

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE PLAN 2016-2017 October 2016

Introduction

The Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows Extreme Weather Response Plan provides a framework for expanding resources to people who are homeless to reduce hardships associated with extreme winter weather in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows.

The development of this plan is collaboration amongst various community and social service organizations involved in assisting, either directly or indirectly, the homeless population in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. These include:

Community and Social Service Organizations

- The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries
- Alouette Homestart Society
- Canadian Mental Health Outreach
- Raincity

Municipal

- City of Maple Ridge
- City of Pitt Meadows
- RCMP

Provincial

- BC Housing
- Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy (GVSS)

Purpose

Currently, The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries is one of two providers of an Emergency Shelter Program which serves the homeless population of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows. The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries provides space for 17 men and 8 women in its shelter and typically runs at over 100% capacity all year round with increasing numbers of turnaways.

Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows communities have experienced a rise in people needing shelter and low-cost affordable housing with a decrease in the availability.

The Plan's purpose is to develop an operating structure which provides up to 15 temporary sheltering spaces for homeless people during periods of extreme weather. The plan offers a seasonal response that is aimed at reducing the hardships for the homeless population during extreme weather. It is a temporary response, over and above the Emergency Shelter Program already in existence,

Extreme Weather Alert Criteria:

The Extreme Weather Response Plan meets the diverse needs of the homeless population (e.g., men, women, youth over 18, people with disabilities and seniors). The Plan anticipates demand for service and ensures that facilities are open during extreme winter weather conditions. The Plan ensures that adequate staffing, safeguards and other resources are in place.

Extreme Weather is defined as:

Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless individuals.

- Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius or feels like -2 degrees with the wind chill
- Significant snow accumulation;
- Extensive days of rain creating conditions where it is difficult for people to keep dry; *(These conditions would necessitate the activation of an alert for only one night. After that night, more days of rain would have to occur prior to the activation of a similar alert, and, again, this would be for only one night).*
- 50 mm of rain in a 24 hour period
- Freezing Rain

Web sites such as Environment Canada and Spotwx.com will be used along with other resources as the sites for assessing the weather forecast and conditions. Weather Network and TV/Radio broadcasts will also be consulted to determine if and when an alert is called.

Limitations of the Extreme Weather Alert:

The Extreme Weather housing will be located in The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries, located at 22188 Lougheed Hwy in Maple Ridge. The Extreme Weather is a mat program which will utilize the drop in (a large open space). People accessing the program will be provided with 3 meals the day after their stay, snacks and hot beverages; laundry facilities as needed; bus tickets (if available).

No one is excluded from the Extreme Weather program; however guests must abide by the rules and not cause any disturbance.

Referrals to the Ridge Meadows Ministries Emergency Shelter may occur based on bed availability. This would allow a person to have a more stable living situation while they work on goals and finding more permanent housing. These referrals assist a person along the continuum of care where possible.

Activating/Deactivating an Alert:

All activation/deactivations will follow the ASA (Assistance to Shelter Act) activation procedures.

Michael Emery Ridge Meadows Ministries Shelter Manager in conjunction with various Outreach Workers from Alouette Home Start and Canadian Mental Health will be responsible for determining if an activation or deactivation is to be called. Michael Emery will be responsible for all notifications.

Where possible, an alert will be activated prior to 10:00 AM on the day of the alert in order to give sufficient time to mobilize staffing, food services and Caring Place maintenance. An alert can be called for up to three days in advance if the weather reports indicate continued adverse conditions but will be reviewed the following day, again, based on weather reports, to determine if the alert is still needed.

Due to differences or variations in weather conditions across the area, an alert can be called in Maple Ridge even if an alert is not called in neighbouring municipalities or elsewhere in the region. When an alert is called weather conditions will be documented at the time of the alert for accountability purposes.

The BC Housing template for activating and deactivating and extreme weather alert to the Ridge Meadows RCMP will be used in the implementation of this plan.

Notification to the Maple, Ridge/Pitt Meadows Agencies and Organizations:

The agencies and organizations identified in the Activation Contact list, found at the end of the Plan, will be notified in the event of an extreme weather alert activation/ deactivation.

The purpose of the notification is to raise awareness regarding the severity of the weather conditions and the potential impact on people who are homeless and to inform outreach workers, police, supporting agencies of the additional shelter resources available to people who are homeless in Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows.

Notification to BC Housing Activation and Deactivation Team:

- Michael, The Salvation Ridge Meadows Ministries Shelter Manager
- Outreach Workers with , Alouette Homestart Society and Canadian Mental Health
- Maple Ridge Chief Bylaw Enforcement Officer

Timeframe

The Extreme Weather Response Program is implemented:

- Between November 1 and March 31
- Intermittently during the course of this five month period as weather conditions and need.

Hours of Operation

- Night-time shelter between 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 a.m.

Media Inquiries

- Media inquiries are to be directed to:
Darrell Pilgrim Executive Director at Ridge Meadows Ministries.
- BC Housing will offer media support in case of major media interest (e.g., if a controversial issue develops), or should it become necessary to coordinate media response between communities. See list below.

Evaluation & Plan Revision

This plan has been developed for the 2016/2017 winter period. After March 31, 2016, the Extreme Weather Planning Committee will reconvene under the direction of the Chair, Darrell Pilgrim, and The Salvation Army Ridge Meadows Ministries to assess the implementation of the plan and amend the plan as required.

See attached:

Extreme Weather Alert Template;
Updated Contact List

EWR Email Contact List for 2016-17

dflanagan@bchousing.org
bmelles@bchousing.org
Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca
Darren.harbord@gov.bc.ca
dstpalet@bchousing.org
bchceo@bchousing.org
CommsEWR@bchousing.org
HomelessnessServices@bchousing.org
amelia.norrie@saridgemeadows.com
amy.mcnutt@saridgemeadows.com
finance@saridgemeadows.com
corinne.lawrence@saridgemeadows.com
Darrell_Pilgrim@can.salvationarmy.org
ediv_federal_occ@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
frontlineworker@saridgemeadows.com
heather.steele@cmha.bc.ca
intexjanitorial@gmail.com
jason.carlaw@saridgemeadows.com
john.roffel@saridgemeadows.com
smatthewson@mapleridge.ca
susanne.eddy@gov.bc.ca
connie.mcgonigal@saridgemeadows.com
weatheralert@gov.bc.ca

Hello,

I have been designated under the Assistance to Shelter Act as the Community Representative for the town/municipality/village/township) of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows British Columbia. I am issuing an Extreme Weather Alert (EWA) and it is requested that RCMP "E" HQ OCC send the below noted EWA verbatim via CPIC to the detachment responsible for policing the (town/municipality/village/township) of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows British Columbia.

I request that only "E" HQ OCC confirm receipt of this e-mail and advise when the CPIC message has been forwarded to the appropriate detachment. You will be advised via email when the EWA has been rescinded.

Thanks in advance for your assistance,

Michael Emery

Extreme Weather Alert

Pursuant to sec. 2(2)(b) of the Assistance to Shelter Act an Extreme Weather Alert (EWA) is being issued for the (town/municipality/village/township) of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, British Columbia. This EWA activates the authorities in the Assistance to Shelter Act for police to assist persons at risk due to extreme weather conditions and remains in effect until it is canceled.

This EWA is being issued on, due to the following weather conditions and forecast:

(Sources: www.theweathernetwork.com)

The following shelter(s) will be providing spaces during this EWA:

Ridge Meadows Ministries

EWA issued by: Michael Emery, Community Representative for the (town/municipality/village/township) of Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows, British Columbia.

Regional Extreme Weather Contact	Email address	Phone	Fax
Maria Rodrigo, Orange Hall	mrodrigo@bchousing.org	604-648-4274	604-648-4279
Daisy Stapleton, Lower Mainland Non-Profit	dstaplet@bchousing.org	604-439-4150	604-439-4729
Heidi Hartman, Vancouver Island	hhartman@bchousing.org	250-978-2923	250-475-7551
Maggie Chinnery, Nanette Drobot, Wayne Schmuck, Interior Region	mchinnery@bchousing.org; ndrobot@bchousing.org; wschmuck@bchousing.org	1-800-834-7149	250-492-1080
Valerie Hare, Northern Region	vhare@bchousing.org	250-649-2154	250-562-6488

What Is It?	By When Should It Be Completed?	Who and How to Contact BC Housing																						
Community EWR Plan	September 30, 2016	Email plan to your Region's BCH Extreme Weather Contact (see above)																						
Nightly Shelter Budgets	September 30, 2016	Email or fax to your Region's BCH Extreme Weather Contact (see above)																						
Activation and Deactivation of EWR	As soon as you know a response is being activated	<p>Email: Your regional EWR contact (listed above)</p> <p>AND all contacts below:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Dominic Flanagan</td> <td>dflanagan@bchousing.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bruk Melles</td> <td>bmelles@bchousing.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Paul Woolley</td> <td>Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Darren Harbord</td> <td>Darren.harbord@gov.bc.ca</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>bchceo@bchousing.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>CommsEWR@bchousing.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>HomelessnessServices@bchousing.org</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>weatheralert@gov.bc.ca</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>In NON RCMP Detachments</td> <td>Local Police department email contact</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In RCMP Detachments</td> <td>EDIV_FEDERAL_OCC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca</td> </tr> </table>	Dominic Flanagan	dflanagan@bchousing.org	Bruk Melles	bmelles@bchousing.org	Paul Woolley	Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca	Darren Harbord	Darren.harbord@gov.bc.ca		bchceo@bchousing.org		CommsEWR@bchousing.org		HomelessnessServices@bchousing.org		weatheralert@gov.bc.ca			In NON RCMP Detachments	Local Police department email contact	In RCMP Detachments	EDIV_FEDERAL_OCC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca
Dominic Flanagan	dflanagan@bchousing.org																							
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	CommsEWR@bchousing.org																							
	HomelessnessServices@bchousing.org																							
	weatheralert@gov.bc.ca																							
In NON RCMP Detachments	Local Police department email contact																							
In RCMP Detachments	EDIV_FEDERAL_OCC@rcmp-grc.gc.ca																							
Occupancy Reports	By 11am the following business day of an EWR	Email: HomelessnessServices@bchousing.org or fax: 604 439-4722																						
Shelter Invoice (for payment)	Submit invoices for related costs twice a month for each relevant	By fax or email to your region's extreme weather contact. The two invoice periods are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1st – 15th, invoices should be submitted by the 17th • 16th – end of month, invoices should be submitted by 2nd of the following month 																						

	period.	
Media Response	As soon as you know	<p>Any media releases with regard to EWR must be forwarded in draft form to your region’s representative and BC Housing’s Communications Branch for comments and final approval before release.</p> <p>Email: Your regional EWR contact AND all contacts below:</p> <p>Monday to Friday to Ally Skinner-Reynolds asreynolds@bchousing.org</p> <p>Weekend media@bchousing.org</p>

All Extreme Weather Forms are available on-line at www.bchousing.org under the Partner Resources; Program Resources; Extreme Weather Response Program.

