

SECTION:	EMERGENCY PLANNING/LOSS OF SERVICES	APPROVED BY:	Director
NUMBER:	E.170	SIGNATURE:	
RESPONSIBILITY:	All Managers	DATE:	October 13, 2017
REFERENCE POLICY:		REVISED:	July 2022
SUBJECT:	Code Purple – Natural Disasters and Extreme Weather		Page 1 of 2

PURPOSE

To be prepared for and respond appropriately in the event of a severe weather event. A severe weather event would constitute any weather condition or natural disaster that would result in damage to the building, disruption of essential services (human and other) where the residents and/or staff could be impacted or injured. Some examples of weather that may require a Code Purple include: a severe thunderstorm, high winds, snow storm, hail, ice storm or tornado.

POLICY

Woodingford Lodge recognizes that the potential for severe weather exists and plans to take a systematic approach to the monitoring, preparation and response to such an event. In the event of severe weather, the following procedures shall be implemented by Administration and / or the responsible registered staff member.

PROCEDURES

1. When there has been an advisement or forecast of severe weather, the responsible registered staff member and/or Administration will monitor the local radio, TV station or internet for any additional warnings and direction. Environment Canada and the weather services issue watches, warnings and advisories. It is important to understand the difference between them:

WATCH - is issued when conditions are favourable for the development of severe weather. Watches are typically issued for local events in which the timing and location of occurrence remains uncertain such as severe thunderstorms or tornadoes. A watch is normally issued several hours in advance when the possibility of the severe weather exists.

WARNING – is issued when the severe weather is already occurring or is likely to occur and requires proper protective measures. Warnings are usually issued for much smaller geographical areas and usually for shorter more definite time periods.

SPECIAL WEATHER STATEMENTS OR ADVISORIES - are issued in a freestyle format for weather events that are unusual, cause general inconvenience or public concern and cannot adequately be described in a public weather forecast. A Special Weather Statement can also be issued to indicate any potentially hazardous situation in the long term forecast.

2. During weather statements staff shall continually monitor the weather outside for any significant changes and impacts on the facility and report to the responsible registered staff member accordingly.
3. The responsible registered staff member shall direct staff using the emergency paging system if necessary to take the following preliminary Code Purple precautions prior to inclement weather where appropriate including:
 - Closing windows and blinds/curtains
 - Canceling and/or delaying outdoor excursions
 - Request staff remain at the Lodge to assist and support with the resident's care
 - Secure any items located outside of the building that might become projectiles in the event of high winds
 - Relocate resident property that may be subject to damage
 - Prepare for the potential of loss of power to the facility
4. If severe weather occurs and poses a potential danger to the facility or occupants, a Code Purple shall be called by the responsible registered staff member on the emergency paging system including specific instructions. The following precautions may be recommended during an active Code Purple:
 - Where there is potential for broken windows and/or other structural damage all residents and staff shall relocate to the nearest interior corridors away from windows. Broken glass is one of the most significant hazards during a severe weather event. As per the Code Green Evacuation Procedures, move the most mobile residents first, then cooperative residents, then residents in bed and uncooperative residents last. The responsible registered staff member will assign staff to stay with each gathering of residents if possible.
 - Close bedroom doors and fire separation doors.
 - Do not use elevators during an active Code Purple
 - Where longer term refuge is needed, the Worship Centre and the General Purpose Area (GPA) are ideal refuge areas in Woodstock. In Tillsonburg and Ingersoll, the back service corridor is the location with the fewest windows.
 - In the event of falling objects or structural collapse, seek protection under sturdy objects like desks and tables. Protect your head and neck with your arms and hands.
5. When the immediate danger has passed, an All Clear should be announced via the emergency paging system by the responsible registered staff member or Administration. Additional instructions regarding recovery efforts may be provided at this time.
6. The Manager on Call shall be notified as soon as possible regarding the circumstances, either by the responsible registered staff member or delegate.

If the weather event results in facility damage that could impact occupant safety and/or the need for emergency medical assistance, the responsible registered staff member shall:

1. Call 911
2. Give name and address of facility
3. Provide essential details
4. Request emergency assistance depending on needs