



Sarah Clarke
Office of the Fire Commissioner

November 14, 2006
Dear Stakeholders:

I would like to advise you of the establishment of the Emergency Management BC (EMBC) which will oversee the integrated strategic planning, mitigation, response and recovery activities for British Columbia. David Morhart, the Deputy Solicitor General, announced this agency on November 10th in the following message.

EMBC will be the umbrella organization that encompasses the already strong programs we have in place within the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General, including the Office of the Fire Commissioner (OFC), Provincial Emergency Program (PEP), and the British Columbia Coroners Service. Each of these programs will continue to have the same mandate, and EMBC will be the mechanism to provide integrated strategic opportunities for further leverage and partnership both within this ministry, across government, and with external stakeholder agencies.

Wes Shoemaker has been appointed Associate Deputy Minister responsible for EMBC and will work closely with David Hodgins (OFC), Cam Filmer of the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP) and Terry Smith, Chief Coroner, of the Coroners Service to provide a centralized point of contact for all emergency management responsibilities within government. Wes will begin his new role in early December.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner will continue to fulfill its mandate which is the promotion of fire prevention, life safety and property protection programs. We will continue to work closely with local governments and fire services organizations to achieve these objectives:

- Provide fire code advice and guidance
- Develop public education programs and fire safety materials
- Provide evaluation and best practice information to support local fire departments
- Assist in the coordination of firefighter training
- Provide LAFC training
- Undertake major fire investigations
- Support provincial response to major emergencies
- Fire reporting and statistical analysis.

Please e-mail us at OFC@gov.bc.ca or call us at 250-356-9000 in Victoria if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

E. David Hodgins

E. David Hodgins, CEM

Assistant Deputy Minister/Fire Commissioner