

Title: Greenview Evacuation Assistance Program

Policy No: 3016

Effective Date: May 14, 2024

Motion Number: 24.05.247

Supersedes Policy No: New

Department: Fire-Rescue Services

Review Date: May, 2027



Legal References:

Emergency Management Act, RSA 2000, c.E-6.8
 Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation, AR
 203/2018

Forest and Prairie Protection Act, R.S.A 2000, c.F-19.

Cross References:

Bylaw 20-851 "Municipal Emergency
 Management Bylaw"

Purpose: The Municipal District of Greenview No 16 recognizes the immense stress that residents are under during an Evacuation Order. This policy provides parameters for evacuation assistance to residents who are affected during a declared State of Local Emergency that results in evacuations.

1. DEFINITIONS

- 1.1. **Act** means *Emergency Management Act*, RSA 2000, cE-6.8, as amended from time to time.
- 1.2. **Disaster** means an event within Greenview that results in serious harm to the safety, health or welfare of people or in widespread damage to property or the environment, that has led to the declaration of a State of Local Emergency.
- 1.3. **Disaster Recovery Program (DRP)** means the Province of Alberta’s program that provides financial assistance for uninsurable loss and damage caused by emergencies and disasters.
- 1.4. **Evacuee** means any persons required to evacuate under an evacuation order issued by Greenview.
- 1.5. **Evacuation Order** means a mandatory order issued by Greenview, requiring the impacted population to leave the specified area immediately.
- 1.6. **Greenview** means the Municipal District of Greenview No 16.
- 1.7. **Greenview Resident** means someone whose primary residence is within Greenview, but does not include the Town of Fox Creek, Valleyview, or Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation.
- 1.8. **Reception Center** means the designated location for evacuees to receive assistance during an evacuation order.
- 1.9. **State of Local Emergency (SOLE)** means a state of local emergency declared in accordance with the provisions of the Act and the Municipal Emergency Management Bylaw.

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1. Greenview Residents who are impacted by an Evacuation Order during a declared SOLE and who register at a Greenview reception centre may be eligible to apply for the Greenview Evacuation Assistance Program.
 - A) Non-residents will only be eligible to receive assistance under the Evacuation Assistance Program if an active mutual aid agreement exists between Greenview and the municipality of the non-resident evacuee.
- 2.2. Evacuation assistance is not intended to cover all costs associated with a Disaster or Evacuation Order in Greenview, however, may provide compensation for essential needs not provided by the province and/or private insurance.
- 2.3. Payments under this Policy are considered “ex-gratia”, that is, there are no statutory entitlements to a given level of assistance.
- 2.4. Evacuation assistance does not provide full compensation but rather is intended to help eligible recipients recoup a portion of monies spent to evacuate and subsist temporarily outside of the area identified in the issued Evacuation Order.
- 2.5. Evacuation assistance does not cover the costs of non-essential items; anything that is or could be covered by another financial source, including insurance or other Greenview programs.
- 2.6. Eligible Evacuees may only receive a maximum of ten (10) days of assistance per event.
- 2.7. Vouchers will only be deemed valid once signed by a Greenview employee.
- 2.8. Compensation for property damage will only be provided for Greenview initiated fire suppression damage outside of the Forest and Prairie Protection Area as per the Schedules attached to this policy. Residents may seek compensation from the Alberta Government for damage within the Forest and Prairie and Protection Area including, but not limited to, the following:
 - A) Earth borrowing, fireguards, crop loss, or any other damage within the Forest and Prairie Protection Area;
 - B) Damage or destruction of agricultural land, existing or future crops, or existing vegetation due to fire suppression at the direction of the Alberta Government; and
 - C) Any fire suppression efforts made by a resident.

3. PRINCIPLES

- 3.1. Greenview will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:
 - A) Greenview may provide evacuation assistance to eligible recipients in a manner that is consistent, transparent, and fair.
 - B) Information about the provision of evacuation assistance should be readily available to the public and to eligible recipients in a way that is timely, easily understood, and accessible.
 - C) The provisions of the Greenview Evacuation Assistance Program will align and work in conjunction with the current DRP whenever possible and in the interests of Greenview.

4. ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- 4.1. Eligibility for evacuation assistance is limited to accommodation (hotels, campground fees, private residences) and subsistence expenses (meals, groceries) for Greenview residents

who are under an Evacuation Order.

- 4.2. If an Evacuee chooses to obtain their own accommodation and subsistence, receipts will be required for reimbursement.
- 4.3. Evacuees displaced by an Evacuation Order must register with a Greenview reception center daily, if established, to be eligible for vouchers. Including those who choose to acquire their own accommodation and subsistence with the intent to apply for reimbursement.
- 4.4. Greenview may provide grocery vouchers for Evacuees. A family of four (4) may receive a maximum of sixty dollars (\$60.00) per day.
- 4.5. Greenview may provide restaurant vouchers for Evacuees. For which, the amounts will not exceed ten dollars (\$10.00) for breakfast, fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for lunch and twenty dollars (\$20.00) for dinner. Greenview will not reimburse for anything above the aforementioned rates, including tipping on top of the maximum amount.
- 4.6. Greenview may provide Evacuees staying at private residences a “host fee” of thirty dollars (\$30.00) per day, once the evacuation exceeds seven (7) days.

5. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

- 5.1. Financial resources required under this policy are conditional on an approval of funds by Council and there being a sufficient unencumbered balance in the appropriate activity for the fiscal year for which the funds are required.

6. RIGHT OF COUNCIL

- 6.1. Nothing in this policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of Council to make decisions or take action respecting disaster assistance outside the provisions of this policy.