



Aboriginal Disaster Resilience Planning Guide

Step One – Getting Started

Office of Applied Research
Justice Institute of British Columbia
715 McBride Boulevard
New Westminster, BC V3L 5T4
Tel: 604-528-5590 Fax: 604-528-5715
www.jibc.ca

Published 2015.
Printed in Canada.

This work is made available under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 3.0 license, <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

 Except where otherwise noted, this work is licensed under <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/3.0/>

Step One Getting Started - Introduction

In order to get started, your community needs to determine who will work through the planning process, and what geographic area makes up the community for planning purposes.

Here is a summary of the activities for this Step:

Activity 1 – Set up a Community Planning Team:

In this first activity, you will identify members for the Community Planning Team. The team will be responsible for gathering the information necessary to assess the community's disaster resilience, and who will draft a plan for enhancing resilience.

Activity 2 - Review the HRA, ARI and the HRI Tools

One of the first tasks for the planning team will be to review the risk and resilience assessment toolset for this guide: ARI, HRI and HRA.

Activity 3: Define Community Borders

Once you are familiar with the hazard categories and characteristics, your team will begin defining its boundaries through mapping exercises to get a clear picture of your community.

Activity 4: Getting Community Buy-in

A key component of Step One is to start communication in order to gain support from your community and to engage the various stakeholders.

Activity 1: Set up the Community Planning Team

The Community Planning Team is the group who will gather the information necessary to assess the community's disaster resilience and who will draft a plan for enhancing resilience.

The very first step in the planning process is to identify who will be involved in the process. This first activity focuses on creating a team based on some of the recommendations outlined below and in the resources.

The best size and makeup of the community planning team is 3-4 individuals who are committed to the process. They should have a variety of skills among them, such as interviewing skills, writing and basic research skills. It is an advantage to include different types of people on the team, such as:

- a member of the fire department or local first responder
- a long-term community member or Elder with extensive knowledge of the community and its people
- a small business owner
- a relative newcomer who brings a unique perspective

Because team members will be asking community members for information and opinions, it is important that they are well-respected in the community.

Ideally, there will be a “champion” for the planning process. This may be the mayor or council member, or a well-respected community leader or Elder. This person's role is to support and advise the planning team and gain community member's trust and willingness to participate.

Resources

For more information about creating a team and working together, refer to the following resource included in the *Resilience Resource Guide*:

- Working Together - Building A Community Team

Activity Summary:

Team set up and roles defined.

Complete

Notes:

Activity 2: Review the Hazard Risk Analysis (HRA), the Aboriginal Resilience Index (ARI) and the Hazard Resilience Index (HRI) Tools

The **Hazard Risk Analysis (HRA)**, the **Aboriginal Resilience Index (ARI)** and the **Hazard Resilience Index (HRI)** are the major tools that will be used to assess your community's disaster resilience and will provide key information for creating a Resilience Plan.

Reviewing the ARI, the HRA and the relevant parts of the HRI (those hazards that are relevant in the local context) will give the team a detailed understanding of what disaster resilience means and help the team answer community members' questions as information is collected.

In this process you will encounter resilience factors that are very clearly related to disaster preparedness, such as knowing what the threats to a community's safety are (hazards) and what plans are in place to respond to those threats (disaster management plans). In addition, the ARI includes many characteristics related to the well-being of the community. These include such things as the employment and economic health of the community and region, how the community functions (governance) and the skills and knowledge available in the community. These characteristics are directly related to disaster resilience. They help describe how the community practically prepares for possible disasters, and if a disaster occurs, how effective the community is in responding to and recovering from that event.

Hazard Risk Analysis (HRA)

The team should also review the Hazard Risk Analysis (HRA) tool which details all possible hazards a community is likely to face.

Aboriginal Resilience Index (ARI)

Very early in the process, the team should become familiar with the ARI which includes two major parts:

1. Community Resource section
2. Disaster Management section

Hazard Resilience Index (HRI)

Once you have identified the risk factors for the various hazards that your community faces, the HRI Tool will assist you in determining how resilient your community will be should that particular hazard occur.

Resources

- Hazard Risk Analysis
- Aboriginal Resilience Index
- Hazard Resilience Index

Activity Summary:

Review the HRA, ARI, and HRI to gain an understanding of hazard risks and resilience.

Complete

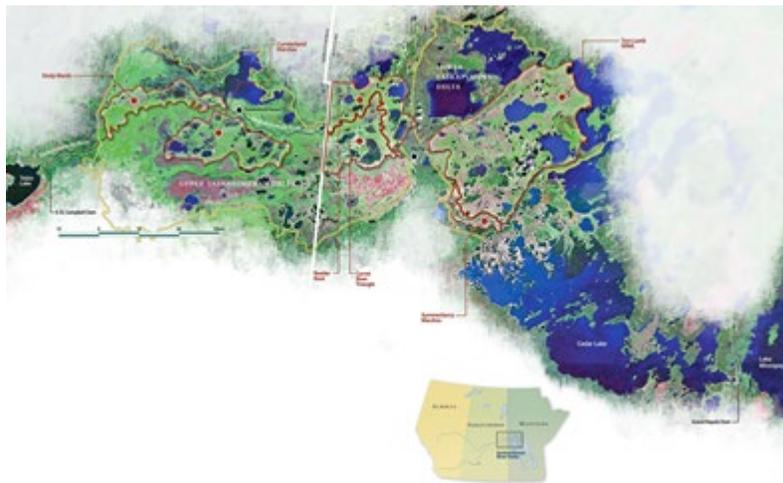
Notes:

Activity 3: Define Community Borders and Map Community

As you begin your journey to become a more disaster resilient community, you need to know where to focus your attention, who should be involved in this process, and what and who belongs to your community. Defining its boundaries is the first step in getting a clear picture of your community.

This activity can be as simple as drawing or acquiring a regional map and outlining the boundaries your team agrees on as your area of focus. Considerations might be:

- fire district coverage
- neighbourhoods or residences beyond community borders
- hunting and fishing grounds
- boundaries of reserve land or traditional territories
- possibly, nearby communities



Your team may choose to develop a more elaborate map. This may include identifying specific areas or zones in your community that may be more vulnerable to different hazards. Or, it may include adding drawings, photos or words that indicate specific aspects of your community, such as assets, vulnerabilities and key features (such as buildings, organizations, rivers, bridges, roads) identified through the information collection process. This type of map provides a rich way to keep community members informed about your findings.

Resources

For more information about defining community boundaries and using maps, refer to the following resource in the *Resilience Resource Guide*:

- Mapping

Activity Summary:

Community boundaries defined and/or mapped.

Complete

Notes:

Activity 4: Getting Community Buy-in

The more people who are informed about and involved in the resilience planning process, the more likely it is that the resulting plan will be meaningful and practical for the whole community. Most important, the community will be more likely to participate in the actions you take to improve resilience.

As soon as possible, begin to talk about the resilience planning process and get support from your community. Your team might consider the following ways of informing your community about the process:

- a social media site
- posters or notices on local bulletin boards
- a story in the local newspaper or newsletter
- word of mouth
- announcements at community social functions and events, council meetings, or at another organizations' meetings

It is also a good idea to identify stakeholders, such as:

- formal and informal leaders and Elders
- members of the fire department,
- community safety personnel
- business owners
- club and society members
- long-term residents and newcomers who make up your community

Initially, you may only think about those people you want to get information from, or people you want to participate in the planning process. However, later you may expand your list to include those individuals or organizations with whom you want to share the results of your planning. You may also decide to take the information to policy decision-makers and other stakeholders mentioned above.

As your team is preparing a list of community stakeholders, it is important to include a good cross-section of community members so you will learn from them about the range of needs and resources as you develop a Disaster Resilience Action Plan.

Resources

For more information about identifying stakeholders and getting community buy-in, refer to the following resource in the *Resilience Resource Guide*:

- Working Together - Community Buy-In

Activity Summary:

Communication of resilience planning process and map with community and stakeholders.

Complete

Notes:
