

CITY POLICY



POLICY NUMBER: C620

REFERENCE:

ADOPTED BY:

City Council July 16, 2019

SUPERSEDES:

NEW

PREPARED BY: Citizen Services

DATE: July 10, 2019

TITLE: **Supporting Vulnerable People During Extreme Weather Conditions**

Policy Statement: The City of Edmonton is committed to reducing the health impacts of Extreme Weather Conditions on Edmontonians who are Vulnerable People. The City will work in collaboration with Homeward Trust Edmonton and community agencies to establish protocols and coordinate efforts in order to proactively respond year-round to Extreme Weather Conditions that may have particular impact on Vulnerable People.

The purpose of this policy is to: formalize the City of Edmonton’s role in ensuring a systematic response to Extreme Weather Conditions in order to safeguard the health and lives of Edmontonians who are Vulnerable People. The response will be aligned with and supportive of existing community response protocols and will result in a responsible, reliable, and transparent process for decision-making.

Guiding Principles

The City of Edmonton’s response to Extreme Weather Conditions will be guided by the following principles:

- **Safety First:** The health and safety of individuals is of paramount importance.
- **Connected:** All efforts will be made to align the City of Edmonton’s response with existing efforts and resources, with a focus on connecting people to the supports that best meet their needs.
- **Respectful:** All individuals are served with dignity and respect.
- **Efficient and Effective:** Responses, community plans, and protocols are robust and time tested, based on proven best practices.
- **Housing First:** All efforts will be made to ensure that those who are experiencing homelessness are connected to supports to find permanent, safe and affordable housing.

This policy is subject to any specific provisions of the Municipal Government Act or other relevant legislation or Union Agreement.

City of Edmonton Role

The City of Edmonton's primary role will be to supplement and support the existing community-wide response when the need for support exceeds the capacity of available resources. Any Procedures created in respect of this Policy will be reviewed regularly to ensure their effectiveness and to adapt to any emergent weather issues and trends over time.

Applicability

This Policy applies to incidents where all of the following conditions are present:

- A Weather Warning has been issued;
- Emergency shelter services are at or above 90 percent capacity; and,
- A decision is made to implement an extreme weather protocol by a body comprised of representatives from Homeward Trust Edmonton, City of Edmonton, and shelter organizations.

This Policy does not apply to cases of natural disasters, such as tornadoes and flooding.

DEFINITIONS

Extreme Weather Condition(s): A circumstance in which there is a hazardous weather or environmental event that poses a significant threat to public safety and property.

Vulnerable People: Persons who are vulnerable to serious, critical, or potentially fatal health impacts as a result of Extreme Weather Conditions and due to their circumstances, in particular persons experiencing homelessness.

Weather Warning: A type of alert issued by Environment Canada where an Extreme Weather Condition is certain or imminent.