

Community Services Report to
Emergency Management Committee
2026 April 22

ISC: UNRESTRICTED
EM2026-0368

Update to the Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002 and Municipal Emergency Plan

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to share proposed amendments to the Emergency Management Bylaw and key updates from the annual review of the Municipal Emergency Plan.

PREVIOUS COUNCIL DIRECTION

The Municipal Emergency Plan (MEP) is approved by Council, with annual updates provided by the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) to the Emergency Management Committee.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Emergency Management Committee recommend that Council:

1. Give three readings to the proposed bylaw in Attachment 1 to amend the Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002; and
2. Approve the Municipal Emergency Plan in Attachment 2.

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER/GENERAL MANAGER COMMENTS

General Manager Katie Black concurs with the contents of this report. The Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002 (the Bylaw) and MEP are critical documents that guide The City's response and recovery activities during an emergency or disaster.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Proposed amendments to the Emergency Management Bylaw and updates to the MEP reflect continuous improvement in emergency management.
- The Bylaw regulates effective emergency management by The City. Proposed amendments align with provincial legislation, standards, and organizational structure. As per the Bylaw, at least once per year, The Calgary Emergency Management Agency must provide an update on the review of the MEP to Emergency Management Committee.
- The MEP is an all-hazards plan that outlines how The City responds to and recovers from emergencies and disasters. Proposed updates clarify roles, incorporate emergency management program updates, revise terms and definitions, and incorporate lessons learned from recent incidents.

DISCUSSION

After a significant update in 2025, the 2026 proposed Bylaw amendments and MEP updates are minor and reflect organizational changes, evolving legislation and standards, and lessons identified through recent emergency responses and MEP activations in consultation with Agency members.

Proposed Wording for a Bylaw to Amend the Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002

Law has advised that the proposed amendments to the Bylaw are consistent with provincial legislation and the Municipal Emergency Plan.

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Amendments to the Bylaw include:

Update to the description of the Director of Emergency Management

The Bylaw amendment reflects the change to The City of Calgary's organizational structure. Previously, the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) was known as the "Chief, Emergency Management Operations and 9-1-1". The DEM will now be known as the "Chief, Emergency Management Operations". The Procedure Bylaw 42M2025 title is also updated.

Proposed Updates to the Municipal Emergency Plan

The MEP outlines how The City of Calgary manages emergencies, defining governance, roles, responsibilities, and coordination. Updates incorporate program improvements, legislative changes, operational learnings and reflect consultations with Agency members. Updates do not alter Council's authorities or oversight role in emergency management.

The most recent updates to the MEP include:

Response Coordination – Disaster Consultation Group

Updates focus on clarifying roles and improving coordination across emergency operations. The role of the Disaster Consultation Group (DCG) is refined, establishing it as a consultation forum convened by the Director of Emergency Management (DEM) when required. The DEM retains authority for all emergency management decisions, while the DCG facilitates broader municipal coordination in alignment with regular corporate processes and decision-making authorities.

Communication Pathways

Communication pathways between Tactical Operations Centres (TOC) and the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) are optimized to better support situational awareness, resource coordination, and alignment of operational priorities. This includes the ability to co-locate the TOC alongside the EOC where practical.

Emergency Social Services Standard of Care

Updates align to the Emergency Social Services Standard of Care, which was developed in 2025 to reflect changes to the provincial Alberta Emergency Social Services Framework. The Emergency Social Services (ESS) team is made up of more than 150 City employees who may be activated to support the immediate physical and psychosocial needs of individuals impacted by an emergency or disaster.

After-Action Review Program

The MEP updates align to the updated After-Action Review Program to enhance accountability, organizational learnings, and continuous improvement after EOC openings and exercises. This includes structured debriefs, action tracking, and process improvements.

Additional Updates

The updated MEP incorporates revised definitions and references, aligning with provincial, federal, and international standards to minimize ambiguity and promote consistency with emergency management regulations. The Plan also clarifies that the EOC may be open to support coordination and decision making without an MEP activation, where full MEP structures are not required.

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EXTERNAL ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATION

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

IMPLICATIONS

Social

Updates to the MEP strengthen coordinated emergency management and contribute to community resilience and social well-being through clearer governance and coordination.

Environmental

Updates to the MEP reinforce established environmental principles related to prevention, mitigation, response, and recovery through clearer governance and coordination.

Economic

The updated MEP supports the mitigation of economic risk and facilitates economic recovery following emergencies or disasters.

Service and Financial Implications Other:

There are no operating or capital costs associated with the proposed updates to the Bylaw or MEP.

RISK

An emergency or disaster that requires the activation of the MEP may pose significant risk for The City and directly or indirectly contribute to all 10 Principal Corporate Risks. The proposed updates enhance preparedness, coordination, and resilience, strengthening The City's ability to respond to and recover from emergencies and disasters.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Proposed Wording to Amend the Emergency Management Bylaw 25M2002
2. Proposed 2026 Municipal Emergency Plan
3. Presentation - EM2026-0368

Department Circulation

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

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