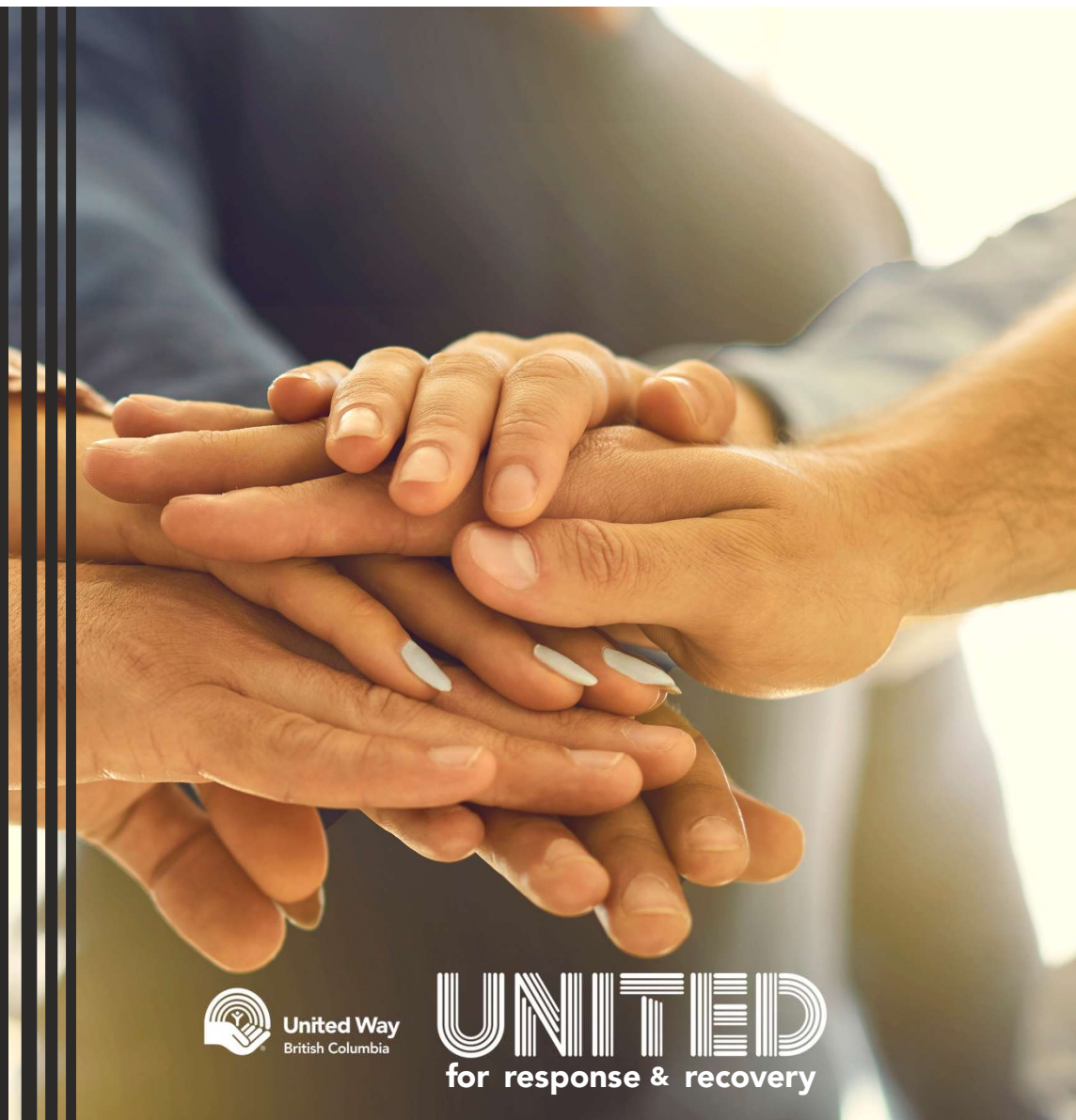


Supporting Older Adults During an Emergency

**Presented by United
Way BC**





We recognize the communities in which we work

At United Way BC, we dedicate ourselves to fostering understanding, respect, and an acknowledgment of the rich histories of the lands and waterways we traverse. Our mission guides us across vast and diverse territories, each with its unique tapestry of languages, governance systems, traditions, and cultural heritage. The relationship with these lands and waterways has been stewarded by Indigenous communities since time immemorial, long before the establishment of contemporary boundaries, and we **humbly recognize that many of these territories remain unceded.**

What We Will Cover

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..... Background and why

2

..... United Way BC's Role in ER

3

..... 2023 EPR Grant Summary

4

..... Resources for the CBSS Sector

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..... Q&A



Why are we here today?

United Way BC's Role in Emergency Response

- Working with networks of known partners to understand needs
- Funding community partners to address those needs
- Intentional partnerships with organizations to meet the needs of individuals
- Commitment to long-term recovery and resilience activities
- Capacity building within the non-profit sector to support emergency preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience



How We Do It

The Playbook is the toolkit for how we respond to a crisis as a united organization.

It was developed through collaborative meetings with the Emergency Response & Recovery team leads from several departments as a living document to guide when and how we respond to an emergency.



**Emergency Response
& Recovery Playbook**



Emergency Preparedness and Response Grant - 2023

Emergency Preparedness and Response Grant - 2023

Health Authority	Number of Organizations Funded	Dollars Funded
North Health	8	\$ 184,457
Interior Health	23	\$ 532,590
Island Health	8	\$ 179,825
Vancouver Coastal Health	17	\$ 399,168
Fraser Health	13	\$ 283,960
Total	69	\$ 1,580,000

for response & recovery

Top 3 Uses of Funding:



Workshops



Emergency Kits and Supplies



Community Plan

Emergency Preparedness and Response Grant Summary

Types of activities that were funded:

- Distribution of Emergency Kits
- Information workshops
- Creation of cooling spaces
- Distribution of air purifiers
- Transportation to cooling centres

for response & recovery



for response & recovery

**What Are Some Ways Your Organization Supports Older Adults
in an Emergency?**



Have You Developed Any Tools/Resources?



Tools Developed by United Way BC



Available on the United Way BC Website

- Guidebooks
 - Older Adults
 - General Population
- Working Together in an Emergency: Social Response Task Force Activation Guide

Guidebook for Older Adults

- Developed in partnership with several community-based organizations
- A step-by-step guide to support older adults (and their families) in developing an emergency plan



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Know Your Community

The potential risks and Emergency Management Response Systems are different in every community. It is a good idea to familiarize yourself with the resources in your area. Complete the following information with your local contacts.

Community Name: _____

Alert Centre: _____

In some communities you can sign up for local alerts to be sent to your email or cell phone.

Community Information Line: _____

Community Information Website: _____

Local Radio Station: _____

Community Notice Board Location: _____

Information on Cooling/Warming Centres: _____

Community Services for Seniors: _____

My Health Authority: _____





Provincial Resources

In BC, emergency alerts are broadcast on TV, radio, and cell phones to provide urgent public safety information during life-threatening emergencies.

Emergency Info BC: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca

Emergency Info BC is active during partial and full-scale provincial emergencies, both on its website and on Twitter. They share verified event information during emergencies, as well as official response and recovery resources.

Wildfire in British Columbia: 1 800 663-5555 or (*5555 from a cell phone)

Regional Districts

The local government system in British Columbia is unique in Canada. In addition to municipalities, the province is divided into 27 regional districts. Smaller communities have the benefit of joining with others on projects including emergency services. For information about the regional district you live in, search: civicinfo.bc.ca/regionaldistricts or call 1-800-663-7867.

Apartments, Condos, and Strata Buildings

Consider appointing floor wardens (buddy system) in your building who, in an evacuation, will canvass the floor to make sure that everyone has been able to get out.

Familiarize yourself with exits and escape routes on each floor. Talk with your strata council about having an emergency evacuation chair stored near the stairwell so you can readily access it to when needing to evacuate.

- ☐ Trouble concentrating
- ☐ Muscle cramps or pain
- ☐ Extreme thirst
- ☐ Very dark urine and going less often

Signs of heat stroke

- ☐ High body temperature
- ☐ Very hot, red and dry skin
- ☐ Feeling very dizzy or fainting
- ☐ Confused
- ☐ Less coordinated

Extreme heat can affect your health in a number of ways. It can cause illness such as heat exhaustion and heat stroke. It can worsen any existing conditions.

Wildfire

- ☐ Mark the entrance to your property with an address sign that is clearly visible from the road.
- ☐ Stack firewood at least 30 feet away from your residence.
- ☐ Create defensible space by removing refuse and debris and thinning trees and brush within 30 feet of your residence.
- ☐ Turn off propane tanks and shut off gas at the meter.
- ☐ Connect garden hose to outside taps. If you can find help, have someone place lawn sprinklers on your roof and near ground fuel tanks.
- ☐ Prepare for evacuation by backing your car into the garage and disconnecting the automatic garage door openers. Leave the keys in the ignition and door unlocked.
- ☐ If advised to evacuate, do so immediately.
- ☐ Listen to the radio for evacuation routes that are safe for travel.
- ☐ If you are being evacuated, find out where the reception centre is and how your loved ones can find you.



FireSmart BC

The FireSmart program educates British Columbians on the risks of wildfires and provides homeowners with tips on how to protect their property. For information, contact your local fire department or visit the website: firesmartbc.ca

Hearing Items:

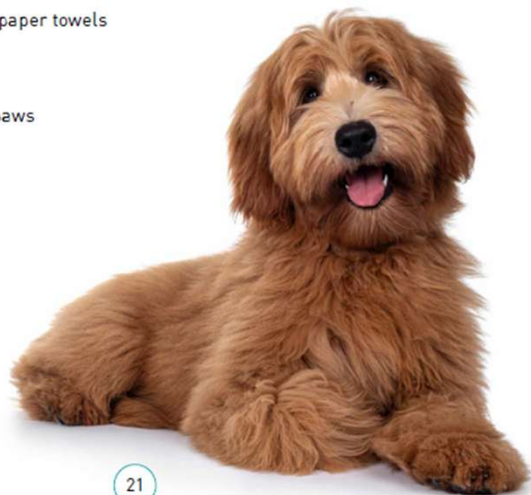
- ☐ Writing pads and pencils for communication
- ☐ Flashlight, whistle, or personal alarm
- ☐ A CommuniCard™ (produced by the Canadian Hearing Society) that explains your hearing loss and identifies how first responders can communicate with you
- ☐ Pre-printed phrases you can use during an emergency such as: "I use sign language", or "If you make announcements, I will need to have them written or signed"

Vision Items:

- ☐ White cane
- ☐ Emergency supplies – fluorescent tape, large print, or braille text
- ☐ Extra vision aids such as electronic travel aid, monocular, binocular, or magnifier
- ☐ Assistive technology to access information or portable CCTV devices

Service Animal/Pet Emergency Kit List

- ☐ Food & water – minimum of seven-day supply (including bowl)
- ☐ Medications – include a list of medical conditions, medication dosage, and frequency.
- ☐ Up-to-date identification including a photo in case you get separated
- ☐ Leash and collar
- ☐ Manual can opener and paper towels
- ☐ Blanket and toy
- ☐ Plastic bags
- ☐ Bandages – for injured paws



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8. In the event of a fire, you may need to evacuate the building at a moment's notice. Determine the best routes ahead of time. Use the template at the back of this book to draw floor plans of your home showing the location of doors, windows, and stairways. Indicate at least two escape routes and mark a safe place outside the home to reunite with your loved ones. Practise the route several times; be sure to include your care givers in these drills.
9. Plan for your pets. Be aware that not all reception centres will allow animals (other than service animals) inside. They may be able to shelter your animal at a separate location until a more appropriate place becomes available. Include your pet's vaccination records in your important documents folder.

Considerations for People with Disabilities:

Think about what to do should there be a power outage and know how to use your back up power for essential medical equipment.

Train your support network how to operate your equipment. Laminate instructions and have them attached to the equipment.

If you have an electric wheelchair, have a manual wheelchair as a backup.

Arrange for more than one person in your support network to check on you, so there is at least one back up if the primary person cannot make it.

If your vision is impaired or you are blind, deaf, or hard of hearing, plan ahead for someone to convey the essential emergency information to you.

Check with your caregiver to ensure the agencies that support you have a disaster plan such as providing services at another location.

Have a cell phone with back up battery. Make sure to preprogram it with essential phone numbers. There is no guarantee your landline or cell phone will work in a disastrous event.



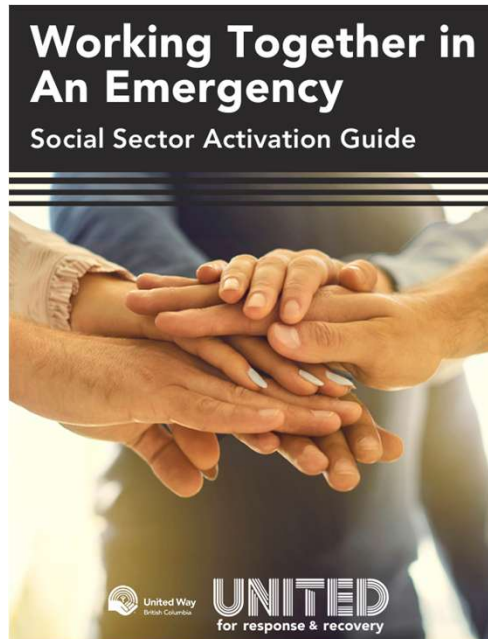
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Working Together in an Emergency

- Designed to:
 - Offer pre-event planning guidance for the social sector
 - Create a structure for the social sector to respond alongside ESS during activation
 - Improve equitable response practices and increase safety and service availability for evacuees during and post ESS.

“(C)oordination is of critical importance because it prevents confusion and conflict, reduces duplication and harmful gaps and supports the efficient use of scarce resources. In short, it can truly save lives. Therefore, coordination is not a goal. Instead, it is a process of collaboration to improve the quality and accountability of a humanitarian response.

Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), Handbook for Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) Coordination, IASC, Geneva, 2022.





Resources Coming to CORE BC This Fall

- CORE BC group
 - Resources from UWBC
 - External resources/news
 - Discussion board to share best practices
- Emergency Preparedness Workshop to Accompany the Guidebook
- Features in CORE newsletter/Special Editions
- Wellness Check Resources
 - Template for maintaining a database
 - Script
- Social Media Resources in Multiple Languages



Tools that may help you?



Thank you!