

TITLE**EMERGENCY RESPONSE CODES****SCOPE**

Provincial

DOCUMENT #

1132

APPROVAL AUTHORITYCorporate Services and Human Resources Executive
Committee**INITIAL EFFECTIVE DATE**

October 20, 2010

SPONSORSenior Program Officer Population, Public and Indigenous
Health**REVISION EFFECTIVE DATE**

January 9, 2019

PARENT DOCUMENT TITLE, TYPE AND NUMBER

Emergency and Disaster Management Policy (#1181)

SCHEDULED REVIEW DATE

January 9, 2022

NOTE: The first appearance of terms in bold in the body of this document (except titles) are defined terms – please refer to the Definitions section.

If you have any questions or comments regarding the information in this document, please contact Emergency/Disaster Management at edp@ahs.ca. The Policy & Forms website is the official source of current approved policies, procedures, directives, standards, protocols and guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

- To outline the standardized emergency response codes approved for use throughout Alberta Health Services (AHS).

PRINCIPLES

- Emergency and disaster management measures comply with applicable emergency and disaster management legislation, regulations and standards.
- Emergency and disaster management is part of the organization's integral and normal business practices.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, Students, Volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

1. Notification of code activation in an AHS facility shall be facilitated by the use of the overhead paging system where such a system is available. At AHS sites and/or the sites of associated organizations (e.g. Continuing Care) with no overhead paging system, notification of code activations shall be communicated by telephone, pager and/or other multimedia device, as determined by each individual site.

2. AHS owned or operated facilities, portfolios, and programs shall use the emergency response codes outlined in Appendix A. Contracted service providers should align with the AHS emergency response codes to ensure consistency across the health sector. At a minimum, contracted service providers should ensure they have plans in place to respond to the identified emergencies.
3. Under limited circumstances, additional emergency response codes may be used in order to meet operational requirements. Codes shall be numerically identified (e.g. Code 66, Code 77). All requests for new emergency response code numbers shall be directed to Emergency/Disaster Management.

DEFINITIONS

None

REFERENCES

- Appendix A: *Emergency Response Codes*
- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
 - *Emergency and Disaster Management Policy* (# 1181)
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
 - *Emergency/Disaster Management Framework*
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
 - *Occupational Health and Safety Act*
 - *Alberta Fire Code*

VERSION HISTORY

Date	Action Taken
July 19, 2012	Non-substantive change
January 9, 2019	Revised
Click here to enter a date	Optional: Choose an item

APPENDIX A

EMERGENCY RESPONSE CODES

Emergency Response Codes established and approved for use in AHS are:

- **Code Blue** Cardiac Arrest / Medical Emergency
- **Code Red** Fire
- **Code White** Violence / Aggression
- **Code Purple** Hostage
- **Code Yellow** Missing Person
- **Code Black** Bomb Threat
- **Code Grey** Shelter in Place / Air Exclusion
- **Code Green** Evacuation
- **Code Brown** Chemical Spill / Hazardous Substance Release
- **Code Orange** Mass Casualty Incident