Emergency Preparedness & Community Recovery

The hottest day ever recorded in Canada was 49.6°C in 2021 in Lytton, BC. Due to climate change and temperature variances, extreme weather incidents — such as tornados, wildfires and floods — are on the rise across Canada. When these emergencies happen, local governments must lead immediate response efforts while also tackling the enormous task of recovering and rebuilding their communities. That's in addition to continuing to provide local services.

It's crucial to prioritize emergency preparedness measures before a disaster strikes. Having the support of a strong, resilient team with the knowledge and capacity to proactively prepare for a disaster and take on recovery projects afterward enables your local or Indigenous government to focus on your residents' needs and the restoration of your community.





Proactive emergency preparedness

At its core, a disaster recovery project is demanding and stressful. By investing in proactive emergency planning local governments can effectively mitigate the destructive impact of disasters and safeguard their communities. Project management processes play a key role in planning, coordination, resource management and response efforts to effectively address extreme weather events. This involves conducting thorough risk assessments to identify vulnerabilities, developing comprehensive emergency plans complete with specific procedures and responsibilities, and educating the public about potential hazards and necessary precautions.

Additionally, establishing resilient infrastructure and fostering collaborative partnerships with relevant stakeholders can enhance local governments' capacity to respond to emergencies swiftly and efficiently, reducing economic losses.

Focused, disciplined recovery planning

Every recovery project is unique and presents its own challenges. Recovery planning and delivery involves balancing more urgent community needs with the work required to mobilize critical resources, obtain funding and deploy teams to deliver results. In the aftermath of a disaster, governments must consider short-term needs, such as restoring roads and other critical infrastructure. Simultaneously, they must assess infrastructure requirements – such as setting up temporary housing and fixing damaged water and sewage systems – and initiating longer-term efforts, including recovering lost municipal data and building more resilient, sustainable infrastructure that can better withstand future extreme weather events. By bringing in an experienced team of project managers and recovery experts to support and execute restoration efforts throughout the entire rehabilitation process, you and your team can stay focused on the needs of your community knowing recovery efforts are continuing even with ongoing staff burnout and high turnover.

Assessment and early engagement

At the onset of your incident, a dedicated team of project managers can seamlessly integrate with your emergency operation centre (EOC) to assist with capacity and bring experience to your downstream recovery project. Engaging with project management experts early on will foster coordination and continuity between the organizations responsible for response and recovery. It will also help fast-track your municipality's rebuilding efforts significantly. During the planning stage, we can coordinate a rapid damage assessment to identify and categorize the infrastructure and systems that need immediate attention, as well as those that require ongoing involvement from an engineer, contractor or project management expert.





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With over 30 offices across Canada, our multidisciplinary team of project management and advisory professionals offers unparalleled depth and expertise to capital projects. Colliers Project Leaders has completed more than 17,000 projects to date, deploying our proprietary tools and techniques to ensure success for our clients.

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