



Vancouver Fraser Port Authority: In emergencies guide

Our mandate

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is responsible for the stewardship of the federal lands and waters of the Port of Vancouver on behalf of Canadians and in support of national trade objectives. The mandate of Canada Port Authorities, as outlined in the [*Canada Marine Act*](#), is to:

- Contribute to the competitiveness, growth, and prosperity of the Canadian economy
- Organize marine transportation services to satisfy the needs of users at a reasonable cost
- Provide a high level of safety and environmental protection
- Be responsive to local needs and priorities
- Encourage and take into account input from users and local communities

We ensure operations are secure, reliable, and sustainable, with consideration for the quality of life of our neighbours. This includes advancing environmental initiatives, and conducting project and environmental reviews of works and projects proposed for port lands and waters.

Our role in an emergency

Although we are not first responders, we work with a variety of emergency response organizations to assist and re-establish safe and efficient operations as quickly as possible following an emergency or a business interruption at the Port of Vancouver. Terminal operators are also responsible for maintaining and activating their own emergency response plans.

We define an emergency as present or imminent events that require prompt coordination of actions to protect the health or welfare of people and limit damage to the environment. These types of events range from fires and oil spills, to collisions between recreational boaters and commercial ships.

When an emergency arises, we respond by:

- Activating the port authority's response plan to ensure the safety of employees and continuity of port operations
- Assessing the impact to critical port infrastructure, such as terminals, land routes, rail routes, etc.
- Providing situational awareness and coordination relating to navigational channels within port jurisdiction in conjunction with Marine Communication Traffic Services (MCTS) and other marine stakeholders
- Supporting the continued essential movement of personnel, logistics and equipment through our port facilities and jurisdiction
- Connecting critical emergency services with potential water movement resources, such as barge and tow companies for the movement of fuel, first responders etc.

The port authority is also not responsible for the movement or coordination of the movement of critical logistical resources—such as fuel and people—but can support by providing information on potential water access routes or partners who may be able to conduct this service.

Financial impacts in the economy

While port activities provide significant economic value to communities and governments at the national, regional, and local levels, the port authority's ability to maintain the safety and security of our port lands and waters also prevents costly financial impacts to the Canadian economy.

The port authority estimates the following financial impact if port operations are not restored efficiently and effectively:

Financial impacts to the Canadian economy*

Economic impacts based on time of Vancouver port outage				
Area affected	1 day	1 week	2 weeks	30 days
Cargo volumes	\$647 million	\$4.53 billion	\$9.06 billion	\$19.41 billion
Economic output	\$66.3 million	\$463.9 million	\$927.8 million	\$1.98 billion
GDP	\$32.4 million	\$227 million	\$454.0 million	\$973.0 million
Jobs impacted	115,300 jobs	115,300 jobs	115,300 jobs	115,300 jobs
Salaries	\$19.1 million	\$133.9 million	\$267.8 million	\$573.8 million

*Values from the [2016 Port of Vancouver Economic Impact Study](#)

Financial Impacts to the Economy of British Columbia*

Economic Impacts Based on time of Vancouver Port Outage				
Area affected	1 day	1 week	2 weeks	30 days
Cargo volumes	\$255 million	\$1.78 billion	\$3.57 billion	\$7.65 billion
Economic output	\$51.6 million	\$360.9 million	\$721.9 million	\$1.54 billion
GDP	\$25.2 million	\$176.6 million	\$353.3 million	\$757 million
Jobs impacted	96,200 jobs	96,200 jobs	96,200 jobs	96,200 jobs
Salaries	\$15.4 million	\$107.6 million	\$215.2 million	\$461.1 million

*Values from the [2016 Port of Vancouver Economic Impact Study](#)

Additional information

Learn more about our emergency response approach

For more information, please visit our website to learn more about the port authority's [security and emergency management](#).

Port dashboard

For real-time monitoring, supply chain metrics, maps, and weather and tide data, please refer to our [port dashboard](#).

Port maps

View our map of the port authority's [jurisdiction and terminals](#).

Contact us

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