TITLE
EMERGENCY RESPONSE CODES

SCOPE
Provincial

APPROVAL AUTHORITY
Corporate Services and Human Resources Executive Committee

SPONSOR
Senior Program Officer Population, Public and Indigenous Health

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

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<td>July 19, 2012</td>
<td>Non-substantive change</td>
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<td>January 9, 2019</td>
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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