

2017 April 05

## Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Preparedness for emergencies in Calgary is the result of the combined efforts of activities at the individual, family, business, community, city, municipal, provincial and federal level. Effective preparedness aligns education, initiatives and programs with the risks and hazards most likely to impact Calgary.

As a result of the work of the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and its broad network of Agency members, Calgarians, businesses and the Corporation have made strides in towards improving resiliency. Additionally, CEMA's all-hazards planning approach supports readiness for a wide variety of natural, technological and human-induced emergency events.

### ADMINISTRATION RECOMMENDATION(S)

The Emergency Management Committee recommends that Council receive this report and its attachment for information.

### PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION / POLICY

This update on the status of emergency preparedness in the city is submitted in accordance with The City of Calgary Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002, Section 6 (2) which states: "The Director shall, with the advice and assistance of the Agency, submit to Council annually through the Emergency Management Committee, a report on the status of emergency preparedness in the City."

### BACKGROUND

CEMA works with City of Calgary business units, government agencies, businesses, non-profit groups, first responders and citizens to promote and strengthen emergency preparedness, resilience and the coordinated response to, and recovery from, major emergencies and disasters in Calgary.

Emergency management addresses a full spectrum of activities – prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery – that contribute to reducing risks, limiting the impact of emergencies and disasters, ensuring timely response and supporting communities in recovery as quickly as possible after an event. CEMA's role is to ensure a balanced approach to all five phases to ensure programs, training and capacity are available to advance and support each area.

Since 2003, Alberta has had more than \$4.8 billion in insurable losses due to natural disasters, ranging from windstorms and hailstorms to the 2016 Fort McMurray wildfire. The Fort McMurray wildfire and southern Alberta flooding of 2013 are the top two costliest natural disasters in Canadian history and point to the nature of disaster risk in the province.

Attachment 1 contains a report on the highlights of preparedness in Calgary, including: The City's response to the Fort McMurray wildfires of 2016; the work and capabilities of Canada Task Force 2; the impact of **READYCALGARY** on community preparedness and global issues on the horizon for CEMA consideration and planning.

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### **INVESTIGATION: ALTERNATIVES AND ANALYSIS**

In 2017, CEMA and its members will continue to work towards the four-year preparedness and resiliency goals of the Agency and Corporation through a variety of initiatives, including:

1. Utilizing the new funding from provincial, federal and community donors to upgrade, replace and expand the specialized equipment and training of the Canada Task Force 2 disaster response team;
2. Collaborating with Business Continuity Coordinators across The City to identify common strategies to reduce vulnerabilities with the potential to impact essential services;
3. Revising CEMA's existing Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment, now referred to as the Disaster Risk Assessment, progress to enhance and refine the understanding of risks to Calgary and its citizens;
4. Developing a strategy and implementing programming to educate and inform communities regarding the risks within their neighbourhoods to encourage appropriate planning and preparedness;
5. Continuing to build a network of members and processes for efficiently and effectively managing emergencies of all sizes;
6. Facilitating a coordinated response and recovery plan among Agency members to ensure capacity, capabilities and clarity in roles and responsibilities related to active assailant and mass casualty incidents.

### **Stakeholder Engagement, Research and Communication**

Successful, effective emergency management and preparedness requires collaboration, coordination and integration to drive complementary and coherent action across the Corporation and city. Whether it is the actual response to an emergency event or the mitigation and planning work to be done to prevent and prepare for emergencies, CEMA helps connect efforts and expertise across all levels of the Corporation, government, non-profit groups and private sector to advance resilience in the city. Today, 60 business units and external groups are members of CEMA, including representatives from a broad cross section of sectors, including: City services, emergency services, utilities, schools, transportation, business, non-profits and environment.

CEMA is the Corporate leader in business continuity. Through our network of business continuity coordinators we work with City business units to identify essential services that must be maintained by City staff under any circumstance to ensure health, safety and security of citizens and employees, or minimize catastrophic costs associated with the loss of service. CEMA proactively works with all business units and their business continuity coordinators to ensure business continuity plans in place to support continuation of essential services following an emergency or disaster.

CEMA is an active and vital participant in the Corporation's resilience and risk discussions and frameworks. Agency members represent organizations that span all segments of the Rockefeller Foundation City Resilience Framework. CEMA's recent implementation of the Sendai Framework, which is a planning instrument for disaster risk reduction, advances the Corporation's understanding of risk and disaster risk reduction through economic, built and social infrastructure.

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Communities are engaged with CEMA through the **READYCALGARY** program which educates community leaders and members on how to build individual, family and community preparedness. CEMA also connects with over 12,000 Calgary businesses through the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, providing updates to the business community on emergencies impacting them as well as partnering to provide business continuity information and support.

### Strategic Alignment

CEMA's work on preparedness and its Action Plan supports Council's Priority to provide *A city of inspiring neighbourhoods*.

Within Community Services' Action Plan 2015-2018, CEMA supports the strategies of *Build resiliency to flooding and Enhance The City's capacity and resiliency to prepare for and respond to pandemics, natural disasters and emergency situations*.

The work of CEMA supports the Corporation's Sustainability Direction 2020 objective *Calgary, its communities and neighbourhoods are safe, resilient and supportive*.

### Social, Environmental, Economic (External)

Emergency preparedness, planning, training and exercises are necessary at an individual, family, community and business level. The level of preparedness is correlated with the ability to resume normalcy in daily life as quickly as possible following an event.

Citizens, families, communities, and businesses in Calgary rely on, and expect, the Corporation to employ strategies and planning in which events that can be prevented are stopped and negative impacts resulting from emergencies and disasters that do occur are minimized.

Preventing events or reducing their impact also has economic implications for the Corporation, citizens and businesses. Prevention and mitigation efforts minimize property loss and support timely resumption of operations at both the Corporate and business level.

### Financial Capacity

#### Current and Future Operating Budget:

The operating impacts of the preparedness and mitigation strategies and initiatives discussed in the status report have been included within CEMA's and each business unit's business plan and budget presented in Action Plan 2015-2018.

#### Current and Future Capital Budget:

The capital budget impacts of the preparedness and mitigation strategies and initiatives discussed in the status report have been included within CEMA's and each business unit's business plan and budget presented in Action Plan 2015-2018.

### Risk Assessment

CEMA's Disaster Risk Assessment is a key contributor to the Corporation's understanding of natural, technological and human-induced risks facing Calgary. In addition, CEMA's ongoing

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monitoring of global emergency management events with likely impacts on Calgary helps ensure the Corporation is prepared for emerging issues that may quickly arise.

CEMA's ability to transform disaster-specific lessons learned and adapt them into an all-hazards approach is beneficial in preparation for any emergency that may impact the city. CEMA will continue to employ an all-hazards, risk-based approach to enhance emergency response and recovery capabilities that contribute to the Corporation's preparedness regardless of the type of disaster.

#### **REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S):**

CEMA's all-hazards approach to its planning enhances emergency response and recovery capabilities and helps ensure the Corporation is prepared for any event that impacts the city.

Prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery strategies employed by CEMA and business unit's to reduce risk and impact of events on the city are incorporated within Action Plan 2015-2018.

#### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary