

37, 3RD AVE, PO Box 820  
BURNS LAKE, BC  
VOJ 1E0

REGIONAL DISTRICT  
OF BULKLEY-NECHAKO  
"A WORLD OF OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN OUR REGION"

## Hazard, Risk, Vulnerability Analysis

*"Building a safer future through effective partnerships of local government, emergency services, private sector, and volunteer agencies and the residents of the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako."*

### What is an HRVA?

Is a process which identifies the likelihood and severity of consequences a community could experience during an emergency event. This process is facilitated by the analysis of:

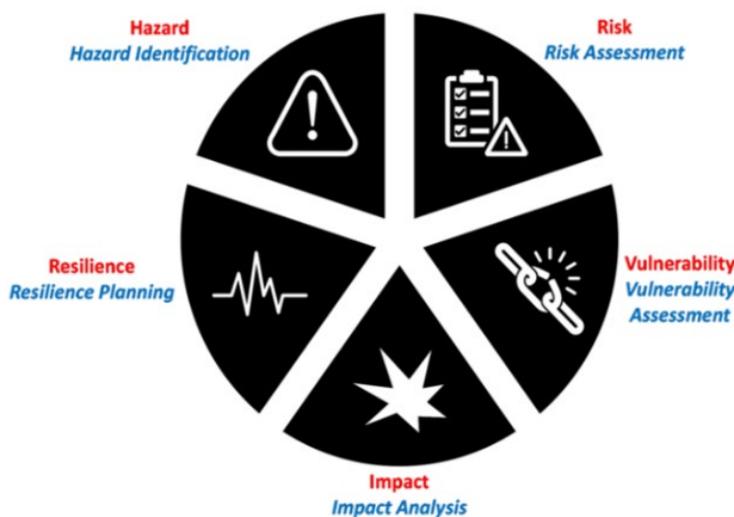
**Hazards** - A source of potential harm, or a situation with a potential for causing harm, in terms of human injury; damage to health, property, the environment, and other things of value; or some combination of these;

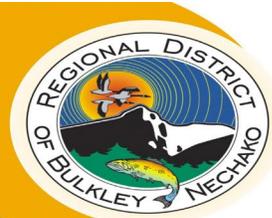
**Risks** – A concept that takes into consideration the likelihood that a hazard will occur, as well as the and the severity of possible impacts to human health, property, the environment, and other things of value;

**Vulnerabilities** – The conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes which increase the susceptibility of an individual, a community, assets or systems to the impacts of hazards; and,

**Impact** – The physical/environmental, soial, economic and political consequences or adverse effects that may occur as the result of a hazardous event.

EMBC 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Fall 2020. Companion Guide to the HRVA.





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## Why does the Regional District need an HRVA?

A HRVA is a critical part of every local government's emergency program and is a requirement mandated by the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation of the *BC Emergency Program Act*.

Learn More about the Province of British Columbia's [Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation](#) and [HRVA tools for local authorities](#).

## Why does the Regional District need to revise their HRVA?

Previous RDBN HRVAs have been done in isolation from the public, first responders, and those affected by an emergency. Since the current RDBN Emergency Preparedness Plan was written in 2003 and updated in 2011, there have been significant changes in agencies, best practices, and terminology. In the summer of 2018, the RDBN responded to 15 major fires, resulting in 64 evacuation orders and alerts affecting approximately 3,475 people. Over 3140 livestock animals were relocated with assistance from the RDBN with financial and organizational support from the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resource and Rural Development.

This emergency and the subsequent independent review highlighted this "new normal" of "mega hazards," their consequences to residents and the local economy, the stress these events put on local authorities' limited resources, and the need for innovative solutions and engagement of residents in emergency management.

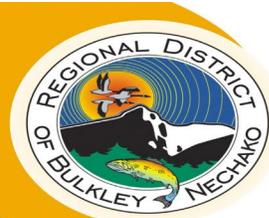
The HRVA responds to these factors and is a foundational step towards developing a collective community understanding of hazards and developing activities to enhance our regional awareness and resilience to this "new normal."

## Why does it matter to me?

Environmental-based hazards, such as flooding and urban interface wildfires, are increasing in scope, intensity, and frequency throughout the Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako. These hazards pose a risk to our residents and expose our diverse region to vulnerabilities.

These facts do not have to come as a surprise to residents in our region. Our local government is dedicated through this project to work with you to develop a collective community understanding of what emergency hazards exist in your area and what activities we can do as individuals and as community to improve our awareness and ability to withstand these emergencies.

There are many programs that can help you and your family be prepared such as [PreparedBC](#), [FireSmart](#) and more. A HRVA is one more way to help understand our community's hazards and how we can all prepare for them. Your knowledge and participation help us all work better together during those uncertain times.



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## How can I participate?

The HRVA will be completed over the next two years and include the participation of local community members, emergency response agencies, stakeholders, and Elected Officials.

As the project progresses there will be several ways to participate and get involved (update throughout the project – i.e. link to Matt's interview and/ or the video on HRVA):

1. Join your electoral areas HRVA Committee. Find out more [here](#).
2. Listen and learn what the HRVA project is all about. (Link to presentation to be updated)
3. Fill out this survey on your family's emergency preparedness. Survey dates TBD
4. Let us know what you think about the hazards that effect your neighbourhood by completing this form. Date of form TBD
5. Talk with your local Electoral Area representative to share your thoughts on emergency management.
6. For more information about the RDBN's role in emergency response visit [www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/protective-services](http://www.rdbn.bc.ca/departments/protective-services)

## What is a Hazard?

The Province has provided a Hazard Reference Guide for Local Authorities and First Nations that can be viewed [here](#).

## What is an Emergency?

"A present or imminent event or circumstance that (a) is caused by accident, fire, explosion, technical failure, or the forces of nature, and (b) requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety, or welfare of a person or to limit damage to property." [*Emergency Program Act*]<sup>1</sup>

## Have other Regional District's completed a HRVA?

A HRVA is a critical part of every local government's emergency program and is a requirement mandated by the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation of the BC *Emergency Program Act*. There are many HRVA's, and these documents require continual review and improvement with input from community members and regional emergency response agencies and stakeholders.

A recent example from the Regional District of Nanaimo, Town of Qualicum Beach, and City of Parksville completed in 2019 can be viewed [here](#).

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<sup>1</sup>The province of BC is Modernizing the *Emergency Program Act* including definitions which may change in the coming year. To find out more about Modernizing the EPA visit:  
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-management-bc/legislation-and-regulations/modernizing-epa>