

of peacetime emergencies, will develop the base for rapid expansion, where necessary, to meet the exigencies of war.

Emergency planning for peace and war is considered part of the normal responsibility and budgetary planning of federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations. All federal government departments have nominated emergency planning officers. EPC planners analyze all departmental plans to ensure co-ordination and avoid gaps or overlaps in the total federal approach.

EPC headquarters staff is based in Ottawa. A regional director and assistant in each provincial capital are in constant touch with emergency planners in federal department branches in their regions, and with provincial emergency organizations to form a network of people across Canada who can respond to emergencies.

EPC provides funds to the provinces for certain approved emergency planning projects; gives and sponsors more than 40 courses a year in emergency planning at a federal study centre in Arnprior, Ont. for representatives from public and private sectors, including mayors and elected officials; sponsors research into various aspects of emergencies, and issues publications with subject matter ranging from hints on how to survive if trapped in a car in a severe snowstorm, to what to do in a nuclear attack; and makes films and audio-visual programs available to the public.

The director general of EPC represents Canada on the NATO senior civil emergency planning committee and in 1979 was the chairman of the NATO civil defence committee. EPC participates in regular NATO exercises. The director general also is the Canadian co-chairman of a United States — Canada civil emergency planning committee.

In 1979, EPC co-ordinated the federal government's contingency plans to ensure rapid response should debris from the American space vehicle Skylab survive re-entry into the earth's atmosphere and land in Canada. During the six months before the anticipated re-entry, EPC arranged meetings with a number of federal departments, agencies and Crown corporations, and formed federal-provincial Skylab response groups in each provincial capital.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police divisions ensured their capacity to respond quickly to any Skylab emergency. The national defence department received re-entry and tracking information from NORAD, and EPC relayed it to other departments. The Canadian forces were on standby. Search and rescue crews and helicopters were ready to provide back-up support. Customs and immigration officials at border points were alerted to facilitate entry of a NASA team and equipment if necessary. The external affairs department was prepared to handle queries and claims, should a piece of Skylab cause damage to any person or property in Canada. The transport department alerted air traffic controllers and the Canadian airline pilots, and the coast guard contacted its regional offices concerning the estimated re-entry time. Portable hospitals and emergency medical supplies of the health and welfare department were ready across Canada. A nationwide system of communications equipment was ready to provide the quickest possible response. EPC staff worked in 12-hour shifts continuously around the time of the Skylab re-entry.

As it turned out, Skylab re-entered the earth's atmosphere on July 11, 1979 near the Kerguelen Islands in the Indian Ocean, but this is one example of the co-ordinative role EPC may be required to perform.

**Disaster assistance.** Emergency Planning Canada administers disaster financial assistance arrangements for the finance department. These were established to assist provincial governments in dealing with the cost of a disaster. Criteria for shared costs are based on a per capita formula. Generally payments are made to restore to their pre-disaster condition public works, essential personal property of private citizens, farmsteads, and small businesses. Under the cost-sharing formula no sharing occurs unless provincial expenditures exceed an amount equal to \$1 per capita of the province's population. When a province's expenditures exceed this level, the federal assistance payable to a province is 50% of the next \$2 per capita of eligible provincial expenditures, 75% of the next \$2 per capita and 90% of the remainder. Since the inception of the program in 1970, the federal government has paid more than \$58 million in post-disaster assistance to the provinces.