

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWSLETTER

Prepared by

ALBERTA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

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Major Event Support Apparatus

The Major Event Support Apparatus (MESA) is a multi-functional vehicle which is capable of quickly deploying to support community emergency management organizations during emergency events. It is designed to support an incident command team in the event of a prolonged emergency situation, by allowing an operations centre to set up on location and assist those directly dealing with the emergency.



The Alberta Emergency Management Agency owns two MESA units, with one being centrally located in Edmonton for response throughout the province. A partnership with Parkland County has allowed the second MESA to be located in

Parkland County for use by the region's emergency management partners.

Capabilities

The vehicles have multiple communications capabilities including satellite internet and telephone systems, cellular telephone and mobile radio communications. They are also equipped with optical and infra-red cameras.

Inside, both vehicles have dedicated computers to enable networking and planning functions. All of the Internet connections operate over a secured wireless network.



The MESA's are fully equipped to look after the needs of those who work within them. All of the water, heating and cooling systems are designed to function in any temperature extreme. The trucks are also equipped with automatic chains to ensure that they can deploy in heavy snow or during ice events. There is even a small kitchen!

Communities can request the use of the MESA through their local Director of Emergency Management (DEM), who can be found through your local government offices.

Provincial Stockpile

The Government of Alberta owns a stockpile of emergency response equipment available for a community that is experiencing or expects to experience an emergency or disaster.

Any impacted community may request the use of stockpile equipment through the Provincial Operations Centre. The loan of the equipment is free but the community will be responsible for coordinating the pickup, transportation and deployment of equipment from the stockpile to the incident location and all associated costs.

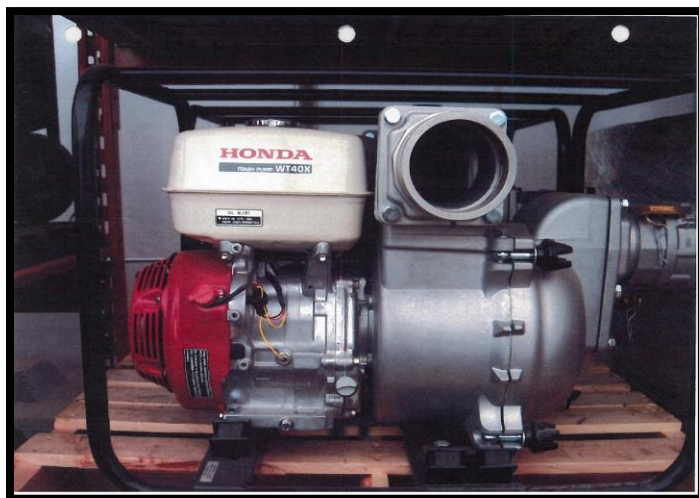
The stockpile includes (but is not limited to):

- Portable Air Compressors
- Irrigation Pipes
- Suction Hoses
- Radios
- Reflective Vests
- Traffic Cones

Sandbag Fillers and Sandbags



Pumps



Road Signs



Irrigation Pipes



Generators



A request for equipment should be made through your Director of Emergency Management (DEM) who can be found through your local government offices.

Incident Support Teams

The Incident Support Team (IST) is a multi-functional team available to deploy at short notice to assist any Emergency Coordination Centre within Alberta. If requested by the local authority, it can provide an incident command function, but in most circumstances the IST will support local authorities, assisting with liaison and communications with public officials.

Support can also be provided in terms of planning, logistics reach back, emergency social services and public communications.

Get Ready for Weather

Thunderstorms, hail, blizzards, ice storms, hurricanes, storm surges, tornadoes and heavy rain can develop quickly and threaten life and property. These severe storms occur in all regions of Canada and in all seasons. To get prepared for a storm, you should know the risks specific to your community and your region to help you better prepare.

Thunderstorms and Lightening



What to do:

Listen to the local radio or television stations for severe weather warnings and advice. Keep a battery-powered or wind-up radio on hand as there can be power outages during severe storms.

Get prepared:

- ❖ If a severe storm is forecast, secure everything that might be blown around or torn loose - indoors and outdoors.
- ❖ Trim dead branches and cut down dead trees.
- ❖ If you are indoors, close your windows, blinds and curtains. Stay away from windows, doors and fireplaces.

- ❖ You may want to go to the sheltered area that you and your family have identified in your emergency plan.
- ❖ If you are advised by officials to evacuate, do so. Take your emergency kit with you.
- ❖ You can use a cellular telephone during a severe storm, but it's not safe to use a landline telephone in a thunderstorm. Texting is better than calling.
- ❖ If you are in a car, stop the car away from trees or power lines that might fall on you.

During a Severe Storm:

- ❖ If possible, take shelter.
- ❖ Go to the basement or to a small interior room in the center of the house, such as a closet, bathroom or hallway, on the lowest floor of the building.
- ❖ Never go out in a boat during a storm. If you are on the water and you see bad weather approaching, head for shore immediately. Always check the marine forecast before leaving for a day of boating and listen to weather reports during your cruise.



For more information please visit:
<http://www.aema.alberta.ca/documents/aema-ppp-severe-storms.pdf>



Tornadoes

A tornado is a violent rotating column of air extending between a cloud base and the surface (when over water, it is called a waterspout). Tornadoes can occur at any time of day, any day of the year. Most tornadoes develop in the late afternoon and early evening but may occur outside of this timeframe, including overnight.

Tornadoes may appear nearly transparent until dust and debris are picked up or a cloud forms within the funnel. The average tornado moves from southwest to northeast, but tornadoes can move in any direction and can suddenly change direction.

Mobile homes are not safe during tornadoes. Abandon your mobile home to seek shelter in a sturdy building immediately. If you live in a mobile home, ensure you have a plan in place that identifies the closest sturdy building.

What to do:

- ◆ Take shelter. Leave windows closed. An underground shelter or basement is the safest place.
- ◆ If a tornado is visible, far away, and the traffic is light, you may be able to drive out of its path by moving at right angles to the tornado.
- ◆ If you are caught by extreme wind or flying debris while driving your vehicle and the tornado is near, park your car and immediately seek shelter in a sturdy building.
- ◆ Avoid seeking shelter under bridges or overpasses, which can create traffic hazards while offering little protection against flying debris.
- ◆ If you cannot find shelter, stay in your vehicle with the seat belt on, put your head down below the windows and cover your

head with your hands or a blanket, if possible.

- ◆ If you can safely get to the ground, lower than the level of the roadway, exit your vehicle and lie in that area covering your head with your hands.
- ◆ Keep your radio on to find out what areas are affected, what roads are safe, where to go and what to do if the local emergency team asks you to leave your home



Heat Waves

A heat wave is a prolonged period of abnormally hot weather. Heat-related illnesses can include heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat rash, or heat stroke, each with its own symptoms and treatments. Symptoms can range from profuse sweating to dizziness, cessation of sweating, and collapse.

During Heat Waves:

- ◆ Drink fluids, especially water, **before** feeling thirsty.
- ◆ Slow down! Your body can't function as well in high temperatures.
- ◆ Cool down in an air conditioned store, public library, or community pool.
- ◆ Shade heads and faces with a loose-fitting ventilated hat or umbrella when outdoors.
- ◆ Dress appropriately in light-weight, light-coloured, and loose-fitting clothing.
- ◆ Avoid getting sunburned. It decreases the body's ability to cool.
- ◆ Never leave infants, children or pets inside a parked vehicle.
- ◆ Remember to check on elderly family members, neighbours and friends to make sure they are comfortable and safe.

Alberta Emergency Alert







The Alberta Emergency Alert is designed to provide critical, life-saving information to Albertans when emergencies or disasters occur. When an alert comes through your radio, television, phone or internet, take immediate action. If an emergency develops, you should follow the safety instructions provided by an alert to protect yourself and your family.

You can receive the Alerts through:

-  https://twitter.com/AB_EmergAlert
-  <https://www.facebook.com/abemergalert>

There is also an Alberta Emergency Alert mobile application for both Apple and Android phones.

The app has the following features:

-  Allows alerts to be delivered based on current location (“where you are”)
-  Receive alerts for preselected areas (“where loved ones may be located”)
-  Allow the user to change the alert tone for informational alerts; and
-  Links to the AEMA emergency preparedness website with details of the 72 hour Emergency kit.

For more information please visit:

<http://www.aema.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-alert>