

# BRIEFING

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Item # 5.2.1

**Community Services Briefing to  
Emergency Management Committee  
2021 May 25**

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## **Status of Emergency Preparedness 2020**

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### **PURPOSE OF BRIEFING**

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the 2020 status report on Calgary's emergency preparedness as required by the Emergency Management Bylaw. Attachment 1, The Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary, was prepared by the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) and summarizes the work of The City of Calgary and its 65 member agencies to address Calgary's high risk hazards. It provides an overview of Calgary's highest natural and human-caused risks, profiles the management of several high risks, summarizes Calgary's response to the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, and outlines the next steps in disaster risk reduction and management for The City. Emergency Management Committee members have previously been provided with the report via email; this briefing provides the opportunity to have it received for the corporate record.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

The 2018 Disaster Risk Assessment assessed a total of 65 individual hazards and threats that pose a risk to Calgary. Over the course of the 2019-2022 business cycle, CEMA is providing Emergency Management Committee of Council with an in-depth understanding of Calgary's risk environment and how CEMA and its member agencies work together to implement strategies focused on decreasing disaster risks and increasing the resilience of people, property, and systems.

In the 2020 report, CEMA profiled key factors, trends and mitigation measures for two of Calgary's high risks: critical infrastructure and severe winter weather. The report describes how CEMA established the Calgary Critical Infrastructure Network (CCIN) to increase overall resilience to future events, and indicates that robust event forecasting and response plans are in place for extreme winter weather.

The report discusses the considerable work conducted by The City of Calgary to support the community in preparing, responding and recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. From the first quarter of 2020 when the State of Local Emergency was first declared and the Emergency Operations Centre was opened, CEMA was involved both in coordinating corporate business continuity and strategic community response to the pandemic in Calgary, such as chairing the cross-organizational COVID-19 Strike Team.

Next steps for Disaster Risk Management are anticipated to be focused on transitioning CEMA into Calgary Community Standards to enhance service and efficiency, while CEMA will continue to coordinate The City's COVID-19 response and plans for post-COVID-19 recovery. CEMA will also strengthen corporate resilience through business continuity programming and enhance community resilience through emergency preparedness and disaster response and recovery programs.

### **ATTACHMENT**

1. Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary 2020 Report