

2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Emergency Management Committee recommend that Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, 2023 FEBRUARY 8:

That Council receive this report for the Corporate Record.

HIGHLIGHTS

- In compliance with the *Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002*, Administration reports annually through the Emergency Management Committee to provide disaster risk awareness and confidence in the status of emergency preparedness in Calgary.
- **What does this mean to Calgarians?** Being aware of the top disaster risks for Calgary and understanding how to prepare allows citizens to take actions that protect themselves, their families, and communities, and allows Council to understand measures being taken to manage disaster risks in Calgary.
- **Why does it matter?** Understanding and reducing disaster risk helps The City prepare for future disasters, and helps ensure Calgarians, businesses, and communities stay safe during a disaster.
- The *2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary* report (Attachment 2) highlights the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities undertaken by the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (the Agency) over the last year and forecasts future planning priorities.
- The City prepares for high-risk hazards by implementing strategies focused on reducing risk and increasing resilience. Strategies are informed by the Canadian *Disaster Risk Reduction Framework* and are further aligned to a Calgary context by basing all work on a foundational local *Disaster Risk Assessment*.
- Background and Previous Council Direction is included as Attachment 1.

DISCUSSION

After two years of pandemic response activities, 2022 marked the transition from COVID-19 response to a return to other emergency management priorities and rebuilding for future resilience. The *2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary* report (Attachment 2) summarises Calgary's highest risks and highlights The City's emergency management accomplishments throughout the year, including:

- Releasing the *2022 Disaster Risk Report* to inform The City, Agency members and citizens about Calgary's risks.
- Conducting two functional exercises to test The City's river flooding and extreme winter weather incident responses. These topics were further explored with the Emergency Management Committee through risk focus reports and panel presentations.
- Finishing pandemic initiatives including the Mobile Vaccination Program and deactivating the Emergency Operations Centre and Municipal Emergency Plan.

2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

- Completing a review of the Calgary Emergency Management Agency representative membership and the Emergency Operations Centre's Concept of Operations to align with the Corporate Organizational Realignment.
- Opening the Emergency Operations Centre to coordinate The City's response to the June heavy rainfall event.
- Completing and implementing extreme heat and extreme cold response plans.

The report also includes future planning priorities such as:

- Strengthening the Agency's capacity to respond to emergencies through training, collaborative initiatives, and exercise programs.
- Supporting climate change adaptation in collaboration with the City's Climate Team.
- Fostering Corporate resilience by updating the Corporate Business Continuity Program to align with the Organization Realignment, reviewing the Business Continuity Policy, and conducting a business continuity exercise.
- Building community resilience through focused emergency preparedness programming that meets the needs of the populations most vulnerable to disasters.
- Advancing Canada Task Force 2, through new members, return to training opportunities, and renewing the team's focus on response readiness for local, regional, provincial, or national disaster events.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public engagement was undertaken | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Dialogue with interested parties was undertaken |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public/interested parties were informed | <input type="checkbox"/> Public communication or engagement was not required |

Nearly 60 City of Calgary business units and external groups are Agency members in the Calgary Emergency Management Agency, with representatives from a broad cross-section of sectors including: City services, emergency services, utilities, schools, transportation, business, non-profits, and environmental-focused agencies. The Calgary Emergency Management Agency helps connect efforts and expertise across all levels of the Corporation, government, non-profit groups, and private sector to advance resilience in the city.

In addition to being involved in the development of response plans and full-scale emergency exercises, Agency members also engaged in tabletop exercises to prepare for the Stampede Parade and to test recreation facility emergency processes. Agency members also contributed to a year-end survey to help direct future preparation, mitigation, response, and recovery efforts.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Calgary Emergency Management Agency members' work aligns with the *Social Wellbeing Policy* of prevention (d) *The City will aim to stop problems before they start, using a prevention approach* by ensuring the social impacts of disasters are being mitigated before disasters occur.

2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

Environmental

Calgary is exposed to numerous environmental hazards that require coordinated preparedness and mitigation activities to reduce their risk. Of the top 16 priority high risks from the 2022 *Disaster Risk Assessment*, eight are environmental

Economic

Calgary Emergency Management Agency members' work addresses the *Resilient Calgary Strategy* to create a more resilient economy, as mitigation efforts will result in significant future savings.

Service and Financial Implications

Existing operating funding - base

Disaster response planning and preparation exist in the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets.

RISK

The City has eight Principal Corporate Risks and emergency preparedness contributes (directly or indirectly) to reducing these risks. This work is highlighted in the *2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary* report.

Additionally, the *Disaster Risk Assessment* identifies 16 high disaster risks, and these are the priority risks for planning and preparing efforts. Literature indicates that mitigating disaster risk and having strategies in place to decrease their impact is more economically, socially, and environmentally sound than managing disaster consequence.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. 2022 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary Report
3. Presentation

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
N/A		