

Mackenzie County

Title	Emergency Social Services	Policy No:	EMR001
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Legislation Reference	Municipal Government Act Emergency Management Act Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation Disaster Recovery Regulation
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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish guidelines for the implementation of Emergency Social Services to County residents that have been evacuated from their primary residence due to a local or regional disaster.

POLICY STATEMENT

Mackenzie County recognizes that the residents, businesses, and organizations in our community are the most important resource. We strive to provide an environment that encourages communication, creativity, opportunities for collaboration, and a sense of ownership for all people.

We encourage members of the community to be involved in our organization and form partnerships with the community to resolve problems.

DEFINITIONS

“Disaster” – means an event that can result in serious harm to the safety, health or welfare of people, or in widespread damage to property.

“Emergency Social Services (ESS)” – means an emergency response program that provides for the various short-term needs of evacuees during a large-scale emergency or disaster.

“Evacuee” – is a resident whose primary residence is directly impacted or in the defined geographic area of an evacuation order and who has been removed from a dangerous place to somewhere safe.

“Mandatory Evacuation” – means the mandatory process of moving people from a dangerous place to somewhere safe.

“Voluntary Evacuation” – means a type of evacuation where people choose to move from a perceived area of danger to an area of safety.

“Primary Residence” – the place where a person lives most of the time and that is considered their home for legal and tax purposes.

“Provincial Emergency Social Services (PESS)” – refers to the Government of Alberta Social Services group.

“Shelter” – means a building designed to give protection from bad weather. It is meant to keep the user Safe, Warm, and Dry. (example: recreation center, school gymnasium and others)

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- 1) All Mackenzie County residents are encouraged to create their own 72-hour emergency preparedness kit.
- 2) Mackenzie County shall not provide Shelter to Evacuees during a Voluntary Evacuation.
- 3) Evacuees that have been evacuated from their Primary Residence after a Mandatory Evacuation is declared by Mackenzie County shall be provided Shelter for the first forty-eight (48) hours.

	Date	Resolution Number
Approved	2023-04-04	23-04-337
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