Emergency Operations Centre Functions

Building Damage Assessment Unit
The Building Damage Assessment Unit facilitates situational awareness and resource coordination regarding the inspection process that determines the safety of buildings that have been impacted by the disaster. The Unit may draw upon expertise from Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Association of Professional Engineers Geo Scientists of BC (APEGBC), BC Housing, Applied Science Technologists of BC, GEO BC, BC Safety Authority, Local Authority Building Inspectors and Local Authority Fire Departments as needed.

The Building Damage Assessment Unit is directly linked with:
- **BC Housing** – For Rapid Damage Assessment training, assessment coordination, action plans, response/recovery priorities and authority to access and restrict access to government housing property.
- **BC Safety Authority** – For assessment coordination and authority to access and restrict access to buildings in areas not controlled by municipal authorities (Regional Districts)
- **Shared Services BC** - For assessment coordination and authority to access and restrict access to government buildings
- **Local Authority Building Inspectors and Local Authority Fire Departments** - For assessment coordination and authority to access and restrict access to buildings in Local Authority jurisdictions
- **Fire Commissioner** – For assessment coordination and authority to access and restrict access to buildings with respect to the Fire Services Act
- **Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada** – For assessment coordination and coordinating assistance to access and restrict access to First Nations buildings
- **GEO BC** – For GIS Mapping of potentially affected areas and assessment information dissemination
- **APEGBC and ASTTBC** – For detailed and engineering assessments and for mutual aid support/coordination from out-of-province responders (i.e. certification confirmation)
- **BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy** - For identification of the presence or absence of chemical or bacteriological contamination of flood waters in buildings, basements and crawl spaces.
- **BC Assessment Authority** – For compilation and tracking of assessment results
- **Recovery Centre** – For coordination of building assessment results with unmet needs assessments of impacted persons
- **Utility Providers** – For coordination of utility service disconnects in unsafe buildings/areas
- **Government Communications and Public Engagement** – For coordination of messaging related to building damage assessment.
- **Emergency Social Services** – For sharing of building loss damage information related to the coordination of human services (food, clothing, shelter, psycho-social needs) for the displaced occupants.
Major responsibilities:

- Operate as a conduit for coordinated provincial support with respect to the inspection and assessment of buildings for planning, response and recovery operations;
- Liaise with or activate as a functional unit of the Critical Infrastructure Branch of the PECC Operations Section;
- Maintain overall and sector-specific situational awareness;
- Ensure information dissemination to key stakeholders as per above;
- Support PREOCs;
- Provide response and recovery priorities, action plans, situation reports and status of damage assessment response operations;
- Facilitate building damage assessment operational problem solving;
- Assist with prioritization and coordination of related building damage assessment resources as required; and
- Facilitate connection with damage assessment expertise.

Specific informational resources – e.g. maps, data

Tools and Resources:

- Rapid damage Assessment Placards
- Rapid Damage Assessment Forms
- Tracking Spreadsheet
- Frequently Asked Questions for Occupants
- Local Area Maps