

Community Services Report to
Emergency Management Committee
2026 April 22

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EM2026-0360

2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

PURPOSE

To share information about disaster risks and key activities undertaken by the Calgary Emergency Management Agency.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002 mandates that the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) provide an annual Status of Emergency Preparedness Report to the Emergency Management Committee. Background and Previous Council Direction is included in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Katie Black concurs with the content of this report.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Calgary's emergency preparedness is strong and continually advancing, with ongoing improvements in readiness, strategy and resilience across The City of Calgary, Agency partners, and the Calgary community.
- The *2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary Report* (Attachment 2) highlights the preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery activities undertaken by CEMA over the past year and outlines future planning priorities.
- Throughout 2025, CEMA facilitated pre-planned and emergency response events, including the G7 Summit, hazardous materials response, and the Bearspaw South Feeder Main Break (continuing into 2026), applying lessons learned to improve coordination.
- Additionally, Canada Task Force 2 completed three deployments and delivered 11,000 training hours, maintaining specialized response capacity.
- In 2025, CEMA refined its strategic approach by integrating lessons from past emergencies, reassessing disaster risks, and preparing for anticipated increased demands in 2026 and beyond. Key accomplishments include revisions to the Municipal Emergency Plan and enhanced response capacity within CEMA and its Agency members and partners.
- The *Disaster Risk Assessment Summary 2026* (Attachment 3) provides an updated evaluation of Calgary's disaster risks, analyzing 67 hazards and threats and highlighting changes in risks that have the potential to impact Calgary in 2026.
- Looking ahead, Emergency Management is preparing for disasters projected to be more frequent and increasingly complex.

2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

DISCUSSION

Emergency Preparedness

In 2025, CEMA advanced Calgary's emergency management by updating systems and focusing on future needs. These efforts enhanced emergency preparedness through better planning, training, risk assessment, and response.

The activities listed below highlight CEMA's coordinated and people-centred approach to planning and governance, operational readiness, risk management, community preparedness, and responses to emergencies, planned events and deployments.

Planning and Governance

In 2025, The Municipal Emergency Plan (MEP) was revised to clarify roles and responsibilities, improve information sharing, and strengthen coordination between the Emergency Operations Centre, other response structures, and decision-makers. Highlights include defining the role of the Disaster Consultation Group to support senior leaders during complex incidents and introducing the Emergency Social Services Standard of Care to support a people-centred and consistent approach during evacuations.

Operational Readiness

CEMA invested in employees, system upgrades, and expanded training to boost readiness. Additional staffing, portfolio realignment, and wellness supports ensure that CEMA is well-prepared. Improvements to the Emergency Operations Centre facility and systems, enhanced coordination during incidents and training.

Highlights included Incident Command System (ICS) and Emergency Operations Centre training, along with exercises for major events, severe weather, emergency social services, business continuity, and cyber threats, helping to keep The City and its partners ready for emergencies.

Risk Management - Disaster Risk

Disaster risks are becoming more frequent and increasingly complex. In 2025, CEMA and risk subject matter experts initiated a thorough review of the *Disaster Risk Report*, which assesses 67 hazards and threats and identifies changes in risk anticipated over the next four years. Reassessing disaster risk strengthens preparedness by ensuring that planning, mitigation, and response efforts are focused on the most significant and emerging risks facing Calgary. This risk-based approach supports informed decision-making and promotes effective use of resources. The full *Disaster Risk Report 2026* will be released later in 2026.

Community Preparedness

Community preparedness programs reached more than 11,500 Calgarians, helping individuals and neighbourhoods to understand and prepare for disaster risks. Youth-focused programming in schools further supports long-term resilience by building awareness and preparedness skills early.

Risk reduction and resilience efforts centred on prevention and preparedness before disasters occur. These included planning, development reviews, business continuity, initiating a Wildland-Urban Interface Fire Strategy, and public education.

**Community Services Report to
Emergency Management Committee
2026 April 22**

**ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EM2026-0360**

2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

Response - Major Events

In 2025, CEMA supported pre-planned and emergency events including the G7 Summit, hazardous materials response, and the Bearspaw South feeder main break (continuing into 2026). The Emergency Operations Centre was open for a total of 13 days to coordinate responses and complex planning efforts. In addition, the CEMA On-Call team provided 24/7 support to Agency members, partners, and the community.

Response - Deployments

Canada Task Force 2 completed three deployments and delivered member training representing over 11,000 personnel hours to enhance Calgary's emergency preparedness in urban search and rescue. In addition, Canada Task Force 2 hosted an internationally recognized accreditation course and initiated a strategic plan to strengthen Calgary's contribution to provincial and national emergency response.

Looking Ahead to Support Emergency Preparedness in 2026 and Beyond

Looking ahead, CEMA will focus on targeted actions to strengthen community preparedness, improve disaster risk reduction, enhance response coordination, and support staff capacity and wellness.

EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

CEMA brings together City departments, different orders of government, non-profit groups, and the private sector to advance resilience in Calgary. Over 50 Agency members – from City services, emergency services, utilities, schools, transportation, businesses, non-profits, and environmental-focused agencies – participate in engagement, information sharing, training and exercises.

IMPLICATIONS

Social

CEMA members' work aligns with the *Social Wellbeing Policy* by focusing on prevention, ensuring the social impacts of disasters are being mitigated before disasters occur.

Environmental

The work highlighted in this report contributes to Calgary's goal of being a *Climate Resilient City* by identifying and addressing environmental hazards. Seven of the top 22 high priorities in the *Disaster Risk Assessment Summary 2026*, are environmental.

Economic

CEMA members help strengthen Calgary's economy by minimizing disruptions and risks from emergencies, which reduces the overall costs.

Community Services Report to
Emergency Management Committee
2026 April 22

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EM2026-0360

2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary

Service and Financial Implications: Existing operating funding - base

Disaster response planning and preparedness exists in the 2023-2026 Service Plans and Budgets.

RISK

The City has 10 Principal Corporate Risks; emergency preparedness contributes directly or indirectly to reducing these risks. Additionally, the *Disaster Risk Assessment Summary 2026* identifies 22 high priority disaster risks to guide planning and preparation. Research indicates that proactive risk mitigation and preparation is more socially, environmentally, and economically sound than managing disaster impacts after they occur.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Background and Previous Council Direction
2. 2025 Status of Emergency Preparedness in Calgary Report
3. Disaster Risk Assessment Summary 2026
4. Presentation – EM2026-0360

Department Circulation

General Manager/Director	Department	Approve/Consult/Inform
Katie Black	General Manager, Community Services	Approve
Iain Bushell	Director, Emergency Management & Community Safety	Approve

Authors: Heather Galbraith and Chris Lammiman, Emergency Management & Community Safety