



Update on Bill 8, the Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018 and the Local Emergency Management Regulation

The Province of Alberta is proposing changes to Alberta's emergency management framework including the *Emergency Management Act* and proposing a new regulation, the Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR). Bill 8 clarifies evacuation orders within the *Emergency Management Act*. The *Emergency Management Act* gives high-level requirements for local authorities. However, it does not provide any detailed guidance or measurable expectations for these requirements. The new LEMR provides more clearly outlined provincial and local roles, responsibilities, and authorities.

Bill 8, the *Emergency Management Amendment Act, 2018*, was introduced in the Legislature in April 2018 with the following changes proposed to the *Emergency Management Act (EMA)*:

Proposed Changes	Proposed Amendments in Bill 8
Clarify evacuation order provisions and liability protection for first responders	Clearly state that failing to leave when an evacuation order is made is an offence under the <i>EMA</i> and those that ignore evacuation orders may be subject to a fine and/or prison time. Clearly set out that local authorities, and those acting under their direction (including first responders), are not liable for actions taken, or not taken, in good faith while enforcing evacuation orders.
Create authority to establish a regulation governing local authority emergency management;	Addressed through the <i>Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR)</i> requirements below.
Clarify municipal and provincial roles and responsibilities;	
Clarify arbitration provisions;	
Update definitions;	
Clarify the delegation of authority during states of emergency and delegation to council committees;	
Implement clarifying technical amendments.	

The proposed Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (LEMR) will include requirements related to:

Requirement	Proposed for Cabinet Consideration
Emergency advisory committees	The emergency management agency must be established by bylaw.
Emergency management agencies	Emergency management agencies must use the Incident Command System.
Mechanisms to support regional collaboration	Joint committees shall be created through bylaws enacted by each partner agency. This is in relation to regional emergency management agencies.



Training requirements for elected officials and administration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elected officials must complete the Municipal Elected Officials Course from AEMA within 90 days of taking their official oath. Directors of Emergency Management (DEMs) will be required to complete Basic Emergency Management, ICS 100-300, the DEM course within 18 months of hiring. Municipal employees with identified roles in the Municipal Emergency Plan will be required to complete the BEM and ICS 100 courses within six months of being identified. <p>A mechanism for granting equivalencies for other courses, experiences and credentials is being proposed for cabinet consideration.</p>
Emergency management plans	Local authorities will submit plans to the Alberta Emergency Management Agency for review and comment annually. Plans must address certain criteria including a training plan, hazard and risk assessment and emergency social services.
Emergency management exercises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local authorities must hold annual tabletop exercises and conduct or participate in a functional exercise once every four years unless a live emergency event that activated their emergency management plan that results in a post-incident assessment occurs. Local authorities must submit a functional exercise notification outlining exercise objectives, participants, and date 90 days prior to exercise.

At this time CEMA meets or exceeds all the proposals for Cabinet Consideration. The orientation session for Elected Officials along with the Elected Officials Guide would have to be submitted for consideration for equivalency.

Bill 8 only received first reading, and further debate was held over until the fall session of the Legislature to allow time for stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement was conducted in June 2018 to gather input from municipal emergency management stakeholders including elected officials, senior municipal administration, directors of emergency management, and law enforcement. Engagement sessions were held in Grande Prairie, Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, and St. Paul. The City of Calgary was represented in the stakeholder sessions through the Calgary Emergency Management Agency (CEMA) by Deputy Chief Sue Henry, Assistant Chief Coby Duerr and Joanne Auclair, Business Continuity and Recovery Planner.

Next Steps

- Bill 8 is scheduled to be debated and voted on in the Fall 2018 sitting of the Legislature.
- The LEMR is currently being drafted and will be presented to Cabinet for consideration during the Fall sitting.
- The LEMR will come into force following Bill 8 receiving Royal Assent.
- Municipalities will have one year to come into compliance with LEMR requirements.

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Update on EM Legislation Changes

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