

Alberta Health Services - Calgary Health Region Roles and Responsibilities to a Sour Gas Emergency

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The provision of the services below is at the discretion of the Alberta Health Services-Calgary Health Region (AHS). The AHS may set other priorities which may limit or prohibit the provision of some of these services.

Before an Event (Planning / Preparedness)

- Participate with the proponent in ERP development in accord with the AHS “Response Protocol to Proposed Sour Gas Wells / Facilities.” Web link:
 - this document is in revision and unavailable
- Ensure adherence by the proponent to the AHS “Response Protocol to Proposed Sour Gas Wells / Facilities”
- Maintain a 24-hour/7-day-week emergency contact phone number providing a single point of contact for activating the necessary emergency response at multiple agency levels.
 - 24-hour On-Call Medical Officer of Health phone number: 403-264-5615 (caller must state this is an emergency)
- Prepared to assist the ERCB and Emergency Responders with response to upstream petroleum industry incidents.
- Maintain and make available to the proponent, health effects information from short-term exposure to H₂S and SO₂ for use by the proponent in the public involvement process and incorporation into the ERP. Web link:
 - [Calgary Health Region Hydrogen Sulphide Oct 2006](#) PDF
 - [Calgary Health Region Sulphur Dioxide Oct 2006](#) PDF
- Participate in the public involvement sessions as requested by the proponent when resource permit
- Ensure Hospital emergency preparedness plans are in place for sudden, unexpected or pending arrival of sick or injured individuals.
- Ensure “evacuation and / or shelter-in-place” plans are in place for AHS facilities.
- Ensure plans / checklists are developed for and available to AHS staff who may be assigned to work in the Health Services section of an Evacuation / Reception Centre.
- Participate, if available, in the testing of an ERP when it is exercised.

During an Event (Response)

- Ensure local hospitals are alerted when there is a potential for an impact from a release.
- Ensure AHS Community Health Care and Care in the Community sites (e.g., palliative care, long term care centres, personal care homes, adult daily support)

are notified of a release when there is potential for impact on client and staff health / services / facilities.

- Provide representation at the off-site Emergency Operations Centre or Incident Command Post when it is established or as requested.
- Establish a Regional or Site Control Centre within the Health Region to support the Regional response and liaise with Provincial, Municipal and / or Industry Emergency Operations Centre, if needed.
- Provide advise to Emergency Operations Centre or Incident Command Post on the existing or potential public health effects associated with an incident.
- Provide guidance on the development of public health advisories, public evacuation and sheltering.
- Provide health advice and airborne limits for substances of concern that are protective of public health, including health and special care facilities and for persons that are likely to have enhanced sensitivity such as the very young, seniors and infirm.
- Provides health and safety information for substance releases.
- Provides guidance on the rescinding of a declaration of public evacuation and on allowing reoccupancy of evacuated areas.
- Coordinate the provision of medical health services during an emergency.
- Provide guidance and assistance in the Health Services (Public Health, Mental Health, and Nursing Services) section of an Evacuation/Reception Centre(s).
- Provides accurate information to the public concerning the incident and provides information regarding health effects of the release to Health Link.
- Record and respond to health complaints or concerns from the public.
- Declare a “Local State of Public Health Emergency” if warranted by the circumstances under the authority of the Public Health Act.

After an Incident (Recovery)

- Participate in event debriefings.
- Complete incident related reports.
- Provide guidance to the facility operator/owner and Alberta Environment on assessing and mitigating public health risks due to any possible or existing residual environmental contamination following an event.
- Provide diagnostic and clinical information to community physicians on acute and chronic exposure effects and treatment.
- Provide Mental Health support to affected individuals and communities as needed.
- Compile and maintain health related records and logs.

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