

**Government of Alberta
Emergency Management Exercise
2016
(EMX 16)**

2015 AEMA Summit
1 December, 2015

Agenda

- **Introduction/Opening Remarks**
- **Aim**
- **EMX 15**
 - Feedback and recommendations
- **EMX 16**
 - Aim
 - Scenario
 - Objectives
- **Questions**

Aim

- **Provide an orientation to EMX 16.**

Training Audience

- **The primary training audience:**
 - POC staff;
 - Departmental CMOs / BCOs and EOCs, including the Cross Government Coordination Team (CGCT).
- **The secondary training audience:**
 - Participating Municipal EMO / EOCs;
 - Federal partners in the POC
 - Industry Groups / Partners; and
 - GoA DM Public Safety Committee.

EMX 15 - Strengths (1/2)

- **Strong scenario that enabled cross-government coordination and excellent practical, 'hands-on' learning experience;**
- **Excellent networking and relationship building opportunity for POC members;**
- **Afforded a training opportunity/involvement for Alberta communities;**
- **Strong learning opportunity for CMOs and communities;**

EMX 15 - Strengths (2/2)

- **Highlighted the role and responsibilities of AEMA Field Officers;**
- **Canada Task Force 2 (CANTF-2) involvement; and**
- **Opportunity to practice/test new or revised POC SOPs with emphasis on development of shared situational awareness and the common operating picture.**

EMX 15 - Areas for Improvement (1/2)

- The development of scenario injects from some ministries were not as detailed as required. *More depth to challenge players;*
- The planning conferences were not attended by all ministries and they did not always make best use of time. *Need for better focus and clear deliverables;*
- GOA exercise ‘communications’ (i.e. PAB) were not actively developed until late in the planning. *This is a core competency and needs early attention;*

EMX 15 - Areas for Improvement (2/2)

- The exercise was conducted during working hours but the scenario ran 24/7. This resulted in some confusion as to what had occurred throughout the night. *Better development of the timeline and simulated activity; and*
- Business Continuity content lacked depth. *Enhance BC injects to better exercise the CGCT and provide a training opportunity for ministry BCOs to conduct a department BC exercise or professional development.*

EMX 15 Recommendation #1: Create a training cycle for AEMA, CMOs and BCOs

- EMX 15 had many first time participants at the POC;
- Many had just completed the basic courses to learn their roles as CMOs; and
- Through an exercise training cycle, individuals will be able to build up their knowledge and skills in order to maximize the benefit provided by an EMX experience.
- *Action – AEMA has recently produced a Training Policy that supports delivery of individual training and projects the conduct of progressive collective training.*

EMX 15 Recommendation #2: Include Stakeholder Participants in Exercise Design (1/2)

- **GOA Ministries**
 - One person to act as a liaison between design team and the different leads of each ministry would be very beneficial since it would ensure smoothness of design process for collecting training objectives and injects from each ministry.
- **Field Operations**
 - In order to ensure that communities are engaged in the design and planning process for the exercise, one Field Officer should be responsible for coordinating community involvement.

EMX 15 Recommendation #2: Include Stakeholder Participants in Exercise Design (2/2)

- *Action - The main design team will, as a minimum, include:*
 - *Exercise Designer (Lead);*
 - *Lead Planner (POC partners – GOA emphasis); and*
 - *Lead Coordinator (External to GOA – communities and industry).*

EMX 15 Recommendation #3: Scheduling & Content for EMX 16

- **Date**
 - During last two weeks of February, last week of March at the latest.
 - Add additional day to the exercise (2.5 days).
- **Scenario**
 - Build on EMX 15 'ice storm' scenario.
- **Exercise Content:**
 - Trigger conditions leading to a Provincial State of Emergency recommendation.
 - Brief to senior GOA officials (Minister and DM-levels)
 - CANTF-2 involvement.
 - Test the HS ESS Framework (training opportunity).

Aim – EMX 16

- **The aim of EMX 16 is to achieve improvements in the Emergency Management (EM) capabilities and competences of all participating organizations and individuals. EMX 16 will accomplish this by creating a learning and networking environment where GOA and AEMA plans, procedures and personnel will be exercised in response to a significant emergency event.**

Scenario (1/4)

- **The scenario will build on the widespread ice storm from EMX 15, which was:**
 - Three days of severe wind chill warning and severe low temperatures throughout the province. After days of severe cold weather, a winter storm warning was issued;
 - Freezing rain spread throughout parts of Northwest, North Central, Northwest, and East Central Alberta;
 - Ice Storm covered the affected areas in 30mm of ice;
 - Many towns virtually inaccessible due to road conditions and debris on the roads;
 - Airports in the affected areas were shut down;
 - Many power lines and towers were downed and large areas of the province were without power; and
 - The POC was elevated to Level 4.

Scenario (2/4)

- **EMX 16 will further develop the weather situation around the province to include:**
 - After approximately 2 days of cold temperatures, an arctic cold front pushes a moisture laden “El Nino” generated, second ice storm through the central and southeast portions of the province
 - The storm moves southeast through Saskatchewan and Montana and circles back up along the Rocky Mountains, keeping it in place
 - The arctic cold front produces temperatures in the -40 degree range in the northwestern area of the province, compounding previous ice storm issues

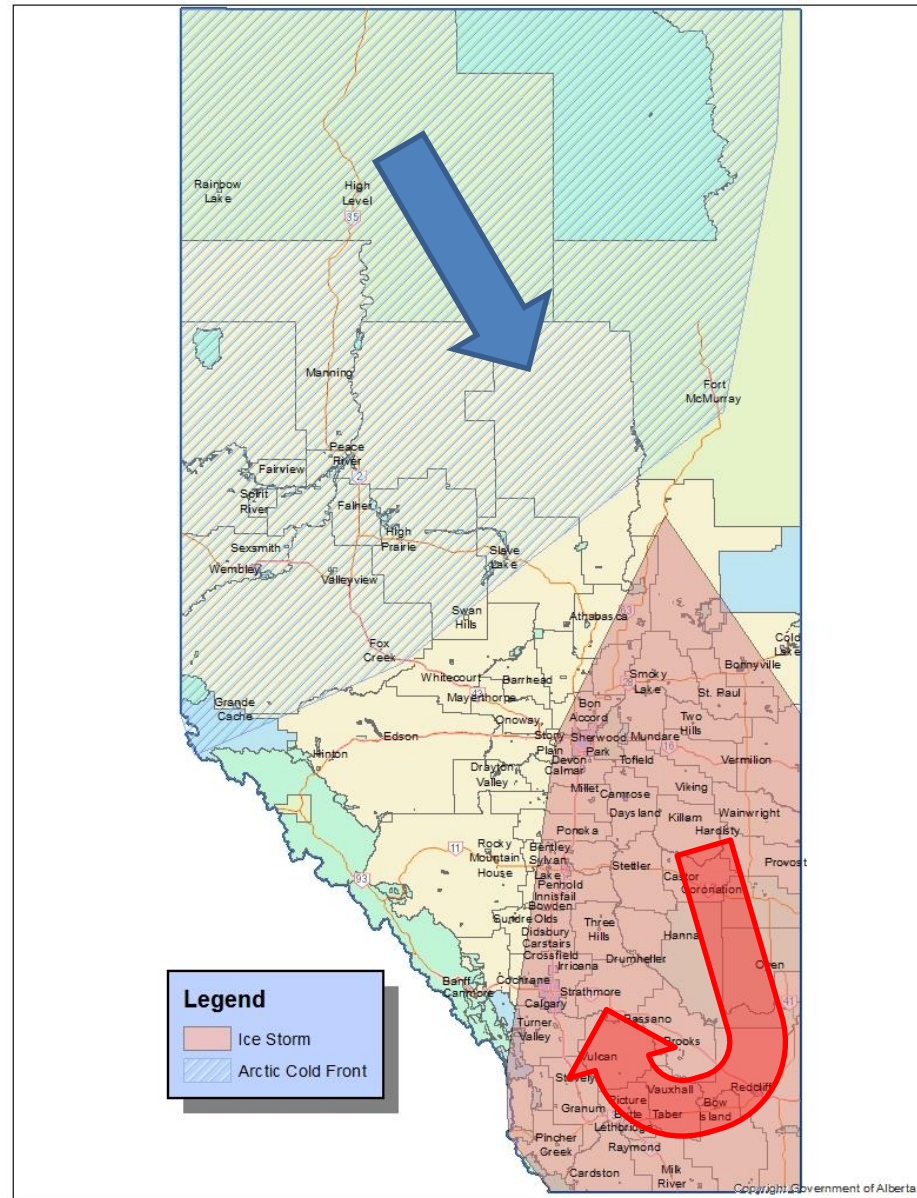
Scenario (3/4)

- **EMX 16 will further develop the emergency situation around the province to include:**
 - Cascading power disruptions and power outages;
 - Road closures and transportation incidents (road and rail);
 - Structural collapse and concerns of several large facilities resulting in the requirement to re-deploy CANTF2 heavy urban search and rescue (HUSAR) or other SAR teams to affected locations;
 - A requirement for a Request for Assistance (RFA) to the Federal Government (Public Safety Canada);
 - Employment of Incident Management Team(s) (IMTs) to communities where integral ECC/EOC capacity is limited or has been degraded by the incident;

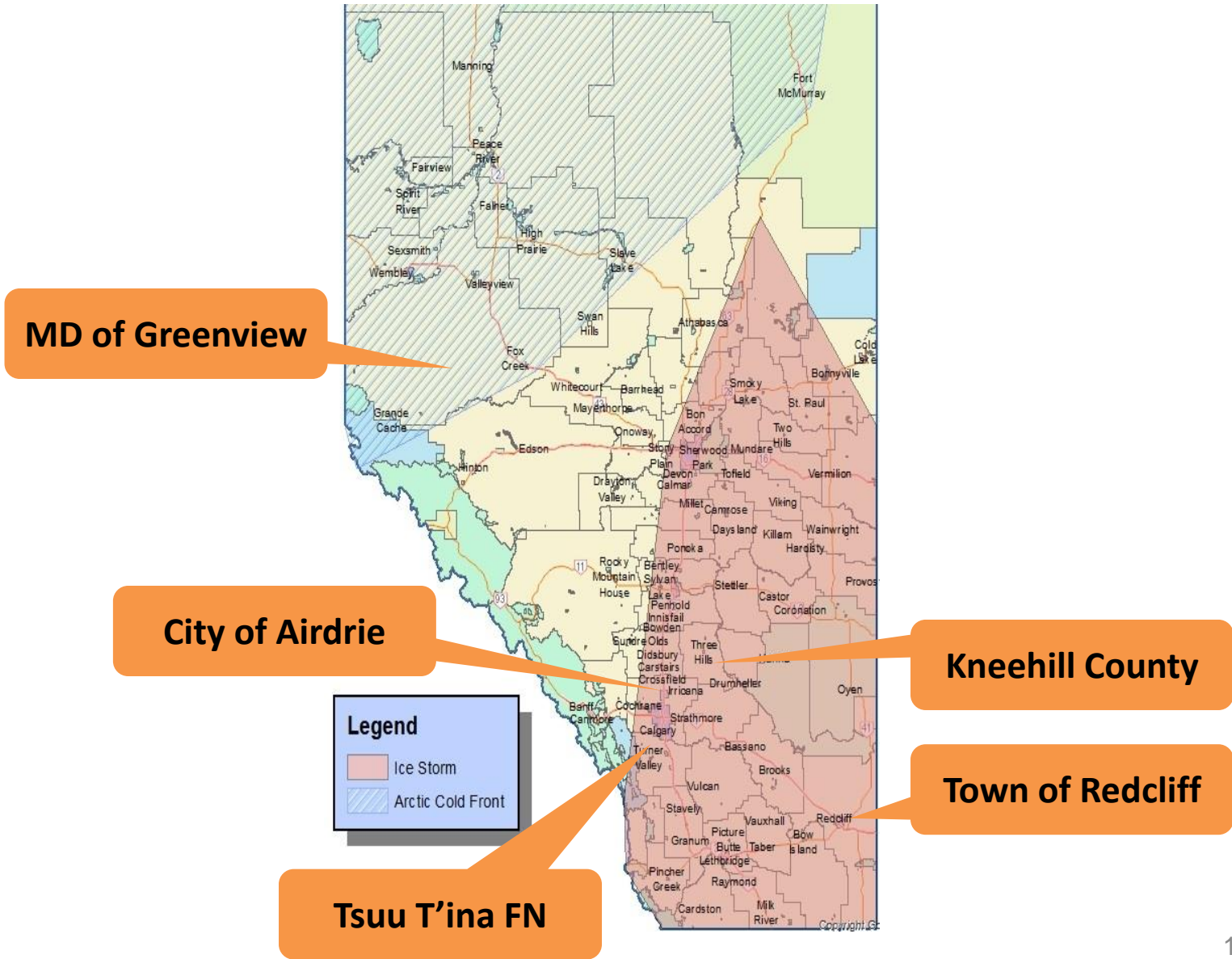
Scenario (4/4)

- Mass casualty events to include SAR activities and casualty evacuations;
- Significant GOA business disruptions; and
- National and international media attention.

Scenario Map (1/2)



Scenario Map (2/2)



Objectives (1/5)

- Practice the POC staff, including all Consequence Management Officers (CMOs) and the Cross-Government Coordination Team (CGCT) in their assigned roles and responsibilities;
- Practice emergency response procedures;
- Exercise the CGCT and test CGCT processes and procedures under the GOA BCP, including the development of a decision brief on GOA recovery to the DMC;

Objectives (2/5)

- **Exercise the co-ordination between EM entities, including multiple levels of government, First Nations (FNs), industry, critical infrastructure (i.e. the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO)), and other service providers;**
- **Educate, practice and reinforce the roles, responsibilities and relationships between the POC, other GOA Emergency Coordination Centres (ECCs), Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) call-centres, Field Operations, Recovery Coordinators, and communities;**

Objectives (3/5)

- Practice existing Provincial and department plans, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and associated coordination and reporting processes and procedures;
- Provide an exercise framework within which Business Continuity Officers (BCOs) can conduct internal to ministry training or professional development on departmental business continuity plans (BCPs);

Objectives (4/5)

- **Develop Recovery Planning processes with a focus on how the transition from Response to Recovery occurs;**
- **Exercise the integration and education of communications staff from across the GOA with a focus on Communications processes (i.e. Key Messages, Lead Agency and Spokesperson, and unity of messaging);**
- **Opportunity to educate and practice senior GOA officials in their roles, responsibilities and relationships during Provincial emergency management situations;**

Objectives (5/5)

- **Introduce POC Augmentation Program staff into a training environment for the purpose of participating in job-shadowing; and**
- **Include regional/municipal/community EOCs/ECCs in the exercise in order to provide them a training opportunity to network, learn and improve their EM processes.**

Questions