



5.03 EVACUEE LIVING ASSISTANCE

5.03.1 GENERAL

Related Policies:

- 2.02 Task Authorization

5.03.2 DEFINITIONS

See Terms and Definitions

Evacuee: is a resident whose primary residence is directly impacted or in the defined geographic area of an evacuation order within the issuing authority's jurisdiction.

Primary residence: is the dwelling where an individual or family spends most of their personal time. A person can only have one primary residence at any time.

5.03.3 POLICY STATEMENT

- (1) It is expected that all residents will make every effort to be self-sufficient in emergencies or disasters. Evacuee living assistance may be available to support those who are in immediate need of assistance with some of the basic living supports available through the Emergency Support Services (ESS) program of the Province.
- (2) Evacuee living assistance may be provided to evacuees when a residence becomes uninhabitable due to:
 - a. being directly impacted by an emergency or disaster; or
 - b. when an imminent emergency results in an evacuation order being issued by a legislated authority.



5.03.4 CONDITIONS/RESPONSIBILITIES

(1) Evacuee living assistance may be provided:

- a. Only when an EMBC operational task number has been issued;
- b. When access to a person's insurance coverage is NOT reasonably and readily available;
- c. Where a residence has been deemed as uninhabitable due to a hazard or occurrence;
- d. To evacuees who reside within a defined evacuation area; or
- e. For an initial 72 hours or for the duration of the evacuation order as issued by the legislated authority ordering the evacuation.

(2) Conditions under which evacuee living assistance may be authorized are as follows:

- a. Residence was uninhabitable due to an imminent or occurring emergency or disaster;
- b. Evacuee is a member of an authorized group for which an evacuation was determined to be best course of action for the safety of the evacuee by a provincial official, local authority or First Nation band council during an issued Evacuation Alert; or
- c. Issuance of a formal evacuation order by a legislated authority.

(3) Non-residents that are present in an impacted or evacuation order area should be encouraged to leave that area and return to their primary residence for their own safety but may be provided with evacuee living assistance under certain conditions:

- a. The non-resident evacuee is unable to leave the impacted area because of transportation system (road, rail, ferry, etc.) closures;
- b. Travel conditions on the routes for the non-resident evacuees to their primary residence are reported to be unsafe; or
- c. The non-resident evacuee has no immediate access to a means of travel.

If a non-resident evacuee's situation has been satisfactorily determined that they are unable to be self-sufficient, they may be provided the same evacuee living assistance services as resident evacuees.

(4) Evacuee living assistance will not be provided or back-dated for:

- a. evacuees receiving reimbursement for expenditures, associated with the emergency/disaster, from another organization;
- b. any resident that evacuates without an approval from a legislated authority as described in this policy and the EMBC Evacuation Operational Guidelines; or
- c. evacuees who secure and meet their own basic needs prior to registration with ESS and any referrals are issued by the local ESS program. These persons are considered to have been self-sufficient and not in immediate need of evacuee living assistance.



(5) Evacuee living assistance may be provided beyond the duration of the evacuation order only in situations with extenuating circumstances.

All requests of this nature must be pre-authorized by EMBC.

All decisions regarding the provision of evacuee living assistance support in these circumstances are made on a case-by-case basis.

EVACUEE'S RESPONSIBILITY

(1) The following costs are the responsibility of evacuees and are not eligible for evacuee living assistance or reimbursement:

- a. Transportation costs for personal vehicles to leave from and to return to their primary residence, unless otherwise authorized;
- b. Damages or losses to commercial lodging facilities caused by evacuees;
- c. Boarding and feeding of pets, in excess of the ESS Incidental rate; and
- d. Recreational smoking products (tobacco; cannabis etc.) and alcohol products

5.03.5 AUTHORITIES

Emergency Program Act

Original Signed by

Stan Bates
Executive Director, Response
Emergency Management BC

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5.03.6 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- 5.03 Evacuee Living Assistance Procedures
- 5.03 ESS Field Guide