

ASSISTED LIVING OPERATING PROCESS EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Emergency Response Procedures in Assisted Living

All Assisted Living Providers must comply with the Emergency Response Plan requirements of the Assisted Living Regulations.

All AL Providers must ensure that suites are accessible in an emergency (e.g. flood, fire, earthquake, bomb threat, presence of firearms or other weapons), including that locked units may be unlocked from the outside. AL Provider must ensure that emergency exits and windows are not obstructed or secured in a manner that may hinder exit in an emergency.

AL Providers required to ensure that in an emergency they can be self-sufficient for 72 hours, even in the event of a power outage. Satisfying the following checklist will help your organization get prepared:

- Water & food for 72 hours for all staff on site
- Water & food for 72 hours for all tenants, if meal provision is a part of your regular service
- First aid kits
- Rescue Kits including pry bar, sledgehammer, hard hats, work gloves and other tools
- Means of receiving information e.g. battery or windup powered radio
- Means of communication e.g. analog telephone or satellite phone
- Emergency preparedness training for staff
- Detailed emergency response plans including:
 - Evacuation and alternate site relocation plan if the building is uninhabitable (do not rely on the Municipality or Province).
 - A plan to maintain appropriate staffing levels during an emergency.
 - A way to contact tenant family /support network.
 - Contingency plan for medication dispensed off-site e.g. methadone.

In an emergency situation, AL Providers are expected to be self-sufficient and maintain services if possible. If normal services are disrupted, you should plan for alternate resources to continue to provide mandated services. In an emergency situation, your organization needs health related supports from FH. Please obtain specific contact information to access supports from FH Assisted Living Manager.

Safety and Emergency Services

As outlined in the Assisted Living in B.C. – Handbook for Operators, (pp.52-56), Assisted Living Providers must offer services and/or facilities that enable tenants to self-preserve in the event of fires or other emergencies. In meeting the safety and emergency services requirement, consider the following:

- Are emergency fire plans displayed?
- Are there smoke/fire alarms and sprinkler systems? Are they in good working order?
- What is the emergency response system? How is it answered?
- Are exterior buildings locked? When? How do tenants and visitors get into the building?
- Is documentation in place to reflect the individual support needs of the tenant in the event of an emergency?
- Are tenants and staff educated and trained in emergency response procedures?
- Is there emergency response staff available 24/7?

The following resources may be helpful in planning and with staff education related to safety and emergency services.

- <https://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>
- <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery>
- <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-en.aspx>

First Aid and CPR

AL Providers must ensure that at all times an employee holds a valid First Aid and CPR certificate after completing a course that meets the requirements of Schedule B of Assisted Living Regulations, and is readily accessible to clients. AL Providers must have First Aid supplies readily accessible to all employees.

Refer to the AL Regulations Schedule B for Course Requirements and Skills Requirements for First Aid and CPR.

Fraser Health does not provide funds for training Assisted Living staff for First Aid or CPR. The specific AL Provider First Aid and CPR Policy will be discussed with the client and family/contact during the pre-occupancy meeting. AL Provider policy will be made available to the tenant upon request.

The Good Samaritan Law applies to anyone who performs CPR on any citizen and is provided below for reference.

Good Samaritan Act

[RSBC 1996] CHAPTER 172

No liability for emergency aid unless gross negligence

1. A person who renders emergency medical services or aid to an ill, injured or unconscious person, at the immediate scene of an accident or emergency that has caused the illness, injury or unconsciousness, is not liable for damages for injury to or death of that person caused by the person's act or omission in rendering the medical services or aid unless that person is grossly negligent.

Exceptions

2. Section 1 does not apply if the person rendering the medical services or aid
(a) is employed expressly for that purpose, or
(b) does so with a view to gain.

Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act

3. The Health Care (Consent) and Care Facility (Admission) Act does not affect anything in this Act.

Infectious Disease

AL Providers must make a plan describing the procedures to be followed to prevent and control the spread of infectious disease in the assisted living residence in accordance with the office of the Assisted Living Registry. Refer to the Fraser Health Infection Control Toolkit for Assisted Living for information about respiratory and gastroenteritis outbreaks.

Resources

[Assisted Living Regulations, Division 3](#)

[Assisted Living Regulations, Schedule B](#)

[Emergency Preparedness Training](#)

Fraser Health Infection Control Toolkit for Assisted Living
Long-Term Care, Assisted Living COVID19 Resource Toolkit