas Creek Ranch	Grapes	Area B
Three Ravens Farmstead	Chickens, sheep	Area B
Toll Spring Farm	Mixed livestock	Area B
Ucwalmicw Community Farm	Fruit trees, greenhouse	Lillooet (on reserve)
Uliz Family Farm	Pigs, chickens	Lillooet
Yalakom Homestead	Mixed vegetables	Area B
Yalakom Valley Ranch	Cattle, wedding venue	Area B

Table A2. Farms and ranches in SLRD Electoral Area 'C' and Village of Pemberton area (total = 42).

Name	Agricultural Activity	Location
Across the Creek Organics	Vegetables	Area C
Adventures on Horseback	Horses	Pemberton
Bandit Farms	Vegetables	Area C
Bathtub Gardens	Flowers	Area C
Blackwater Creek Orchard	Vegetables and fruit	Area C
Blue House Organics	Organic vegetables	Area C
Brittingham Farm	Vegetables, orchard, berries	Area C
Camel's Back Harvest	Vegetables, strawberries, turkeys, pigs	Area C
Copper Cayuse Outfitters	Horses	Area C
Dreamcatcher Meadows	Horses	Area C
Four Beat Farm	Vegetables, Horses	Area C
Gates Creek Ranch (Pemberton Meat Co?)	Livestock	Area C
Gimse Family Farm	Livestock	Area C
Goat Mountain Produce	Vegetables	Area C
Grizzly Farm	Blueberries and vegetables	Area C
Happilife Farm	Vegetables and flowers	Area C
Hare's Farm	Blueberries	Area C
Hellevang Farm	Potatoes	Area C
Helmer's Organics	Vegetables	Area C
Ice Cap Organics	Vegetables	Area C
Kuurne Farms	Potatoes	Area C
Laughing Crow Organics	Flower and vegetables	Area C
Mountain Charolais	Horses	Area C
Myrtle Meadows	Hops	Area C
North Arm Farm	Vegetables, agri-tourism	Area C
Nurture in Nature	Mixed farm, chickens	Area C
Nutrient Dense Farm	Vegetables	Area C
Pemberton Meadows Mushrooms	Mushrooms	Area C
Pemberton Meat Co (Gates Creek Ranch?)	Pigs, turkeys, sheep	Area C
Pemberton Valley Farms	Chickens, cows, ducks	Area C
Plenty Wild Farms	Vegetables	Area C
Qwalímak Nlepcáalten Farm	Bees and Vegetables	Area C
Riverlands Equestrian	Horses	Area C
Rootdown Farm	Vegetables	Area C
Ryan Creek Farm	Potatoes	Area C
Shaw Creek Farm	Potatoes	Area C
Skipping Rooster Organic Farm	Garlic, fruit, root vegetables, herbs	Area C
Starseed Farms	Mushrooms, Chickens	Area C
The Beer Farm	Brewery, hops	Area C
Willowcraft Farm	Garlic, flowers, fruit	Area C
Wilson James Farm	Vegetables, fruit trees, horses	Area C
Zalam Willow Farms	Vegetables	Area C

Table A3. Farms and ranches in SLRD Area 'D' and District of Squamish area (total = 23).

Name	Agricultural Activity	Location
Alpine Honey	Bees	Area D
Bee Wild Paradise Valley	Bees	Area D
Brew Creek Farm	Vegetables	Area D
Centennial Stables	Horses	Squamish
Cheekye Ranch	Horses	Area D
Cupcake Farm	Pigs, goats, horses, chickens	Area D
Fieldstone Garlic (at Local Roots Farm)	Garlic	Squamish
Glacier Valley Farms	Mixed livestock	Area D
Good Time Bee Farm	Bees	Squamish
Hop Creek Farms	Cow, Lamb, Pig, Chicken	Area D
Jodrey Farm	Vegetables	Area D
Lavendel Farm	Lavender, small scale livestock	Squamish
Local Roots Farm Market	Vegetables	Squamish
Paradise Valley Honey	Bees	Area D
Queen of Peace Monastery	Vegetables	Area D
Schoolyard Farms in Squamish	Vegetables	Squamish and Area D
Sitka Farms	Cattle, wedding venue	Area D
Squamish Valley Hops	Vegetables and hops	Area D
SureFyre Farm	Horses	Area D
Two Sisters Farm	Flowers	Area D
Whistler Harvest	Indoor vertical farm, mushrooms, microgreens	Squamish
Whistler Therapeutics Corp	Hops, cannabis	Whistler
Windline Farm	Horses	Area D

Appendix 2: Roles and Responsibilities During an Emergency

Roles and Responsibilities in Emergency Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery

Disasters such as floods, wildfires, landslides and severe weather, can create unpredictable and high-risk emergency situations. These risks can be reduced and resiliency can be increased with everyone's active participation in the emergency management cycle. From provincial government to individual farmers and ranchers, everyone has a role to play in emergency mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. The following document summarizes the various actors and their roles and responsibilities in emergency situations.

Role of the Provincial Government

The Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness (EMCR) coordinates the province's management of emergencies and disasters. In November 2023, the *Emergency and Disaster Management Act* (EDMA) came into force and effect, which outlines standard goals and roles of various levels of government, and protocols for the four phases of an emergency:

5. **Mitigation:** Preventing and minimizing disasters by eliminating or reducing hazards
6. **Preparation:** Preparing to respond and cope during disasters
7. **Response:** Effectively reacting when disasters occur
8. **Recovery:** Building back better, stronger and more inclusively after disasters happen

The provincial government also oversees the Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre (PREOC) and the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC), which can provide support and guidance to local governments and First Nations in times of emergency.

Role of Local Governments

Local governments (villages, districts, municipalities and regional districts) are legally mandated by the provincial government to develop and maintain Emergency Management Plans and programs that support emergency preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery. During emergencies, local governments lead local responses based on the Plans they have developed. If the emergency is beyond their capacity to manage, they can call on their regional PREOCs for support, or in the case of First Nations governments, they can call on Canadian Indigenous Services.

During an emergency situation, local governments rely on key partners such as BC Wildfire Services and other agencies such as Ministry of Agriculture and Food's Emergency Management Branch, for guidance and expertise. After an emergency situation, local governments are often the connectors between residents and provincial funding programs, such as those that reimburse agricultural operators for situations such as evacuating livestock during fires or floods, sourcing feed during a drought, or mending fences that may become damaged during wildfires.

Role of the Agricultural Community

The agricultural community also plays an important role in mitigating, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from emergencies. Each producer is responsible for their personal readiness, which includes having an emergency plan for the farm. This responsibility lies with both landowners and those leasing land.

The welfare of livestock and poultry is the responsibility of the agricultural operator. Therefore, a livestock emergency plan should be in place, and the farm should be registered with the provincial Premises ID program (see text box). Livestock operators will need to determine if they should evacuate their animals or shelter them in place, and what is needed to accomplish this safely and effectively.

Agricultural operators must follow the direction of their local government in the event of an evacuation. The three stages of evacuation are as follows:

BC Premises ID links livestock and poultry to land parcels across the province to improve the traceability of livestock. In the event of an emergency, Premises ID can identify affected properties to effectively contain animal disease outbreaks or facilitate disaster response and recovery. Premises ID has the added benefits for producers of streamlining approval for temporary access to their land under an evacuation order to care for or move their livestock, as well as improving safety for livestock and emergency responders during an emergency. Premises ID is mandatory for those wishing to be reimbursed for costs related to livestock

1. **Evacuation Alert:** Begin to enact your Farm Emergency Plan. Be ready to leave on short notice and pack up key belongings. If you leave before or during this alert, it is considered a voluntary evacuation. The Alert phase is usually the best time to move livestock to a safe location, because roads might not yet be prioritized for emergency response and human health and safety. Register for BC Premises ID if you have not yet done so.
2. **Evacuation Order:** You are at risk. Leave the area immediately. Local police or RCMP will enforce evacuation orders. During an evacuation order you may not be able to return to check on livestock or other farm assets.
3. **Evacuation Rescinded:** All is currently safe. You can return home. Stay tuned for other possible evacuation orders or alerts. Begin the recovery stage.

Resources and Expertise

There are various partnerships that are critical resources in times of emergency including:

SLRD Emergency Management Program: Under Provincial Legislation and through SLRD *Bylaw No. 921-2004*, the SLRD has implemented an [Emergency Management Program](#) for its four Electoral Areas. The Emergency Management Program is responsible for:

- The direction and control of coordinated response to and recovery from major emergency events or disasters.
- Developing and maintaining current emergency plans.
- Forging effective partnerships with municipal partners and emergency management organizations.

- Encouraging emergency preparedness through public outreach and education.
- Providing emergency notifications and information.
- Ensuring an adequate complement of trained emergency personnel, including community volunteers.

The SLRD Emergency Program Manager is also responsible for coordinating SLRD involvement in any special events taking place within the regional district.

AgriServiceBC: The province's Ministry of Agriculture and Food includes Emergency Management Branch staff and Regional Agrologists with established relationships with local agricultural operators who can provide guidance and support to multiple partners. This includes [several resources available online](#).

BC Wildfire Services: Provincial staff who manage wildfires outside of municipal and First Nations jurisdiction through prevention, mitigation and suppression and may serve as Incident Command during wildfire response.

Agriculture Industry Associations: Professional organizations who can assist their members through information, resources and events and can represent their sector in an EOC

Range Officers: Provincial government staff who can support the EOC regarding Crown land range leasing details and other livestock-related information.

RCMP: Officers who can support EOC operations during a wildfire, prioritizing human and health and safety while managing security checkpoints for evacuated areas.

BC Climate Change Adaptation Program: A [tools and resources library](#) for operators to prepare for an emergency.

FloodWise: [Maps, toolkits, resources and guidelines](#) for preparing for and navigating flood related emergencies in BC's Lower Mainland.

References:

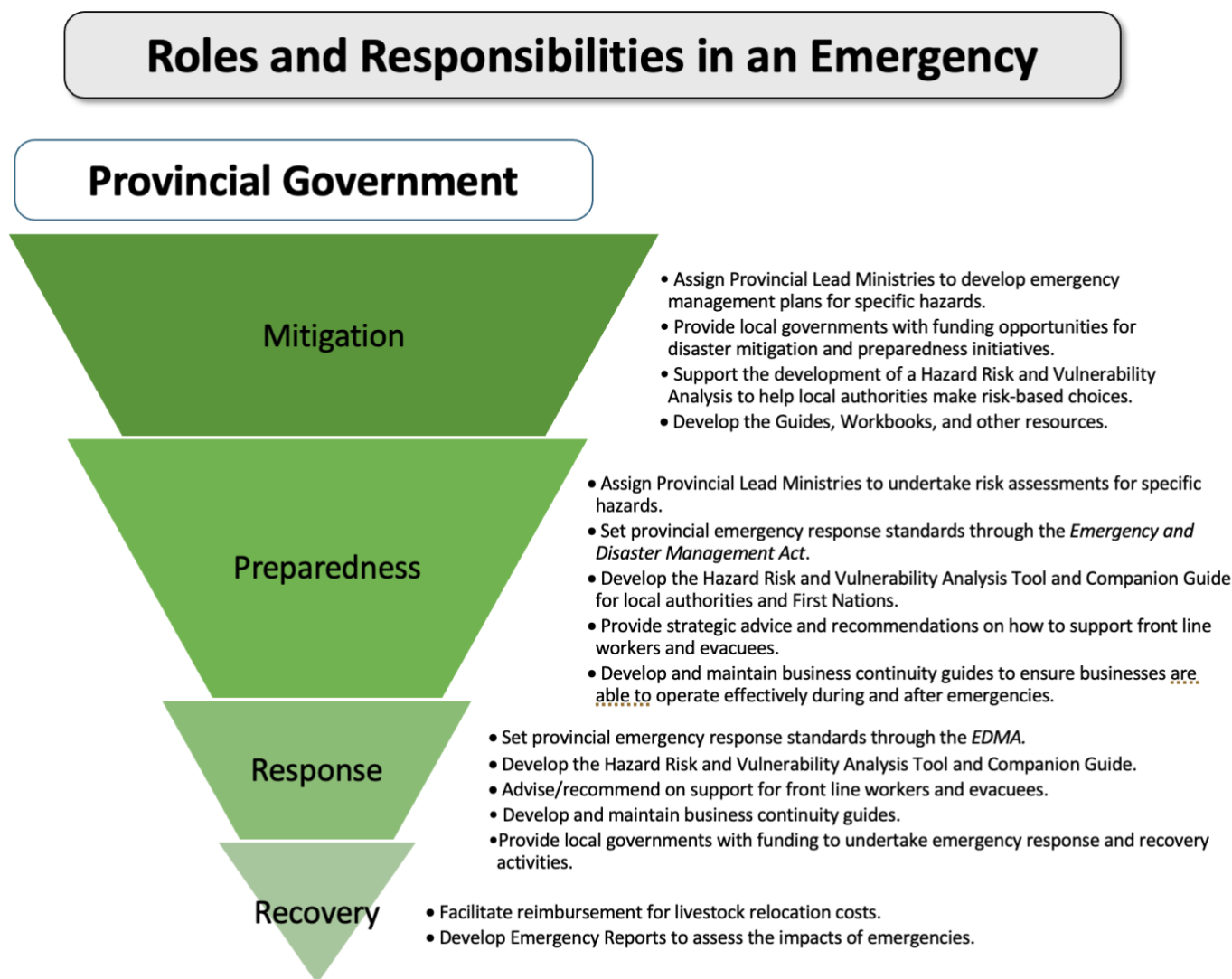
The information in this factsheet was derived from:

- BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food
 - [Agriculture Appendix Template for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans](#)
 - [Emergency Response Plans and Roles in Agriculture](#)
- [BC Emergency and Disaster Management Act](#)
- [Emergency Management Guide for Small and Mixed Farms](#)

Phase	Actor	Roles and Responsibilities
Before (Mitigation)	Provincial Government	- Assign Provincial Lead Ministries to develop emergency management plans for specific hazards. - Provide local governments with funding opportunities for disaster mitigation and preparedness initiatives. - Support the development of a Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis to help local authorities make risk-based choices to address hazard events. - Provide resources to residents on mitigating risks such as the Farm/Ranch Wildfire Plan Guide and Workbook, FireSmart BC Begins at Home Guide. - Provide funding for preventative measures such as the Community Resiliency Investment Program (CRI).
	Local Government	- If directed, seek opportunities for financial support from government and non-governmental organizations to undertake disaster mitigation measures (for example, through the CRI or Wildfire prevention projects via the Forest Enhancement Society BC). - Support disaster risk reduction approaches and pursue opportunities for collaboration on planning, policy development, and infrastructure development as capacity allows. - Work with the agricultural community to support mitigation beneficial management practices.
	Agriculture Community and Residents	- Follow restrictions and guidelines to prevent or minimize the effects of an emergency. - Participate in programs such as the FireSmart Program, open burning alternatives, on-farm flood planning, and slope stabilization on private property.
Before (Preparedness)	Provincial Government	- Assign Provincial Lead Ministries to undertake risk assessments for specific hazards. - Set provincial emergency response standards through the <i>Emergency and Disaster Management Act</i>. - Develop the Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Analysis Tool and Companion Guide for local authorities and First Nations. - Provide strategic advice and recommendations on how to support front line workers and evacuees. - Develop and maintain business continuity guides to ensure businesses are able to operate effectively during and after emergencies.
	Local Government	- Develop and maintain local emergency management plans and programs that address all four phases of emergency management (preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery). - Develop service continuity plans to ensure that essential services will be able to be delivered during an emergency. - Establish key communications channels for residents in case of emergency.
	Agriculture Community and Residents	- Know the risks of emergencies in the area you live - Complete and/or update a farm-level emergency preparedness plan for your operation or home - Register for BC Premises ID - Sign up for key communications channels e.g. Apps, social media, phone trees. - Identify a “buddy farm” in the case of the need to evacuate livestock. - Ensure insurance policies are up-to-date. - Prepare all critical documents and paperwork, essentials, and valuables to be ready to leave on short notice. - Take “before” photos of property and infrastructure in case there will be a need to apply for insurance later.

During (Response)	Provincial Government	- Consider declaring a provincial state of emergency. - Provide additional resources/staff to respond to emergencies. - Activate Provincial Regional Emergency Operations Centre(s) (PREOCs) to assist local authorities and First Nations governments. - Activate Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) in Victoria to offer further support to local authorities and First Nations governments if needed. - Request support from federal or neighbouring provincial governments if needed. - Support evacuation and re-entry (if safe) for farmers and ranchers with Premises ID if possible.
	Local Government	- Consider declaring a local state of emergency. - Set up local EOC(s) to coordinate response and recovery. - Communicate with neighbouring First Nations and local governments. - Communicate critical information to residents including emergency alerts and evacuation orders. - Coordinate with the province to provide emergency support services. - Liaise with subject matter experts such as Regional Agrologists for guidance and expertise.
	Agriculture Community and Residents	- Keep updated on news of evacuation alerts and orders through communications channels. - Follow evacuation alerts and orders, and guidelines provided by provincial and local governments. - Coordinate transportation of livestock from at risk areas to pre-determined safe zones as needed. - Communicate status and needs with local government and/or provincial government staff.
After (Recovery)	Provincial Government	- Facilitate reimbursement to producers for livestock relocation costs. - Develop Emergency Reports to assess the impacts of provincial emergencies.
	Local Government	- Facilitate connections between residents and provincial funding programs. - Apply for Disaster Financial Assistance if needed. - Facilitate re-entry once evacuation orders are rescinded.
	Agriculture Community and Residents	- Apply for reimbursement of livestock transportation costs as needed. - Take inventory of damages done to property during emergency response, including loss of livestock, crops, and infrastructure. - Take “after” photos of property and infrastructure. - Apply for Disaster Financial Assistance if needed. - File insurance paperwork if needed.

Appendix 3: Roles and Responsibilities During an Emergency - Infographic



Roles and Responsibilities in an Emergency

Local Government

Mitigation

- If directed, seek opportunities for financial support from government and non-governmental organizations to undertake disaster mitigation measures.
- Support disaster risk reduction approaches and pursue opportunities for collaboration on planning, policy development, and infrastructure development as capacity allows.
- Work with the agricultural community to support mitigation beneficial management practices.

Preparedness

- Develop and maintain local emergency management plans and programs.
- Develop service continuity plans to ensure that essential services will be able to be delivered during an emergency.
- Establish key communications channels for residents in case of emergency.

Response

- Set up local EOC(s) to coordinate response and recovery.
- Communicate with neighbouring First Nations and local governments.
- Communicate critical information to residents (alerts and orders).
- Manage temporary access to areas under evacuation order.
- Coordinate with the province to provide emergency support services.
- Liaise with Regional Agrologists for guidance and expertise.

Recovery

- Facilitate connections between residents and provincial funding programs.
- Apply for Disaster Financial Assistance if needed.
- Facilitate re-entry once evacuation orders are rescinded.

Roles and Responsibilities in an Emergency

Ranching & Farming Community

Mitigation

- Follow restrictions and guidelines to prevent or minimize the effects of an emergency.
- Participate in programs such as the FireSmart Program, open burning alternatives, on-farm flood planning, and slope stabilization on private property.

Preparedness

- Know the risks of emergencies in the area you live.
- Complete and/or update a farm-level emergency preparedness plan.
- Register for BC Premises ID.
- Sign up for alerts via apps, social media, phone trees.
- Identify a “buddy farm” in the case of the need to evacuate livestock.
- Ensure insurance policies are up-to-date.
- Prepare all critical documents, essentials, and valuables.
- Take “before” photos of property and infrastructure.

Response

- Keep updated on news of evacuation alerts and orders.
- Follow alerts, orders, and guidelines provided by provincial and local authorities.
- Coordinate transportation of livestock to pre-determined safe zones as needed.
- Communicate status and needs with local and/or provincial authorities.

Recovery

- Apply for reimbursement of livestock transportation costs as needed.
- Take inventory of damages including loss of livestock, crops, and infrastructure.
- Take “after” photos of property and infrastructure.
- Apply for Disaster Financial Assistance if needed.
- File insurance paperwork if needed.

Appendix 4: Key Contact List for Emergencies

Key Contacts for All SLRD Farms and Ranches

Please note: blank fields should be filled in with your local contact numbers whenever possible.

Organization	Telephone	Website or Email
Key Emergency Contacts		
RCMP / Local Police / Ambulance / Fire / Rescue	9-1-1	
Report a Wildfire	1-800-663-5555 or *5555	
Emergency Info BC		@EmergencyInfoBC (on Twitter / X) https://www.facebook.com/PreparedBC/ (on Facebook)
SLRD Emergency Alerts		https://www.slrd.bc.ca/protective-services/emergency-management
SLRD Alert registration		https://www.slrd.bc.ca/emergency-program/preparedness/slrd-emergency-notification
SLRD Facebook page		https://www.facebook.com/TheSLRD
Mental Health Crisis Support	9-8-8	
Emergency Management BC – Southwest Region - Emergency Coordination Centre (Open 24/7)	1 800 663 3456	
BC Wildfire Map		https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map
BC River Forecast Centre		https://bcrfc.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm
BC Hydro Outage Map	1-800-224-9376	https://www.bchydro.com/power-outages/app/outage-map.html
Spill Reporting	1-800-663-3456	

Poison Control	1-800-567-8911	
Drive BC – Road Closures		https://www.drivebc.ca
Utilities and Insurance		
Fortis BC	1-888-224-2710	
BC Hydro	1-800-224-9376	
Telus	1-866-558-2273 or *611	
Electrician (local)		
Plumber (local)		
Insurance		
Agricultural Services and Industry Associations		
AgriService BC	1-888-221-7141	
Range Rider Program (BC Cattlemen's Association)	1-877-688-2333	lisa@cattlemen.bc.ca
Veterinarian (local)		
Veterinarian (provincial)	1-800-661-9903	
Local Trucker / Hauler		
Local Towing Service		
Local Feed Supplier		
Local Fuel Dealer		
Local Mechanic / Dealer		

Local Mechanic / Dealer		
Horse Council of BC	604-856-4304	
BC Cattlemen's Association	250-573-3611	
BC Pork Association	604-287-4647	
BC Sheep Federation	250-963-7301	
BC Poultry Association	604-625-6400	
Llama & Alpaca Association	250 804 2611	

Appendix 5: Checklist for Emergencies: Before, During, and After

Checklist and Tips for SLRD Farmers & Ranchers

NOTE: These tips are intended to help you prepare ahead of time for an emergency such as a wildfire or a flood. There are also tips for what to do if an Evacuation Alert or Evacuation Order is issued. The information provided here is not intended to substitute or supersede directions that may be provided by the SLRD or the Province of BC during an emergency. The order presented is not indicative of the order that the actions should necessarily be taken.

PHASE 1: Before *an emergency*

Personal Health and Safety

- ☐ Undertake a FireSmart Assessment for your home and farm/ranch.
- ☐ Read up on your community emergency plan <https://www.slrd.bc.ca/emergency-program/community-emergency-plans>
- ☐ Prepare “**grab and go**” bags with basic necessities. Pack a highly visible item such as an emergency blanket, a phone charger, and an extra battery pack.
- ☐ Buy food and drinking water (enough for a minimum of 72 hours).
- ☐ Consider pre-packing your truck or car with emergency supplies. including gloves, goggles, cell phone, flashlight, and portable radio.
- ☐ Create digital copies (can take a photo with your phone) or photocopies of important documents (e.g., insurance policies, livestock inventories, wills). Take originals with you and leave copies in secure location on-site and/or off-site in a waterproof or fireproof container.
- ☐ *Fire safety:* Pack NIOSH N95 or P100 masks for respiratory protection.
- ☐ *Flood safety:* Secure valuables in water-tight containers.



Example: Grab & go bag

Security

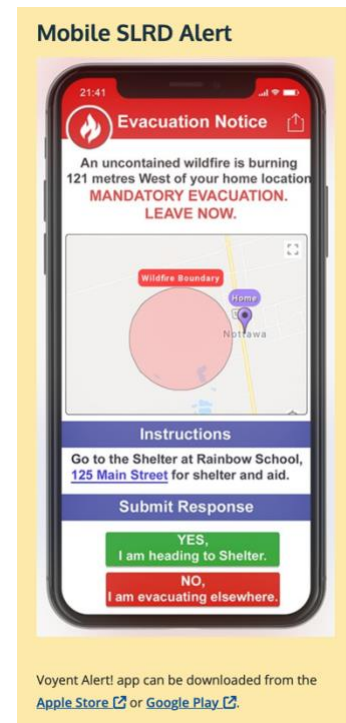
- ☐ Leave key contact information for yourself and/or farm / ranch manager in a visible location such as at the end of driveway or on the front door. Consider also leaving basic information about the farm / ranch and instructions for emergency response personnel.
- ☐ Lock up firearms and valuables.
- ☐ Leave gates unlocked (or open if releasing animals).

Horses and Livestock

- ☐ Ensure all animals are up-to-date on vaccines.
- ☐ Ensure animals have identification (e.g. ear tags, neckbands, leg bands, paint pen on hooves) with farm / ranch name, contact, address, phones numbers
- ☐ Pre-load and position livestock trailers for immediate use if animals are going to be relocated or brought with you.

Communications

- ☐ Update the key contact list (see appendix) and place a copy of it in your vehicle.
- ☐ Ensure that the SLRD has your contact information and any key information about your operation that may be relevant in an emergency. Complete any forms or paperwork necessary for ensuring farm, ranch and livestock safety (e.g. such as “Pass” system paperwork, livestock relocation reimbursement forms).
- ☐ Enter into a Buddy Farm arrangement with 1-2 farms or ranches in another part of the community for mutual assistance and temporary relocation support.
- ☐ Register for the BC Premises ID program which will help you with re-entry to your operation if you need to leave.
- ☐ Register for the Mobile SLRD Emergency Alert
- ☐ Register for nearest municipality Emergency Alert (e.g. Lillooet, Pemberton, Squamish).
- ☐ Consider purchasing a two-way communication device such as a satellite phone, Zoleo, or InReach as many areas will have limited to no cell service.
- ☐ Consider downloading apps like Gaia or make an offline map in Google Maps before heading out for offline GPS needs.



Download the SLRD Alert app to be notified of SLRD alerts

Agricultural Buildings, Machinery, and Water

- ☐ Take photos of all buildings, fences, gates, valuable equipment, and anything else that you may want to make an insurance claim for if it becomes damaged.
- ☐ Check fencing and make any final repairs if horses and livestock will be left in fields.
- ☐ Turn off stove or greenhouse pilot lights, propane, gas tanks and any other fuel sources.
- ☐ Disconnect appliances and/or critical mechanical equipment to reduce risk of electrical damage if surges occur.
- ☐ Prepare generator and ensure it is in working order.
- ☐ Secure fuel and chemicals on high ground (or anchored in case of floods) and/or in fire-resistant containers.
- ☐ Relocate machinery and vehicles to cleared areas, high ground, or inside metal-sided buildings.
- ☐ Photograph assets including structures, equipment, and livestock for insurance.
- ☐ Consider turning off water connections to buildings to avoid impacting critical water pressure.
- ☐ *Fire safety:* Store hay and feed in fire-resistant areas or cover with fireproof tarps.
- ☐ *Fire safety:* Clearly mark any emergency water sources (e.g., pool, pond, portable pump) to ensure visibility from the street.
- ☐ *Fire safety:* Set up exterior building sprinkler systems if you have them.
- ☐ *Fire safety:* Close all building exterior doors, windows, and vents including any fireplace dampers.
- ☐ *Flood safety:* Be ready to turn off electricity to your well pump just before flooding occurs.
- ☐ *Flood safety:* Seal low-level openings (e.g., basement windows) with waterproof barriers.

PHASE 2: During *an emergency*

Personal Health and Safety

- ☐ Dress in cotton or wool items.
 - ☐ Wear sturdy footwear, steel-toed boots if possible.
 - ☐ Pack your phone and make sure you have an extra battery pack.
 - ☐ Pack up your laptop, identification, insurance papers, and other critical documents.
 - ☐ *Fire tip:* Keep a mask handy in your pocket
-

Communication and Alerts

- ☐ Connect to local radio.
 - ☐ Open the SLRD
 - ☐ Alert App and look for updates.
 - ☐ Register for Emergency Shelter or Muster Point.
 - ☐ Reach out to your buddy farm and provide them an update of your needs.
 - ☐ Reach out to neighbours to see if anyone need assistance or can provide support.
 - ☐ An Evacuation Order means you must leave. If you defy them let the SLRD know you are sheltering in place and supply them with your dentist's and/or doctor's contact info.
-

Horses and Livestock

- ☐ Transport animals to safe zones (e.g. rodeo grounds or community pastures). Expect these to change depending on the emergency event so stay connected to SLRD Alert app for updates.

What to organize? "The 5 Ps"

1. People
2. Papers
3. Prescriptions
4. Pictures
5. Pets (& Livestock)

PHASE 3: After *an emergency*

Personal Health and Safety

- ☐ Access mental wellness resources through AgSafe, such as [AgTalk](#) for anonymous support.
 - ☐ Additional support is available on the [SLRD website](#).
-

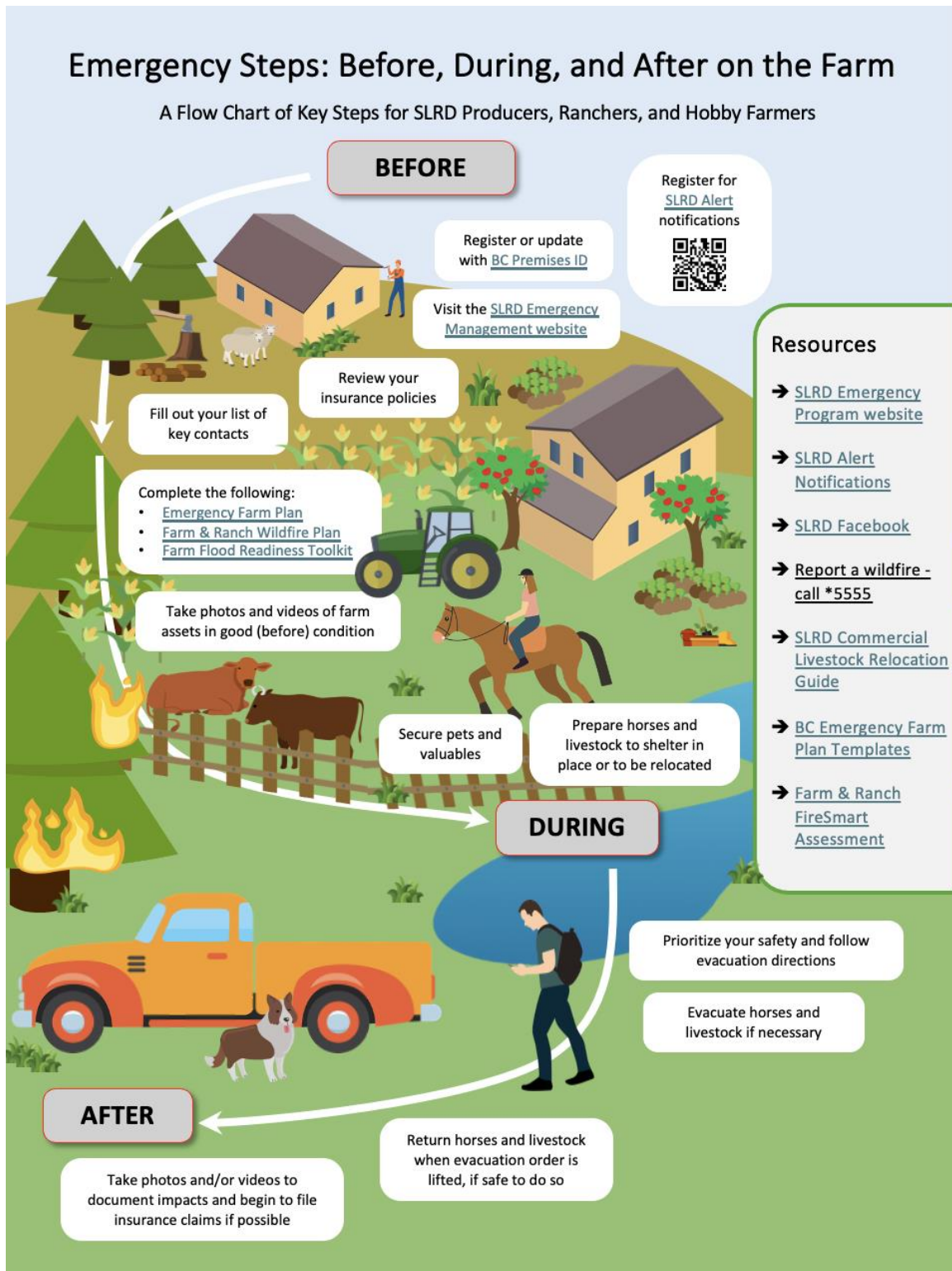
Agricultural Buildings and Machinery

- ☐ Check fencing and buildings for damage and danger.
 - ☐ Document any fire or flooding damage through photographs.
 - ☐ Keep track of expenses and time during clean up and recovery
 - ☐ Instigate insurance claim(s) if necessary and/or possible.
-

Horses and Livestock

- ☐ Reach out to a veterinarian and schedule a health-check for livestock and horses.
- ☐ Complete any paperwork regarding livestock relocation for cost recovery.

Appendix 6: Checklist for Emergencies: Before, During, and After: Infographic



Appendix 7: Key Resources for Agricultural Emergency Preparedness

Preparedness

- ➔ [SLRD Emergency Preparedness](#)
This website provides several links to provincial and regional resources, as well as a link to key elements of an emergency plan.
- ➔ [SLRD Community Emergency Plans](#) **SLRD, 2018**
On this webpage you will find SLRD Community Emergency Plans for all four electoral areas.
- ➔ [Emergency Management Factsheet: Emergency Preparedness Tips](#) **BC Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 2019**
Contains general considerations that apply to most producers to prepare for a variety of different disaster events and tips that are typically applicable only for certain disaster events or only to livestock producers.
- ➔ [Emergency Farm Plan Template and Guideline](#) **Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, 2021**
The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District created a Template and Guidelines for farm operators. These resources are applicable to producers across the province to create an plan for emergencies.
- ➔ [Emergency Preparedness for Producers: Sector Specific Emergency Management Guides](#) **Ministry of Agriculture and Food, 2018-2022**
Available for producers of: Pork, Dairy, Poultry, Beef and small Mixed Farms. These are interactive guides tailored to specific sectors to prepare for and mitigate the impact of potential emergencies including fillable forms to develop an emergency management plan for your farm or ranch.
- ➔ [AgSafe BC: The Emergency Preparedness Evacuation Planning Package](#) **Ag Safe, 2024**
AgSafe BC provides a package of resources which is applicable in scenarios when evacuation of a farm or ranch operation is necessary. This includes an Evacuation Checklist.
- ➔ [Disaster Preparedness Guidelines for Horses](#) **Horse Council BC, 2015**
Provides general guidelines intended to help the horse owner prepare for most disasters.

Wildfire

- ➔ [Wildfire Preparedness Workshop Series](#) **BC Climate Change Adaptation Program, 2021**
This resource is a two-part workshop series in Webinar form for farmers and ranchers on the potential wildfire risks to agricultural operations and the measures producers can take to prepare for and mitigate those risks.
- ➔ [Farm and Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan: Guide and Workbook](#) **BC Climate Change Adaptation Program, updated 2025**
Walks farmers, ranchers and homesteaders through the development of a customized Farm & Ranch Wildfire Preparedness Plan.
- ➔ [British Columbia FireSmart: Farm and Ranch Assessment](#) **FireSmart, 2024**
This document is an example of a FireSmart assessment for farms and ranches. These assessments are conducted by Wildfire Mitigation Specialists & Local FireSmart Representatives, who have received Farm & Ranch FireSmart training, to assess the risk from wildfire to each farm operation's critical structures.

Flood

- ➔ [Farm Flood Readiness Toolkit](#) **BC Climate Change Adaptation Program, 2022**
Designed to assist agricultural producers to assess flood risk and farm and ranch vulnerabilities, and to identify suitable strategies for reducing the impact of a flooding event.

Livestock

- ➔ [SLRD Emergency Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide](#) **SLRD, updated 2025**
This guide outlines the roles, responsibilities and response procedures for commercial livestock relocation when a major emergency is occurring or imminent.
- ➔ [Producer Handbook: Preparing the BC Beef Sector for Disease-Related Sector-Wide Emergencies](#) **BC Cattleman's Association, 2018**
This handbook was developed by the BC Cattleman's Association to help operators and staff prepare for disease-related sector-wide emergencies.

Appendix 8: Agricultural Emergency Coordinator Role and Job Toolkit

Role of the Agricultural Emergency Coordinator (AEC)

The Agricultural Emergency Coordinator (AEC) will play a critical role in understanding the local agricultural sector, implementing the Agriculture Emergency Plan, and being responsible for liaising with the agricultural stakeholders (including commercial operations, horse owners, hobby farms, and ranches) before, during, and after an emergency. The AEC role assists producers (farmers, ranchers, harvesters, Indigenous community food producers, etc.) within the affected community in the protection of livestock and other agriculture related assets. The AEC facilitates situational awareness and resource coordination between other levels of government related to agriculture. During an emergency, the AEC would utilize their community connections and knowledge of local agriculture to enhance emergency response within the EOC.

During the mitigation and preparedness phases the AEC will play an important role in developing deeper connections to the agricultural communities in each of the Electoral Areas to better understand their needs. There are several resources available to provide jump-start on that task, see the Job Toolkit for more information (in the Appendix). During the emergency response phase, the role will become more operational and will require that the AEC have an understanding of the decision-making hierarchy associated with the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). The recovery phase will focus on connecting members of the agricultural community with disaster recovery resources.

Whether the emergency involves fires, floods, landslides, or other hazards – the roles and responsibilities can be broadly defined through the following tasks presented in order of mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery.

AEC On-Boarding

The on-boarding process will depend somewhat on the level of familiarity that the AEC has with the SLRD agricultural community. A job toolkit has been developed (see Appendix) to assist in navigating through existing reports and resources to become up-to-speed on the agricultural characteristics of the region.

Phase 1: Mitigation Tasks

This phase involves being very proactive and supporting existing SLRD goals and initiatives in securing resources and capacity to move forward on longer term climate change adaptation and mitigation goals. It also involves working with the agricultural community and other community organizations to get ahead on certain planning opportunities before an emergency arises.

- Work with SLRD staff to:

- a. Advocate for mitigation resources from the province for farm / ranch -based or community-level initiatives.
 - b. Consult with the agricultural community to explore options that would require new agricultural buildings within existing floodplains to be developed with minimum flood control levels in order to mitigate flood losses.
 - c. Pursue opportunities that can support regional programs targeting the SLRD's disaster resilience and mitigation goals through provincial mitigation programs.
- Work with the agricultural community to:
 - a. Connect producers to existing resources such as the FireSmart Farm & Ranch program and Premises ID program.
 - b. Present alternatives to open burning on farmland as a land clearing solution, in order to mitigate wildfire risk.
- Work in collaboration with key regional organizations, for example:
 - a. Connect with SquamishCAN, Pemberton Farmers Institute, and Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society to develop sub-regional contact lists.
 - b. Work with Pemberton Valley Dyking District to move forward on stronger flood protection in agricultural areas and support the dissemination of information regarding drainage and diking infrastructure, maintenance, and upgrade plans.
 - c. The agricultural community to develop emergency "playbooks" for specific areas (e.g. upper Pemberton Meadows, Birken, D'Arcy).

Phase 2: Preparation Tasks

During the preparation phase, more detailed planning can be undertaken. In certain circumstances there may be a long lead time in estimating that an emergency scenario will arise (e.g. drought) while others will have a much short preparation window (e.g. wildfire). The role of the AEC will be to help all involved be as prepared as possible to respond effectively and safely during the emergency.

- Work with SLRD staff to:
 - a. Create and/or update educational materials that outline the SLRD's role in emergencies, including communication, organizing accommodations, providing financial vouchers, and providing access (passes) to areas under evacuation order.
 - b. Provide updates to the Community Emergency Plans and the Livestock Evacuation Plan every year (or more frequently if required due to changing legislation). Ensure agriculture is consulted and considered within the community plans.
 - c. Enhance the specificity and timeliness of emergency alerts by leveraging tools such as email lists, phone trees, and social media forums (e.g., Facebook community pages), and the SLRD Alert app.

- d. Pre-identify and prepare 'safe zones' for livestock for use during temporary relocation. Ensure these locations are equipped with necessary infrastructure, such as water and fencing. Streamline local temporary pass protocols in the event of an emergency evacuation.
 - e. Explore how the SLRD and/or District of Squamish could support bulk horse and livestock feed purchasing or creating a local feed silo to strengthen livestock feed resiliency in the community.
 - f. Advocate to the province to identify opportunities to temporarily open access to Crown land for emergency grazing if livestock evacuation occurs.
- Work with the agricultural community to:
 - a. Communicate existing materials with local agricultural leaders, committees, and groups.
 - b. Uncover funding solutions to invest in equipment such as backup generators, fuel reserves, and livestock feed storage to enhance response and recovery at the community level.
 - c. Maintain a database of community-shared resources for agriculture, including generators, water pumps, and flood protection tools, that can be deployed during response efforts.
 - d. Use GIS tools, such as Google Earth and GoogleMyMap, to map agricultural assets and evacuation routes, helping to prioritize areas for mitigation and response efforts.
 - e. Support horse and livestock producers in creating identification tags for their animals. This could involve assistance with finding funding or other support to implement the animal identification program.

Phase 3: Response Tasks

Once an emergency has been declared the role of the AEC will shift to accomplishing more operational tasks within the structure of the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). This may include the following tasks:

- Work within the EOC structure to:
 - a. Provide the regular, accurate, up to date information and advice on current impacts to agriculture, potential for escalation of impacts, and the risks and consequences to the agriculture sector and food sovereignty.
 - b. Make contact with Ministry of Agriculture and Food representative(s) to provide regular updates and utilize them for advice and assistance.
 - c. Support contingency planning for agriculture, including the identification of evacuation routes, areas for livestock relocation, and transportation methods.
 - d. Facilitate support for livestock watering, feeding and health (animal welfare) and essential care for crops. This may include assisting the EOC with temporary access to ranches and farms (pass system).

- e. Advise the EOC about issues related to disaster recovery for the agriculture sector (e.g. AgriRecovery).
- Work with the agricultural community to:
 - a. Connect with producers, as well as other agriculture partners (e.g. BC Cattleman's Range Riders, allied trades, agriculture associations, etc.) to maintain agriculture related situational awareness for the EOC and the needs for agriculture support.
 - b. Support the protection of livestock through livestock relocation (EMCR Policy 2.01) and staying on farm / ranch processes (having done mitigation and preparedness) to do essential activities processes.

Phase 4: Recovery Tasks

Once the emergency shifts into recovery, the AEC will play an important role in connecting those who have been affected with existing resources such as livestock relocation compensation. It will also present an opportunity to learn from the event and make adjustments to processes and procedures for future emergencies.

- Work with SLRD staff to:
 - a. Advocate for financial assistance programs targeting agricultural recovery, including funds for rebuilding infrastructure and replacing assets.
 - b. Take stock of the outcome of the response to the emergency, review notes, and assess opportunities for improvement.
- Work with the agricultural community to:
 - a. Connect producers and agriculture partners with external supports or resources that may be provided by the Province, agriculture associations, or other sources.

HOW to USE the JOB TOOLKIT – TOP 5 TASKS

1. Familiarize yourself with types and approximate numbers of livestock, farms, ranches and homesteads across the SLRD by reading this AEP and the Agricultural Plans for the Squamish Valley and Area D, Pemberton Valley and Area C, and Lillooet and Area B.
2. Familiarize yourself with Provincial agricultural emergency management resources and staff at the Ministry of Agriculture and Food such as the local Regional Agrologists and members of the Emergency Management Branch.
3. Review the following key documents:
 - a. [Agriculture Appendix Template for BC Local Authority Emergency Plans](#) (updated in 2023)
 - b. [Emergency Response Plans and Roles in Agriculture](#)
 - c. [Emergency Management Guide for Small and Mixed Farms](#)
4. Familiarize yourself with [Premises ID](#), the provincial livestock reimbursement policy (website link [here](#)), and the SLRD Commercial Livestock Relocation Guide (updated in 2025).
5. Using the list of key farms and ranches, and contact information created as part of the SLRD Agricultural Emergency Plan, build relationships with the agricultural community and make them aware of your position and responsibilities.

AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY COORDINATOR JOB TOOL-KIT

Agriculture in the SLRD: Key Information

	Lillooet and Areas A and B	Pemberton and Area C	Squamish and Area D
Typical farms	Ranches, horses, mixed livestock, vineyards, fruit trees, mixed vegetables, hops. Many farms are large acreages.	Berries, potatoes, mixed vegetables, hops, flowers, horses, small mixed livestock. Many farms are on leased land.	Mixed livestock, horses, mixed vegetables, hops, flowers. Lots of hobby/small-scale farms.
Estimated number of farms	~ 30	~ 40 - 50	~ 20 - 30
Key challenges	Lack of cell service, one road in/out of Texas Creek, Yalakom Valley, etc.	One road in/out of Pemberton Valley, Birken, etc.	One road in/out of Squamish Valley and Paradise Valley, lack of cell service.
Key assets	“Take charge” attitude, experience with disasters.	Populated rural areas with assets (Pemberton Valley and Birken).	Proximity to urban centres and resources.
Key hazards	Mainly fires	Floods and fires	Floods and fires
Key organizations	Lillooet Agriculture and Food Society	Pemberton Farmers Institute	SquamishCAN
Key reports	SLRD Area B and Lillooet Agricultural Plan	Pemberton Valley Agricultural Plan	Squamish and SLRD Area D Agricultural Plan

AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY COORDINATOR JOB TOOL-KIT

What You Need to Know

KEY LEGISLATION, PLANS, AND POLICIES

SLRD Bylaw 921-2004
Emergency Management
Program for Electoral
Areas



SLRD All-Hazards
Emergency
Response Plan



BC *Emergency & Disaster
Management Act* (EDMA) &
BC Emergency & Disaster
Management Regulation



SLRD Emergency
Management website:
alerts and orders, EOC



SLRD Area B, Area C, and Area D
Agricultural Area Plans



BC Compensation &
Disaster Financial
Assistance Regulation



SLRD Community
Emergency Plans



SLRD Agricultural
Emergency Plan



KEY RESOURCES

Provincial
PremisesID
Program



Farm and Ranch
Wildfire Preparedness
Guide and Workbook



PreparedBC
Emergency
Guides



On-Farm Flood Toolkit including
Buddy Farm template



FireSmart for Farms and Ranches



SLRD Emergency Livestock
Relocation Guide



Squamish Lillooet
Food Asset Map



SLRD Alert System
- Voyent Alert



Disaster Preparedness
Guidelines for
Horse Owners



Provincial Agricultural
Sector-Specific Emergency
Planning Guides



AgSafeBC Emergency
Preparedness Evacuation
Planning Package



Appendix 9: Producer “Resource Pods”: Concept Plan

Producer “Resource Pods” by Community with Spokesperson Model ~ Concept Plan ~

In the event of an emergency, producers in the SLRD communities of, Electoral Areas ‘A’, ‘B’ and the Lillooet Area; Electoral Area ‘C’ and Pemberton Area; and Electoral Area ‘D’ and Squamish Area could benefit from a coordinated response system that maximizes resources, ensures safety, and strengthens communication by reinforcing partnerships between the SLRD and members of the agricultural community.

The following concept plan is a suggestion about how existing agri-food organizations in each of these communities could form hyper-localized “resource pods” to support one another and designate a spokesperson to liaise with the SLRD Emergency Coordinator.

PHASE 1 (assumes limited resources)

1. Resource Pod Formation and Structure

Each sub-region will serve as a distinct **resource pod** area, leveraging natural geographic boundaries to organize farmers, ranchers, and neighboring residents for efficient communication and resource sharing during an emergency.

a. Proposed Resource Pod Boundaries:

- Pod 1: Electoral Areas ‘A’, ‘B’ and the Lillooet Area (could be further broken down for Yalakom Valley, Texas Creek, etc).
- Pod 2: Electoral Area ‘C’ and Pemberton Area (could be further broken down for Birken, etc.)
- Pod 3: Electoral Area ‘D’ and Squamish Area (could be further broken down for Squamish Valley, Paradise Valley, etc).

b. Pod Size and Composition:

Members of the resource pods in each area would be inclusive of all producers, horse owners and hobby farms present.

2. Leadership Structure and Spokesperson Role

a. Proposed Pod Leaders: Each pod would need to identify a leader. This may be an existing community organization or an individual.

- **Responsibilities:**
 - Each Pod leader would be responsible for convening and/or facilitating meetings with members to distribute resources and identify gaps that could be filled by local leaders.
 - Pod leaders will have strong organizational skills and be familiar with local resources and emergency protocols.

- A key role will be ensuring that the SLRD has up-to-date contact information for all farms and ranches within the pod's boundaries (addresses, phone numbers, emails).
- Coordinating with neighboring pods if inter-pod collaboration is needed during large-scale emergencies.

b. Pod Spokesperson:

- **Designation:** Each pod will designate one **Spokesperson**, who can communicate effectively under stress and has access to reliable communication channels and the inventory of all producers, horse farms and hobby farms in their area.
- **Responsibilities:** The spokesperson will:
 - Serve as the primary point of contact between the pod and the SLRD Emergency Coordinator, Agricultural Liaison, or others affiliated with the Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - Provide regular updates to the EOC about the pod's status, including the number of affected individuals, critical needs (e.g., medical, supplies, feed), and resources available.
 - Receive and disseminate information from the EOC to pod members, ensuring they are informed about evacuation procedures, emergency alerts, and support services.
 - Help to coordinate the evacuation or relocation of livestock if necessary and ensure that emergency assistance is requested in a timely manner.

c. Backup Spokesperson:

- **Role:** In case the primary spokesperson becomes unavailable, each pod should designate a Backup Spokesperson. This person should be trained on the EOC communication process and familiar with pod needs.

3. Communication and Coordination

a. Before an Emergency:

- **Pod Contact Lists:** Each pod will maintain a contact list with the names, addresses, phone numbers, and any special needs (e.g., medical conditions, language barriers) of all producers, horse farms and hobby farms within the pod. This list will also include emergency contacts for each household.
- **Communication Tools:**
 - **Two-Way Radios:** For reliable communication if cell or internet service fails.
 - **Phone Tree or Group Messaging Systems:** Use text groups (e.g., WhatsApp, SMS) to quickly reach all pod members. Set up a phone tree, where each person calls a few others, to ensure information spreads rapidly.

b. During an Emergency:

- **Direct Line to SLRD Staff:** The spokesperson will maintain a direct line of communication to key SLRD staff by phone, radio, or alternative communication platform set up by local emergency management authorities.
- **Frequency of Updates:** The spokesperson should provide regular updates about pod needs and conditions (e.g., every 4-6 hours, or as the situation changes) during an active emergency.

4. Emergency Preparedness and Planning

a. Pod Emergency Plan:

- **Evacuation Routes and Shelters:** The SLRD and/or EOC will be responsible for designating safe evacuation route and safe shelter locations in case the community needs to relocate due to an emergency. The pod can support by assisting with communicating these routes and locations to members.
- **Livestock and Animal Care:**
 - **Animal Evacuation:** Create an inventory of local transport vehicles (trailers, trucks) for livestock evacuation. Plan for communal storage of feed and water in case of long-term emergencies.
 - **Animal Sheltering:** Identify shelters that can accommodate livestock if evacuation is not possible (e.g., barns, community centers).
- **Emergency Supplies:** Encourage pod members to stockpile essential supplies such as food, water, medical supplies, fuel, and tools. Encourage pod members to contribute to a shared supply or to maintain personal emergency kits.

PHASE 2 (assumes additional resources through grants or govt support)

5. Resource Management

a. Resource Sharing and Stockpiling:

- **Shared Resources:** Create a shared inventory of resources within the pod, such as emergency medical supplies, animal feed, water tanks, backup power sources (e.g., generators), and tools.
- **Centralized Resource Hub:** Set up a centralized resource hub where key materials can be stored and accessed by pod members. This hub can be at a community center, a barn, or another centrally located facility.
- **Resource Requests:** The spokesperson will manage resource requests and ensure that critical needs (e.g., medical supplies, food, animal care items) are communicated to the EOC in a timely manner.

b. Livestock Support:

- **Animal Health and Safety:** Ensure all pod members have access to basic veterinary care or support for their animals.
- **Feed and Water Supply:** Organize a backup plan for sourcing additional feed and water during emergencies, especially if transport routes are blocked.

6. Coordination with Local Authorities and the EOC

a. Regular Drills and Training:

- **Annual Drills:** Collaborate with the SLRD to undertake annual emergency drills. This can include evacuations, first aid, livestock handling, and communication drills to ensure everyone knows their role and responsibilities.
- **Skill-sharing:** Support the sharing of expertise on handling specific emergencies, like managing animal care during floods or wildfires, setting up temporary shelters, or using fire safety equipment.

- **Local Hazards Education:** Work with the SLRD to provide education on local risks such as wildfires, floods, and landslides. Ensure that all pod members understand the unique challenges of their electoral area.

Conclusion

By supporting resource pods based on geographic communities, the SLRD can create a strong network of support for the agricultural community that will help ensure the safety, resource sharing, and effective communication needed during an emergency. The designated spokespersons will provide a direct link to the Emergency Operations Center, streamlining the process of receiving and requesting aid. This strategy empowers local producers and residents to respond to emergencies with resilience, collaboration, and efficiency, ultimately improving the overall safety and well-being of the community.