

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST EMERGENCY  
MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENT**

- between -

The Government Of The State of Alaska,

The Government Of The State of Idaho,

The Government Of The State of Oregon,

The Government Of The State of Washington,

The Government Of The Province of British Columbia, and

The Government Of The Yukon Territory

hereinafter referred to collectively as the "Signatories" and separately as a "Signatory".

WHEREAS the Signatories recognize the importance of comprehensive and coordinated civil emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures for natural and technological emergencies or disasters, and for declared or undeclared hostilities including enemy attack;

AND WHEREAS the Signatories further recognize the benefits of coordinating their separate emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures with that of contiguous jurisdictions for those emergencies, disasters or hostilities affecting or potentially affecting any one or more of the Signatories in the Pacific Northwest;

AND WHEREAS the Signatories further recognize that regionally-based emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures will benefit all jurisdictions within the Pacific Northwest, and best serve their respective national interests in cooperative and coordinated emergency preparedness as facilitated by the Consultative Group on Comprehensive Civil Emergency and Management established in the Agreement Between the Government of The United States of America and the Government of Canada on Cooperation and Comprehensive Civil Emergency Planning and Management signed at Ottawa, Ontario, Canada on April 28, 1986;

NOW THEREFORE, it is hereby agreed by and between each and all of the Signatories hereto as follows:

### **Advisory Committee**

1. An advisory committee named the Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (W-REMAC) shall be established which will include one member appointed by each Signatory.
2. The W-REMAC will be guided by the agreed upon Terms of Reference—Annex A.

### **Principles of Cooperation**

3. Subject to the laws of each Signatory, the following cooperative principles are to be used as a guide by the Signatories in civil emergency matters which may affect more than one Signatory:
  - a) The authorities of each Signatory may seek the advice, cooperation or assistance of any other Signatory in any civil emergency matter.
  - b) Nothing in the arrangement shall derogate from the applicable laws within the jurisdiction of any Signatory. However, the authorities of any Signatory may request from the authorities of any other Signatory appropriate alleviation of such laws if their normal application might lead to delay or difficulty in the rapid execution of necessary civil emergency measures.

c) Each Signatory will use its best efforts to facilitate the movement of evacuees, refugees, civil emergency personnel, equipment or other resources into or across its territory, or to a designated staging area when it is agreed that such movement or staging will facilitate civil emergency operations by the affected or participating Signatories.

d) In times of emergency, each Signatory will use its best efforts to ensure that the citizens or residents of any other Signatory present in its territory are provided emergency health services and emergency social services in a manner no less favorable than that provided to its own citizens.

e) Each Signatory will use discretionary power as far as possible to avoid levy of any tax, tariff, business license or user fees on the services, equipment and supplies of any other Signatory which is engaged in civil emergency activities in the territory of another Signatory, and will use its best efforts to encourage local governments or other jurisdictions within its territory to do likewise.

f) When civil emergency personnel, contracted firms or personnel, vehicles, equipment or other services from any Signatory are made available to or are employed to assist any other Signatory, all providing Signatories will use best efforts to ensure that charges, levies or costs for such use or assistance will not exceed those paid for similar use of such resources within their own territory.

g) Each Signatory will exchange contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans and will call to the attention of their respective local governments and other jurisdictional authorities in areas adjacent to inter-signatory boundaries, the desirability of compatibility of civil emergency plans and the exchange of contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans.

h) The authority of any Signatory conducting an exercise will ensure that all other signatories are provided an opportunity to observe, and/or participate in such exercises.

### **Comprehensive Nature**

4. This document is a comprehensive arrangement on civil emergency planning and management. To this end and from time to time as necessary, all Signatories shall:

a) review and exchange their respective contact lists, warning and notification plans, and selected emergency plans.

b) as appropriate, provide such plans and procedures to local governments, and other emergency agencies within their respective territories.

### **Arrangement Not Exclusive**

5. This is not an exclusive arrangement and shall not prevent or limit other civil emergency arrangements of any nature between Signatories to this arrangement.

a) In the event of any conflicts between the provisions of this arrangement and any other arrangement regarding emergency service entered into by two or more States of the United States who are Signatories to this arrangement, the provisions of that other arrangement shall apply, with respect to the obligations of those States to each other, and not the conflicting provisions of this arrangement.

### **Amendments**

6. This Arrangement and the Annex may be amended (and additional Annexes may be added) by arrangement of the Signatories.

### **Cancellation or Substitution**

7. Any Signatory to this Arrangement may withdraw from or cancel their participation in this Arrangement by giving sixty days written notice in advance of this effective date to all other Signatories.

### **Authority**

8. All Signatories to this Arrangement warrant they have the power and capacity to accept, execute and deliver this Arrangement.

### **Effective Date**

9. Notwithstanding any dates noted elsewhere, this Arrangement shall commence April 1, 1996.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned have signed this Arrangement.

THE STATE OF ALASKA

*Joy Kneub*  
GOVERNOR

4/4/96  
(Date)

THE STATE OF IDAHO

*Alfred E. Pett*  
GOVERNOR

6/2/97  
(Date)

THE STATE OF OREGON

*John A. Kitzhaber*  
GOVERNOR

8-12-96  
(Date)

APPROVED AS TO  
LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

*Synn Kosik*  
Asst. Attorney General

Date 7-30-96

THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

*Mike Jorum*  
GOVERNOR

7-11-96  
(Date)

THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

M. Harcourt

PREMIER

January 30, 1996

(Date)

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE YUKON TERRITORY

J. Stelmach

GOVERNMENT LEADER

February 16, 96

(Date)



## ANNEX A

### REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

#### TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. PURPOSE

The Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee was established to promote emergency management coordination and preparedness at regional levels and to complement the work of the Can/US Consultative Group.

2. MANDATE

REMAC provides a forum where members and guests can raise issues and receive advice on emergency preparedness matters.

REMAC encourages and supports preparation and exercising of emergency plans for all members.

REMAC will serve as a regional link to the Can/US Consultative Group.

3. NUMBER OF COMMITTEES

Four REMACs are established to cover the following areas:

- Eastern REMAC:

In Canada: Regions/Provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Quebec.

In U.S.A.: FEMA Regions I and II, States of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont and New York.



- **Central REMAC:**

**In Canada:** Regions/Provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

**In U.S.A.:** FEMA Regions II and V, States of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

- **Prairies REMAC:**

**In Canada:** Regions/Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

**In U.S.A.:** FEMA Region VIII, States of Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana.

- **Western REMAC:**

**In Canada:** Regions/Provinces/Territories of British Columbia and Yukon.

**In U.S.A.:** FEMA Region X, States of Washington, Idaho, Oregon and Alaska.

**4. MEMBERSHIP (participation as delegated by respective government agency)**

- **EPC: Regional Directors**
- **FEMA: Regional Directors**
- **Provinces/Territories: Head of Emergency Measures Organization**
- **States: Head of Emergency Management Agency (EMA)**

**Non-Representatives of other government departments, industry or academia may be invited on an "AS NEEDED BASIS" and may be part of working groups.**

5. **MEETINGS**

**Frequency:** One per year or at the call of the Chair.

**Duration:** One to two days depending on the agenda.

**Location:** Alternating between countries and regions as decided at the previous conference, but if possible, at least two months before the Can/US Consultative Group meeting.

**Chair:** Host regional director FEMA/state EMA head or host regional director EPC/provincial EMO head co-chair (provide conference secretarial services).

**Committee Secretariat:**

The repositories for committee documentation are in Washington and Ottawa. Copies of documents will also be held at regional level for convenience. This would provide for systematic circulation of important information to Can/US Consultative Group and to other REMACs.

EPC region/FEMA region directors are responsible for holding minutes of meetings, assisting in the formulation of meeting agendas and identifying meeting venues.

**Financing:** Members and guests make their own financial arrangements for participation.

**Reporting:** The Chairs of the four REMAC meetings provide their reports to designated Regional Directors for presentation to the Can/US Consultative Group.



Office of the Minister  
Box 2703, Whitehorse, Yukon Y1A 2C6

RA 3020-49-2

September 28, 1995

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Cabinet Colleagues  
**FROM:** Bill Brewster, Minister  
Community and Transportation Services

**RE: MULTI-LATERAL EMERGENCY MUTUAL AID AGREEMENT - NORTHWEST**

**ISSUE:**

As Minister responsible for the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* I am pleased to submit the attached draft multi-lateral mutual aid agreement for your consideration and adoption. With your agreement the Government Leader will sign this agreement, once the original version(s) are received, on behalf of the Yukon Government.

**BACKGROUND:**

As you may be aware the Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization (EMO) has been involved in a Northwest Emergency Officials organization since 1981. Recently renamed the Western Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (Western REMAC) this body includes senior emergency officials from Alaska, Yukon, BC, Washington State, Idaho, Oregon and also includes, in an advisory capacity, senior representatives from Emergency Preparedness Canada (EPC) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) of the USA. The Western REMAC meets every year and is sanctioned by a Canada-US Consultative Group on Emergency Preparedness. Other REMAC's have been established across the continent to address regional cross- border emergency issues and assistance arrangements.

The Western REMAC proposes to formalize, by way of this Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement, it's longstanding "Good Neighbour" relations in the area of emergency preparedness and response between our neighbouring jurisdictions. The USA representatives have determined that their signatory has to be at the Governor level and therefore it is appropriate that Cabinet consider authorizing our Government Leader to sign it when the original is received. It is expected that the signing of this agreement will be conducted secretarially with six (6) originals, signed by the Premier of British Columbia, expected by courier in the near future. This initiative is expected to be received positively by the public and member jurisdictions of our EMO (see Communications Summary attached).



This proposed agreement has been reviewed, in workshops, by the Yukon Disaster Committee which includes Municipal and First Nation representatives. The Executive Council Office and Department of Justice (YTG) has reviewed this draft and Justice recommended that signing it be enabled by Order-in-Council.

Currently, the Yukon has in place only one (1) formal Mutual Aid agreement (Yukon - Northwest Territories) and this agreement was successfully implemented during the Old Crow evacuation of 1990.

This proposed multi-lateral agreement will allow the Yukon to formalize and finalize similar cross-border mutual aid arrangements with our two closest neighbours (Alaska and BC) as well as with the other Western REMAC participating governments.

Issues surrounding emergency preparedness on Federal Lands and Yukon First Nation lands have little effect on this agreement due to the fact that the agreement is between the Yukon Government and other northwest jurisdictions. Our emergency preparedness relationship with the other senior governments in the Yukon is the subject of a submission on devolution being readied for your consideration by Executive Council Office.

**FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS:**

There are no direct financial impacts associated with this proposed agreement. Rather, this agreement serves to assure participating jurisdictions that the costs associated with cross-border mutual aid and assistance will be recoverable, where appropriate.

The benefits of this agreement include closer collaboration between jurisdictions which may serve to reduce Emergency Programming costs through the exchange of information and materials between and to the benefit of all jurisdictions.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that Cabinet, by Order in Council, authorize the Government Leader to sign this agreement upon receipt.

Bill Brewster  
Minister, Community and  
Transportation Services

encl.

**CABINET ANALYSIS**

P 3020-49-2

**TITLE:** Multi-lateral Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement--Northwest

**DEPARTMENT:** Community and Transportation Services

**DATE RECEIVED:** 09.27.95

**DEPARTMENT CONTACTED:** Yes

**ISSUE:**

- \* Whether to approve the Order in Council pursuant to S.4 of the Civil Emergency Measures Act authorizing the Government Leader to sign the "Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement."

**DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATION:**

- \* It is recommended that Cabinet:
  - ◆ approve the "Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement,"
  - ◆ approve the attached Order in Council authorizing the Government Leader to sign the agreement, and
  - ◆ approve the attached Communications Strategy

**ECO RECOMMENDATION:**

- \* Same as above except that authorization for the Minister to sign the agreement does not require an Order in Council.

**CORPORATE CONSIDERATIONS:**

**Problem identified:** Yes      **Fulfills a commitment or a public issue:** No

**Timing:** Moderate      **Legal:** See below.

**Financial:** The advisory body attached to this agreement meets once a year and the costs of attending the meeting will be absorbed by the department. As the agreement will result in closer collaboration between jurisdictions, emergency programming costs may be reduced through the exchange of information and materials.

**Land Claims & Self Government issues:**

- \* Yukon's jurisdiction and the extension of this agreement does not necessarily apply to self-governing First Nations unless they become members of Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization. To date, only the Vuntut Gwitchin have subscribed to EMO.

**Communications / Public Relations:** None

**COMMENTS:**

- \* The Minister has authority to sign agreements under the Intergovernmental Agreements Act without the need for an Order in Council. The government has been inconsistent in the application of the Act by approving Orders in Council for some intergovernmental agreements but not all. ECO believes that OICs are not necessary in most cases.
- \* Jurisdictional uncertainty for Yukon's Emergency Measures Organization over crown land /leaves the extension of this agreement to them unlikely. The jurisdictional issues related to emergency preparedness on crown and First Nation land remains a matter of discussion among the parties. The Executive Council Office has had brief discussions with the department concerning the issue of emergency measures and its relation to devolution but the matter has not proceeded to the point where a cabinet submission is being prepared, as the Department of C & TS has suggested in the Minister's cover letter.

## Communications Summary

### Include:

- ◆ Title & Date
- ◆ Goals
- ◆ Target Audiences
- ◆ Messages
- ◆ Methods

Date: September 22, 1995

Department: Community and Transportation Services

Title: Pacific Northwest Emergency Management Agreement

Goal: To notify the public of the cooperative and responsible commitment this government has to working with other northwest governments to protect the public during emergencies.

### Target

Audience: It is anticipated this agreement will favourably increase the general public's sense of security in the Yukon government's ability to deal with emergencies. The public will support the confirmation of "good neighbour" relations in times of emergency and the recovery of costs where appropriate.

Emergency officials within Yukon and neighbouring jurisdictions will support the initiative as it formalizes the potential sharing of resources in times of emergencies. The agreement will possibly encourage cooperative training and joint material development.

The Pacific Northwest governments who are signatories to the agreement recognize the importance of comprehensive and coordinated emergency preparedness, response and recovery measures.

Federal and First Nation lands are not affected by this agreement between the Yukon government and other Northwest jurisdictions.

Messages: In the public interest the Yukon government confirms, by way of a multi-lateral mutual aid agreement, its responsible and long standing "good neighbour" relations in the area of emergency preparedness and response between our neighbouring jurisdictions.

The agreement promotes a cooperative approach to the sharing of resources and expertise, cost recovery measures and training and material development between our closest neighbours (Alaska and B.C.) and other participating Western governments.

Methods: Upon approval a news release will be issued once all 6 Western REMAC government leaders have signed.

The signed agreement will be distributed to all participating governments and agencies involved in the Yukon Emergency Measures Organization.

The Minister or Government Leader may wish to make a ministerial statement in the Legislature, if the House reconvenes at a time that coincides with the signing of the agreement. The statement would heighten the Yukon's role in emergency preparedness at the international level. The Minister and the Government Leader should be prepared for possible media interview requests.