



## *Bella Bella – Denny Island Emergency Management Plan*

### **HAZARD ANNEX – SEVERE WEATHER & POWER OUTAGE RESPONSE PLAN**

*Central Coast Regional District  
&  
Heiltsuk Nation*

*Updated by Frontier Resource Management Ltd  
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# Hazard Annex – Severe Weather & Power Outage ERP

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## Severe Weather & Power Outage Contact List

- See **Bella Bella/Denny Island EOC call out list**
- Coast Guard – Denny Island: 250-957-5706
- Power Outage and BC Hydro emergencies: 1-888-769-3766
- Boralex Power – 250- 289-3868
- Telus – repair: 611
- Red Cross: 800-661-9055

### 1. Introduction

Extreme weather events may cause damage to critical infrastructure such as highways, bridges, utility and communications systems and cause all or portions of the Bella Bella/Denny Island communities to become isolated.

With modern weather monitoring and forecasting, it is expected that severe weather systems can be identified and tracked prior to making landfall and that people can be forewarned to prepare and ‘batten down the hatches’.

#### 1.1 *Weather-related Concerns*

The main types of weather events that may cause emergency situations are:

- Hurricane force winds
- Heavy snowfall
- Freezing rains

- Extended period of freezing conditions
- Storm surges and large wave action.

## **2. Storm Warning**

Notification of impending storm conditions are issued by EMBC. Local emergency personnel may also raise the storm alarm based on weather forecast information from a variety of web based weather forecasting agencies.

Storm warnings are also issued by the Marine Weather Radio Transmissions.

EEC to assess severity of situation and activate EOC as required. This may be done prior to storm landfall as preparation may require coordination and concerted effort. See CCRD Emergency Management Plan Annex A – EOC Plan.

### **2.1 Storm Notification**

When a storm warning is received, the following notification protocol will be initiated:

1. Emergency Coordinator to prepare a public information notice instructing people to prepare homes and facilities accordingly and to shelter in place or where to evacuate to if necessary.
2. Issue notice using the following means of communication:
  - a. Mass email to all persons and organizations on emergency contact list – EEC, Inter-Agency Emergency Management Council, NE Region EMBC, etc
  - b. If emergency situation is localized to a small part of the community, initiate phone call out to those residents at risk.
  - c. If the broad community is affected, initiate the school ‘phone call out tree’
  - d. Request emergency notice transmission by CBC radio and Heiltsuk TV to Bella Bella – Denny Island communities
  - e. Post notice to local Facebook page and websites
  - f. For high risk areas, consider deploying qualified crews to go door to door.
  - g. Utilize VHF channel Marine 6 to transmit notice.

As the emergency unfolds, additional warnings/directions may need to be provided on an ongoing basis using the means above. See also ANNEX C – BB/DI Communication Plan.

### **3. Storm Response**

EOC Director to review situation reports and, after consultation with EEC, initiate Emergency Response Plans as required to address specific issues.

ESS personnel to play key role in assessing response requirements.

1. When safe to do so, first responders may need to be deployed to determine if people are in need of emergency assistance.
2. As the storm subsides, capable personnel need to start damage assessments and report back to EOC.
3. EOC to prioritize repair and restoration efforts and the deployment of equipment and personnel.

#### **3.1 Accommodations**

ESS will arrange temporary accommodations if required. This would most efficiently be provided by billeting.

### **4. Power Outage**

Power outages can be a common occurrence in the Bella Bella/Denny Island communities, particularly during winter months when storms can cause damage to distribution lines. However, the BC Hydro facilities include a diesel generation station on Denny Island to provide back-up power during outage periods. Mechanical failure is also possible with generators. In addition, the main transmission line that serves Bella Bella is an undersea cable which has been damaged by a marine vessel in the past. This puts Bella Bella in a serious power outage condition that could potentially last for a considerable amount of time.

Public awareness programs will be employed to provide homeowners with information regarding self-help advice for power failures to minimize associated problems. However, it must be assumed that many residents may require assistance in situations where power outages occur in conjunction with extremely cold temperatures or heavy snowfall events. In such cases it can also be assumed that transportation may be difficult or even restricted in some parts of the communities.

While many residences in the region are equipped with alternate heating sources larger buildings such as schools, stores and administration offices rely on electricity to provide heat. That means residents who may be required to evacuate homes due to a power outage will potentially not have the option to stay in local hotels or other accommodation providers. In such instances ESS personnel will be forced to rely on smaller hospitality providers along with local area residences to provide accommodations for displaced persons.

The RW Large Memorial Hospital is equipped with emergency power generation capability and will continue to function providing fuel resources are provided.

#### **4.1 *Power Outage Emergency Response***

Only qualified crews are allowed to conduct repairs to power lines and there is limited capacity available locally. So, extensive damage to power lines will take considerable time to repair as additional equipment and trained personnel would have to be brought in from the outside.

People should be encouraged to have battery powered radios and listen to updates from CBC in Prince Rupert. Word of mouth/runners may be needed to assess the local situation and distribute information. ]

Predicted cases of prolonged power outages should be reported by BC Hydro to the local emergency program coordinator or EMBC. In response, the EEC will determine the potential consequences and decide if an EOC is required to respond to the situation.

The EOC will attempt to assist residents with freeze-protection of private property by providing contact information of local tradespersons as available. A request for trades assistance may be broadcast on the emergency network if required.