

## ROAD RESCUE SERVICES

The following policy replaces Policy Bulletin 05.01 dated August 1, 2005. Changes have been highlighted for ease of reference.

### DEFINITION

- **Road Rescue:** A combination of rescue skills which may be called upon either individually or in combination in response to a motor vehicle accident. These include extrication of vehicle occupants, embankment rescue and fire suppression.
- **Road Rescue Service Provider:** An organized fire-rescue service or volunteer rescue group whose members maintain an on-going competence (training and exercises) program that meets or exceeds the Operations Level of vehicle rescue in NFPA 1670 - Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Rescue Incidents, Chapter 6 - Vehicle and Machinery.

### POLICY

1. The following support package is available to road rescue service providers for the provision of road rescue services, subject to the conditions set forth in this bulletin:
  - Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) or accidental death and dismemberment (AD&D) coverage;
  - Exemption from civil liability;
  - Liability insurance coverage; and
  - Reimbursement for defined expenses.
2. WCB/AD&D coverage, liability protection and financial reimbursement are contingent on road rescue services being undertaken at the request of the police or ambulance service and authorized by a task number assigned by the PEP Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC).
3. The same coverage may be extended for the use of auto extrication tools and techniques for the release of persons trapped by other means, such as farm or industrial accidents, train wrecks or aircraft crashes. The service(s) must be requested by the police, ambulance service or Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) and authorized by a PEP task number.

4. Helicopter deployment of a rescue team to a remote area may be authorized by PEP regional manager or headquarters on the request of the police or British Columbia Ambulance Service (BCAS). Transportation of patients to a medical facility is the responsibility of the BCAS and is not covered under the PEP task number.

## **CONDITIONS**

5. The coverage stated above is available under the following conditions:

### *Fire Departments (Regional Districts, Municipalities or Improvement Districts)*

- there is an actual or suspected imminent threat to life or serious bodily injury (i.e., there is a trapped person);
- request has been made by the police, BCAS or RCC and a file number obtained;
- the service provided is outside the established municipal and/or fire protection area and is not covered under a mutual aid agreement or extended service bylaw;
- receipt at the appropriate PEP Regional Office of quarterly reports outlining training and exercises completed that meet the standards outlined within the definition of Road Rescue Service Provider;
- the fire department is formally established through bylaw; and
- a PEP task number has been assigned.

### *Volunteer Road Rescue Groups*

- there is an actual or suspected imminent threat to life or serious bodily injury (i.e., there is a person trapped);
- request has been made by the police, BCAS, or RCC and a file number obtained;
- receipt at the appropriate PEP Regional Office of quarterly reports outlining training and exercises completed that meet the standards outlined within the definition of Road Rescue Service Provider;
- if the volunteer road rescue group is an adjunct service of the fire department, the service is provided outside the established municipal and/or fire protection area; or
- if the volunteer road rescue group is not an adjunct service of the fire or any local authority department, the service is provided from the onset of the call; and
- a PEP task number has been assigned.

## **ENTITLEMENT**

6. The following guidelines will apply with respect to benefits and financial entitlement associated with an approved road rescue task:

### *Fire Services Responding Outside Normal Jurisdiction*

- indemnification against WCB claims<sup>1</sup> and civil liability,
- reimbursement at pre-authorized rates (Annex A) for:
  - vehicle(s)/equipment;
  - third party contracted services, such as helicopter deployment when authorized by PEP regional manager or headquarters;
  - meals, consumable supplies expended; and
- reimbursement for repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment<sup>2</sup>.

### **Volunteers/Volunteer Groups**

- WCB/AD&D coverage, exemption from civil liability and liability insurance coverage;
- reimbursement of third party contracted services, such as helicopter deployment when pre-authorized by PEP regional manager or headquarters;
- reimbursement at pre-authorized rates (Annex A) for:
  - out-of-pocket expenses (meals and mileage),
  - use of personal/group property (equipment),
  - consumable supplies expended, and
- reimbursement for repair or replacement of lost or damaged equipment in accordance with existing policy<sup>2</sup>.

## **PROCEDURES**

### **Task Authorization**

7. PEP task authorization numbers are quickly available from the PEP ECC 1-800-663-3456 on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week basis. The request should include details of the incident, who requested the task (including police or BCAS file number) and estimated costs. The ECC must be updated if extrication, embankment rescue or fire suppression is required. Only call-outs by police, BCAS, RCC, PEP regional manager or PEP headquarters will be eligible for a PEP task number and subsequent reimbursement.
8. If a helicopter or other contracted equipment/service is required, pre-approval must be obtained through PEP regional manager or headquarters.

**In order to ensure that volunteers are covered under the Workers' Compensation Act and have liability protection under the Emergency Program Act, an emergency response task number must be obtained from PEP Emergency Coordination Centre at the commencement of the task. Responding volunteers may use a designate to contact the ECC in situations where any delay will result in life safety issues.**

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1 PEP will assume responsibility for WCB coverage/cost of claims during the period personnel are operating outside jurisdiction on an authorized road rescue task.

2 Reimbursement for repair or replacement for damage to or loss of vehicles and related equipment will be limited to the lessor of the insurance deductible or \$1000.

## Expense Reimbursement

9. Task Report and Task Registration forms and Expense Reimbursement Requests must be signed by the appropriate volunteer group leader and then forwarded, within 60 days, through the applicable PEP Regional Office which will ensure proper documentation of the incident and recommend reimbursement of eligible expenses.
10. Requests for expense reimbursement are subsequently processed for payment by PEP Headquarters.

## WCB Claims

11. Notify PEP ECC immediately upon being made aware that a WCB claim has been initiated.
12. Complete WCB Employer's Report of Injury or Industrial Disease (WCB Form 7) as much as possible, including subject (worker) information, injury information and witness information.
13. The Director of PEP is the only person authorized to sign the WCB Form 7 if PEP is to assume responsibility for coverage.
14. WCB Form 7 must be forwarded immediately to the applicable PEP Regional Office together with the Task Registration Form and Task Report, if they are available. If not available, do not hold claim, submit immediately and forward Task Registration and Task Report Forms as soon as possible.
15. When a WCB Form 7 is received at the PEP Regional Office, the regional staff will type the form ensuring that information is complete and that a task number has been assigned. The form is then mailed to PEP Headquarters.
16. PEP Headquarters will obtain the PEP Director's signature and fax the WCB Form 7 to the nearest WCB office identified on the form by the Regional Office. PEP Headquarters will retain a copy of form and return original to Regional Office by mail.

**IMPORTANT - ALL WCB FORM 7s MUST BE SIGNED BY THE PEP DIRECTOR, DO NOT SUBMIT FORMS DIRECTLY TO WCB.**



Cam Filmer  
Deputy Director

Attachment: Annex A - Reimbursement Schedule: Road Rescue/Fire Suppression  
Tasks

**Annex A**

**REIMBURSEMENT SCHEDULE  
ROAD RESCUE/FIRE SUPPRESSION TASKS**

**Vehicles, Equipment and Consumable Supplies**

Item	Rate
<b>Vehicles</b>	
Rescue Truck	<u>callout</u> \$125/callout <u>extrication and/or embankment rescue</u> \$250/hour
Fire Apparatus (only when specifically requested for fire suppression to save lives)	<u>callout</u> \$200/callout <u>extrication and/or embankment rescue</u> \$200/hour – standby \$400/hour – suppression used
Utility and/or Personal Vehicles (maximum 4 see note 8)	<b>\$0.46/kilometre</b>
<b>Equipment</b>	
Generator	<b>\$6.50</b> /hour or portion thereof (minimum 2 hours)
<b>Consumable Supplies</b>	
Consumable Supplies Allowance	\$80/task (extrication or embankment rescue task only)

**Notes:**

- Vehicle rates include crew, equipment (less generators), fuel, oil and insurance. Rates are applicable from time vehicles are dispatched and continue until returned to quarters – billed at the closest 15 minutes (.25 hours). Rate also includes first 150 kms round trip; distance in excess of 150 kms round trip will be reimbursed at **\$0.46/km**.

2. **Callout rate (maximum allowed) is applicable when crew deploys but no extrication or embankment rescue is required or the task is cancelled enroute. Flagging is only authorized for the purpose of the safety of the emergency services personnel involved in the removal of the victim(s).** Once the victim(s) are safely extricated, flagging is no longer covered by PEP.
1. Standby rate is applicable for deployed fire apparatus during **an extrication and/or embankment rescue** but no fire suppression required.
3. Consumable supplies allowance is intended to cover the cost of such items as personal protection equipment (gloves and masks), flashlight batteries, flares and absorbent routinely consumed **during an extrication and/or embankment rescue only**. Foam, when used, will be reimbursed separately.
4. Third party contracted services, such as helicopter deployment/recovery, will be reimbursed at actual cost. PEP regional manager's or headquarters' pre-authorization required.
5. Meal expenses incurred as the result of **an extrication and/or embankment rescue**, which exceeded three hours duration, will be reimbursed at the rate of \$13.25 per meal to a maximum of four meals per 24-hour period.
6. Accommodation expenses incurred as the result of an authorized task will be reimbursed at the BC Government Group 1 rates for commercial accommodation or private lodging. PEP regional manager's or headquarters' pre-authorization required.
7. Response personnel are encouraged to muster at a hall and respond in the emergency vehicles. Only under exceptional circumstances, for example a multi vehicle MVI requiring additional support, will more than 4 responding vehicles be considered for reimbursement. This is at the discretion of the appropriate regional manager.