



Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events

EP-14-01-02

LAST UPDATED: July 2022

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 1 – Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Incident Manager Checklist
- Appendix 2 – Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Information Sheet

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS:

- NATURAL DISASTERS AND EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS EDUCATION – Available on Surge, this training is required by all staff at orientation, and at minimum annually thereafter.
- HAZARD IDENTIFICATION RISK ANALYSIS (HIRA) GUIDE AND PROCESS, EP-02-01-01 A1 – Used to prioritize prevention, mitigation and training priorities for the home.

RELATED AND SUPPLEMENTAL POLICIES:

- EP-02-01-01, Emergency Response Plan and Fire Safety Plan
- EP-04-01-01, Code Green – Evacuation
- EP-09-01-01, Code Grey – Disruption of Critical Infrastructure
- EP-10-01-01, Code Orange – External/Natural Disaster
- RC-08-01-03, Preventing Cold-Related Illnesses, Resident Care Manual
- RC-08-01-04, Preventing Heat-Related Illnesses, Resident Care Manual

POLICY

Homes will implement preventive, preparedness, responsive and recovery procedures when managing a natural disaster and/or extreme weather event, in alignment with their home-specific Hazard Identification and Risk Analysis (HIRA), to ensure the safety of the occupants of the home and the continuity of resident care.

BACKGROUND

A home-specific HIRA is meant to determine the potential for a natural disaster and/or extreme weather event which may be more prevalent in certain geographical areas. With an increasing frequency of extreme weather events, it is important for the safety of residents and staff to ensure the risk is identified and appropriate strategies are implemented to mitigate the impact of these events on homes.

PROCEDURES

ADMINISTRATOR
/ DESIGNATE

PREVENT

1. Monitor for local extreme weather alerts or advisories to ensure timely communication with residents and staff.

PREPARE

1. Ensure staff training related to natural disasters and extreme weather events is completed at orientation, and at minimum yearly thereafter.

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PROCEDURES

2. Ensure the natural disasters and extreme weather events tabletop is completed using an interdisciplinary approach.
3. Ensure the home's staff call back list is up to date.
4. Contact your Regional Director and the corporate risk management team at riskmanagement@extendicare.com as required if you have questions or require assistance pertaining to extreme weather events and natural disasters.
5. Do not select another Extendicare or Extendicare Assist home as your home's evacuation site.
6. Know where staff live and where the nearest hotels to the LTC home are located in the event the weather event or disaster will require staff to stay nearby or be called in on short notice.

INCIDENT
 MANAGER
 / DESIGNATE

RESPOND

1. Use the Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Incident Manager Checklist when responding to any natural disaster or extreme weather event such as a winter storm, tornado, flood, forest fire, earthquake or hot weather advisory. Refer to *Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Incident Manager Checklist, Appendix 1*.
2. Advise residents and visitors to:
 - a. Follow instructions from the Incident Manager.
 - b. Advise staff members of any risk(s) observed.
 - c. Remain inside the home unless instructed otherwise.

RECOVER

1. Use the Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Incident Manager Checklist for "All Clear" procedures. Refer to *Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Incident Manager Checklist, Appendix 1*

ALL STAFF

RESPOND

1. Follow instructions provided by the Incident Manager.
2. Refer to the information sheet on natural disasters and extreme weather events. See *Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather Events Information Sheet, Appendix 2*.
3. Refer to policy, *Preventing Heat-Related Illnesses* in the Resident Care Manual when managing heat-related events.
4. Refer to policy, *Preventing Cold-Related Illnesses* in the Resident Care Manual when managing cold-related events.

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NATURAL DISASTER

A natural disaster is defined as a major event caused by Earth's natural processes that leads to significant degradation to the environment, i.e., earthquakes. Typically, a natural disaster can be preceded by an extreme weather event. Earthquakes may trigger water supply system failures, and structural damage to buildings, roads, etc.

EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS

Extreme events are occurrences of unusually severe weather, climate or environmental conditions that can cause devastating impacts on communities as well as infrastructure and nature.

- Heat waves, freezes, heavy downpours, tornadoes, tropical cyclones and floods are examples of weather-related extreme events.
 - Wildfire outbreaks are examples of a climate-related extreme event.
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Government of Canada, Get Prepared: During a Tornado
<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/hzd/trnds-drng-en.aspx>

Government of Canada, Earthquakes: What to do?
<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/rthqks-wtd/index-en.aspx>

Government of B.C, Get Prepared for an Earthquake
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/your-hazards/earthquakes-tsunamis/earthquakes>

Extendicare's Intranet is the official source of current approved policies, procedures, best practices and directives.