



Disaster Response Route (DRR) Guidelines for Users

Background: A Disaster Response Route (DRR) is a network of pre-identified routes that can best move emergency services and supplies in response to a major disaster.

Purpose: A Disaster Response Route (DRR) is for the movement of disaster response services and supplies that fall into two categories:

1. For the movement of disaster response personnel and resources to or from the affected areas
2. For the controlled movement of **casualties and evacuees** by emergency responders from the affected areas

Authority: A Local Government, a BC Provincial Ministry/Agency, a Federal Department/Agency (including the Military), or other entities designated by the Provincial Emergency Program have the authority to issue DRR Tags¹ and DRR Decals² to their staff. It is the responsibility of the issuing authority to prevent unauthorized and inappropriate use.

Who are the “Users” of the Disaster Response Routes?

- Persons authorized beforehand to respond to a disaster including the following:
 - First Responders (Fire, Police, and Ambulance) and the military.
 - Responders designated by local authorities, **health authorities**, utilities, agencies, etc., including (but not limited to) ‘marked’ fleet or entity specific vehicles.

How are the “Users” of the Disaster Response Routes Identified?

- First Responders (Fire, Police, and Ambulance) and the military using marked vehicles are exempt from displaying the DRR Tag.
- Other vehicles must display the DRR Tag.
- Vehicle operators using the Disaster Response Route and not displaying³ a DRR Tag must carry personal identification exhibiting a DRR Decal.

¹ The DRR Tag – when a Disaster Response Route is activated – is to be displayed in the middle of the front windshield of the vehicle authorized to use the route.

² The DRR Sticker is to be placed on the person’s picture identification (the person issued with a DRR tag).

³ Vehicle operators not displaying a DRR Tag are subject to delays and traffic control measures until their use of the Disaster Response Route can be validated.



DRR routes *may* be used when:

- You are traveling to or from work to assist with the response unless an alternate route is available,
- While you are performing an essential service for work relating to the response

DRR routes *may NOT* be used:

- For the purpose of bypassing established guidelines

How are DRRs Activated?

- DRRs should be activated by a declaration of a local or provincial state of emergency.
- Once the need for DRRs exceeds a single jurisdiction or mode of transport, PEP – [through their PREOC](#) – will authorize [and/or facilitate](#) the activation of DRRs.

How is the Use of Disaster Response Routes Controlled?

- Traffic management on the DRRs will be defined by the event and by the authority having jurisdiction in the need to control congestion.
- Traffic management may or may not be in place during the event and therefore public awareness and cooperation is necessary to keep these Disaster Response Routes clear of traffic following a major disaster, in the interest of saving lives, helping the victims and protecting property.