

EPICC GRAM

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FOR
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE COUNCIL

Volume 43- July '09

EPICC NEWS!

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

EPICC Welcomes Members and Friends to the
5th Annual 1-day Business Continuity
Workshop

***“People are your most important
asset ... WORKFORCE
CONTINUITY ...***

***Do you have it covered in your
BCP?”***

Come and learn more about Business Continuity as it relates to Workforce Continuity, and the immediate preparations your organization needs to make for pandemic preparedness. Hear from other EM/BCM practitioners who have lived through it and industry experts who provide services to ensure you get back into business. An opportunity to sit alongside other professionals who are responsible for Business Continuity Management, Security, Risk Management or/and Emergency Management. This is open to all types and sizes of businesses and public service agencies. This session will be very interactive with panel discussions and audience participation.

WHEN:

**Friday, September 18, 2009, 8:30 am to
4:00 pm.**

WHERE:

Comfort Hotel, Topaz Room, 3020
Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC –
(formerly the Holiday Inn), near Mayfair
Mall. Free parking available.



COST: \$80.00 each for EPICC Members

\$120.00 each non EPICC
Member

Space is limited so **Register Early** by
emailing EPICC at info@epicc.org or call
(604) 580-7373

**Doors open at 8:30 a.m. & Seminar starts
promptly at 9:15 a.m.**

15 Steps to Earthquake Readiness

Involving staff is critical to making the plan work- talk to them about what needs to be done and why, as you follow these steps.

So far we've reviewed steps 1,2,3,4

- 1: Brief Staff
- 2: Emergency Supplies
- 3: Assess Building Vulnerability
- 4: Reduce Hazards

For the past couple of months we have reviewed two steps per Newsletter and will continue to do so, until all fifteen steps have been reviewed.

5: Dangerous Goods or Hazardous Materials

Review procedures for the storage, use and transport and disposal of hazardous materials, and prepare and inventory.



6: Assign Tasks to Staff

Remove any uncertainty as to what staff should do in an emergency. Assign tasks to help staff respond as quickly as possible. Train them so they know what to expect. Training is available from the Canadian Red Cross, St. John Ambulance or your local municipal Emergency Management Office.



www.redcross.ca

If you missed the information on the first 4 steps to Earthquake Readiness, previous issues of the EPICCgram are available on our website, www.epicc.org under the Recent News section.

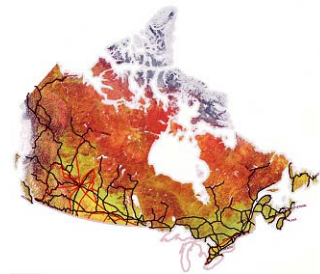
COMING SOON!

Hazards

to Canadian Critical Infrastructure:

Reducing the Risk in

British Columbia



**Centre for Natural Research, SFU
Natural Resources Canada
Justice Institute of British Columbia
Pearces 2 Consulting
Public Safety Canada**

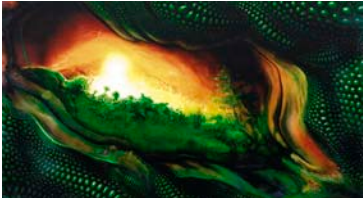
Workshop

September 28, 2009

**Simon Fraser University
Harbour Centre Campus**

**For more information please access the
workshop website:
<http://www.mhrisk.ca>**

Forest Fire Safety and Preparedness



Although some forest fires can have a positive impact on nature, generally speaking forest fires can have a serious negative impact and put many people, their property, and businesses at high risk. BC has been impacted strongly by the Forest fires in Kelowna, and only recently were some of the evacuees allowed to return home.

There are still over 5,000 residents who are evacuated and another 6,000 who are under alert.

A large percentage of Forest fires are the result of neglect and lack of attention by humans.

Outdoor fires can be caused by:

- Burning Grass
- Burning Cigarette Ends
- Hunting
- Camping Fires
- Vehicles/ATV's
- Lightning
- Arson

and more.....

It is very important to take all precautions when using fire outdoors.

NEDIES has provided us with a checklist for Forest Fire Precautions:

This checklist aims to advice people living or planning to take a holiday in fire-prone areas.

WHAT TO DO BEFORE

1. Learn and teach safe fire practices:

- Build fires away from nearby trees or bushes
- Always have a way to extinguish the fire quickly and completely
- Never leave a fire--even a cigarette--burning unattended
- Obtain local building codes and weed abatement ordinances for structures built near wooded areas

2. Use fire-resistant materials when building, renovating, or retrofitting structures

3. Create a safety zone to separate the home from combustible plants and vegetation:

- Stonewalls can act as heat shields and deflect flames
- Swimming pools and patios can be a safety zone

4. Check for fire hazards around home:

- Install electrical lines underground, if possible. Keep all tree and shrub limbs trimmed so they don't come in contact with the wires
- Prune all branches around the residence to a height of 8 to 10 feet (0.7 to 0.9 metres). Keep trees adjacent to buildings free of dead or dying wood and moss
- Remove all dead limbs, needles, and debris from rain gutters
- Store combustible or flammable materials in approved safety containers and keep them away from the house
- Keep chimney clean
- Avoid open burning completely, and especially during dry season
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas

5. Make evacuation plans from home and from neighbourhood

6. Plan several routes in case the fire blocks escape route

7. Have disaster supplies on hand:

- Flashlight with extra batteries
- Portable, battery-operated radio and extra batteries
- First aid kit and manual
- Emergency food and water
- Non-electric can opener
- Essential medicines
- Cash and credit cards
- Sturdy shoes
- Develop an emergency communication plan
- In case family members are separated from one another during a forest fire (a real possibility during the day when adults are at work and children are at school), have a plan for getting back together

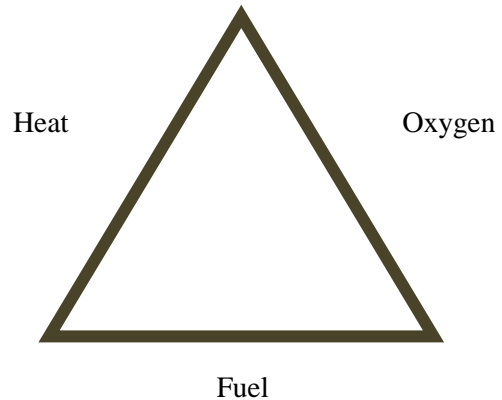
8. Ask an out-of-state relative or friend to serve as the "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Make sure everyone knows the name, address, and phone number of the contact person.

9. Fire-Resistant Building Materials:

- Avoid using wooden shakes and shingles for a roof. Use tile, stucco, metal siding, brick, concrete block, rock, or other fire-resistant materials. Use only thick, tempered safety glass in large windows and sliding glass doors
- Contact your local emergency management office or Local Red Cross chapter for more information on forest fires

(source:
<http://www.fema.gov/hazards/fires/wildlanf.shtm>)

The Fire triangle helps us understand the factors of fire. Each side represents one ingredient a fire needs to exist.



When one of the sides of the triangle is broken the fire will stop.

Heat is responsible for igniting the fire and permitting it to spread. It removes the moisture from the fuels and warms the air so that the fuel can travel a lot easier. Fuel can come from any combustible material. Its moisture content controls how easily it will burn. Oxygen is found in Air and supports the fire. When the fuel reacts with the oxygen, it releases a heat and generates smoke and gases. This is when oxidation occurs.

EPICC would like to thank all of the Firefighters who are out there battling against these BC fires.

For more information on fire prevention

<http://bcwildfire.ca/ContactUs/>



Please submit any comments to Lesley Carew, Executive Administrator info@epicc.org

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