

DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES

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In an emergency, critical seconds can save lives. Disaster response routes are designated for use by emergency personnel during an emergency or disaster situation such as an earthquake. Disaster response routes will be activated as needed by authorities following a declaration of a local or provincial state of emergency.

Disaster Response Route signs indicate routes that are designated for use by emergency personnel during an emergency situation. If you find yourself on a disaster response route during an emergency, exit the route as soon as possible to make way for first responder personnel.

Transportation is a crucial element in response and recovery following a major emergency event. It is paramount to establish and coordinate the safe movement of emergency personnel, resources and impacted persons during a disaster event.

USING DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES

The following identification is required to use these routes when activated:

- Canadian or provincial government issued photo identification (e.g. driver's licence, BC Services Card, Canadian passport, Protocol Identity Card) and
- Employment identification (e.g. business cards or other identification issued by the employer). This identification is for transportation only and unrelated to identification required

Emergency first responders will be given special permits that allow them to use the routes in the case of an emergency.

TYPES OF DISASTER RESPONSE ROUTES

Critical/Priority Routes

Communities purposefully develop key routes to mitigate any damage that may be caused by a disaster. The management of priority routes was improved with the designation of disaster response routes in 1995 in the Metro Vancouver and Greater Victoria areas. The priority routes has evolved to encompass all aspects of transportation and renaming of the system to Disaster Response Transportation.



Disaster Response Routes need to be adjustable to meet the needs of a particular emergency. Like any infrastructure, these routes are susceptible to hazards and could potentially be negatively impacted by the emergency event.

Short Term Disaster Response Routes

Short term routes consist of coordinated convoys for emergency personnel and resources. When short term routes are utilized, police or peace officer escort will be used to move the convoy.

Medium Term Disaster Response Routes

Medium term routes are established during a local and/or provincial state of emergency when the power to control or prohibit travel to or from any area of British Columbia is in effect. For road transportation, the general public will be restricted from routes through the use of traffic control devices and mechanisms. Routes may utilize both directions of travel (e.g. both north-bound and south-bound), one direction of travel (e.g. northbound only) or specific lanes of travel (e.g. HOV or bus lane only).

Long Term Disaster Response Routes

Long term routes may be required after the local and/or provincial states of emergency have expired. For road transportation, long term routes require one of or both:

- a municipal council to pass a resolution or bylaw to restrict use of municipal roads
- the province to make a regulation to restrict use of provincial highways
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The general public will be restricted from long term routes through the use of traffic control devices and mechanisms.

