PURPOSE

• To outline the standardized emergency response codes used throughout Alberta Health Services ("AHS").

POLICY STATEMENT

AHS recognizes the importance of a standardized approach and response to emergencies. It is the responsibility of all staff and others acting on behalf of AHS to familiarize themselves with AHS emergency response codes and associated procedures. In the event of a disaster and/or an emergency situation, all staff and others acting on behalf of AHS are to follow the instructions outlined in the emergency response codes section of the Emergency Response Manual.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this policy is required by all AHS employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of AHS (including contracted services providers as necessary). This policy is subject to all applicable laws.

POLICY 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. Home 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 service area.

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. Requests shall be numerically identified (e.g. Code 66, Code 77). All requests for emergency response codes shall be directed towards the Office of Emergency/Disaster Management.

**DEFINITIONS**
None

**REFERENCES**
- Appendix “A” – Emergency Response Codes
- Emergency Response Manual

**REVISIONS**
None
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/Suspicious Package
- **Code Grey**   Shelter in Place/Air Exclusion
- **Code Green** Evacuation
- **Code Brown** Chemical Spill/Hazardous Material
- **Code Orange** Mass Casualty Incident