

NO: **R218**

COUNCIL DATE: **November 28, 2011**

REGULAR COUNCIL

TO: **Mayor & Council**

DATE: **November 28, 2011**

FROM: **General Manager, Planning and Development**

FILE: **4815-01**

SUBJECT: **Extreme Weather Response Plan for Surrey – Temperature Considerations**

RECOMMENDATION

The Planning and Development Department recommends that Council:

1. Receive this report as information; and
2. Instruct the City Clerk to forward, on behalf of City Council, a request to the Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Committee that the temperature criterion in the definition of "extreme weather" in the Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan be adjusted from the current "minus two(2) degrees Celsius" to "zero (o) degrees Celsius" and that this temperature amendment to the Plan take effect for the 2011/2012 winter season and that a copy of this report be included with the request; and
3. Instruct the City Clerk to forward a copy of this report and the related Council resolution to the appropriate officials at the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy, BC Housing and to the City of White Rock.

INTENT

The purpose of this report is to provide Council with information on the 2011/2012 Extreme Weather Response Plan for Surrey and, specifically, the weather conditions under which an "extreme weather alert" is activated in Surrey/White Rock in comparison to elsewhere in the Region.

BACKGROUND

During its Regular meeting on November 7, 2011, Council requested that staff provide a report, complete with recommendations, for Council's consideration, outlining the conditions that trigger the opening of extreme weather shelter beds in Surrey and draw a comparison to the remainder of the Region.

BC Housing's Extreme Weather Response Program

BC Housing's Extreme Weather Response ("EWR") Program funds community-based temporary emergency shelter spaces during periods of extreme winter weather when the health and safety of homeless individuals is threatened. The EWR Program is designed to provide time-limited,

weather responsive, temporary shelter spaces in communities where there is not sufficient permanent shelter bed capacity during extreme weather conditions.

Each year the communities participating in the EWR Program must submit an updated version of the local Extreme Weather Response Plan to BC Housing. According to EWR Program guidelines, the community's Plan must include "*a definition of when an extreme weather alert will be activated and cancelled, determined through a community-based process*". BC Housing acknowledges each community's Plan is based on its own particular conditions, resources and clientele.

Coordination of the Extreme Weather Response Program in Metro Vancouver

In Metro Vancouver, the EWR is coordinated by the Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy (GVSS). Members of the GVSS include shelter providers, all levels of government and other organizations involved in addressing homelessness in the Region. The GVSS's role includes planning support, needs assessment, provision of training, purchasing and distribution of mats, media relations, coordination and information sharing during EWR implementation, post-season de-briefing, development of tools and resources, and draft standards for EWR sheltering sites. The GVSS has established an Extreme Weather Task Group that includes members from agencies involved in the EWR in communities throughout Metro Vancouver.

In Vancouver and Surrey/White Rock, in addition to the support provided by the GVSS, BC Housing provides funding for sub-regional coordinators. Peter Fedos, Manager of the Options Hyland House Shelter, is currently contracted by GVSS to be the EWR Coordinator for Surrey/White Rock.

DISCUSSION

Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan

A copy of the 2011 /2012, Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan is attached as Appendix I. The Plan includes the following text:

"In the Surrey and White Rock Plan, "Extreme Weather" is defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless people such as:

- 1. Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius;*
- 2. Significant snow accumulation or sleet/freezing rain conditions;*
- 3. Significant windstorms that may present danger to persons living in wooded areas and/or makeshift shelters (cardboard boxes or lean-tos); and/or*
- 4. Periods of extended rain over 3 days creating conditions which make it difficult for people to keep dry.*

BC Housing acknowledges each community's plan is based on recognition of its own particular conditions, resources and clientele. Due to differences in weather, an "Extreme Weather Response" alert may be enacted in Surrey/White Rock when other Lower Mainland areas may not be facing extreme conditions."

According to the Plan the Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Coordinator or their designate decides when to call an "extreme weather alert" and which shelters will open on any given night of a response. *"They will make decisions based on weather reports, perceived or expressed need for shelter space in the communities, availability and ability of personnel at the facilities to open"*.

The Plan notes that during extreme weather alerts, the City will not enforce its Zoning By-law in respect of the use of the shelter facilities identified in the Plan. The temporary shelters must have their premises inspected by the Fire Department to confirm maximum capacity.

The 2011 /2012, Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan identifies six locations for temporary extreme weather mats. These shelters can provide up to 135 mats. In past years, Surrey has had a sufficient number of mats to meet the demand during periods of extreme weather. It is anticipated that Surrey will again have a sufficient number of extreme weather mats to meet the needs generated during the winter of 2011/2012.

Extreme Weather Alerts in Other Communities in the Region

The definition used to activate extreme weather alerts in each of 12 communities in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley, including Surrey/White Rock, is documented in Appendix II. Each of the 12 communities surveyed uses more than one measure to determine whether an "extreme weather alert" is warranted. These include:

- temperatures ranging from minus 2 degrees Celsius to 0 degrees Celsius;
- snow accumulation;
- extended rainfall;
- freezing rain or sleet; and/or
- severe or high winds.

The Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan's definition of "extreme weather" is similar to other community plans in the Region; however, with the exception of Langley, all other communities call an "extreme weather alert" when the temperature is at or below zero (0) degrees Celsius.

Process for Preparing and Amending the Extreme Weather Response Plan

In Surrey/White Rock, an EWR Committee has been established to oversee the community's extreme weather response. The Committee includes representatives of the organizations that provide shelter space during extreme weather. This includes Cloverdale Church, Surrey Urban Mission, Nightshift Ministries, Hyland House (Newton), First United White Rock/South Surrey, and South Fraser Community Services Society.

The Surrey/White Rock EWR Coordinator works with the EWR Committee, and the Surrey Homelessness and Housing Task Force, to prepare the local EWR Plan. The 2011/2012 Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan was submitted to BC Housing in October 2011 and has been approved. According to the EWR Coordinator, the Plan is considered a "living document" so it can be amended at any time and be re-submitted to BC Housing; the intent of the EWR is to remove process barriers and be as responsive as possible to extreme weather.

CONCLUSION

In consideration of the fact that most of the other Extreme Weather Response Plans in the Region use "zero (0) degrees Celsius" as the temperature criterion for declaring an "Extreme Weather Alert", which allows for the opening of emergency shelter mats, it is recommended that Council instruct the City Clerk to forward on behalf of City Council a request to the Surrey/White Extreme Weather Response Committee that the temperature criterion in the definition of "extreme weather" in the Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan be adjusted from the current "minus two(2) degrees Celsius" to "zero (0) degrees Celsius" and that this amendment to the temperature criterion in the Plan take effect for the 2011/2012 winter season. It is further recommended that a copy of this report and the related Council resolution be forwarded to the appropriate officials at Greater Vancouver Shelter Strategy and BC Housing and to the City of White Rock.

Original signed by
Jean Lamontagne
General Manager,
Planning and Development

AM:saw

Attachments:

Appendix I Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan
Appendix II Definitions of Weather Conditions Used to Activate Extreme Weather Alerts in 12
Communities in Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley

v:\wp-docs\admin & policy\1\data\oct-dec\1150935am.docx
SAW 11/23/11 12:09 PM

Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan



TABLE OF CONTENTS

PURPOSE.....	4
EXTREME WEATHER ALERT	4
LIMITATIONS OF THE EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE.....	4
CO-ORDINATOR	5
EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE IN ACTION	5
Role of South Fraser Community Services Society.....	5
• Step One: Coordinator calls an Extreme Weather Response.....	6
• Step Two: Notification of the Cities of Surrey and White Rock.....	6
• Step Three: Authorities and Hospitals notified.....	6
• Step Four: All other participants informed	6
• Step Five: Notification the Response is over	6
TRANSPORTATION.....	6
EQUIPMENT.....	6
MEDIA INQUIRIES	7
SUPPLIES.....	7
COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AGENCIES	7
VOLUNTEERS AND SUPERVISORS.....	7
AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES	7
INSURANCE AND CAPACITY CERTIFICATION	8
REPORTING ACTIVITY AND EXPENSES	8
OUTREACH.....	8
ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NOTIFYING HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSIDE	8
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD.....	8
HOURS OF OPERATION.....	9
EVALUATION & PLAN REVISION.....	9
CITY ZONING REGULATIONS	9
SITES OPENED AFTER THE EWR PLAN IS SUBMITTED	9
EXTREME WEATHER SHELTERS FOR SURREY/WHITE ROCK.....	10

ACTIVATION/DEACTIVATION NOTIFICATION LIST.....	11
Phone calls:.....	12
• Shelter Sites	12
• Outreach and support services.....	12
Extreme Weather Locations:	12
EWR Documents.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• Extreme Site Fire Plans	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• Extreme Shelter Site Fire plan.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• CITY OF SURREY (FIRE SERVICES).....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• EXTREME WEATHER SHELTER.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• TRAINING CHECK LIST	Error! Bookmark not defined.
• Template for issuing an Extreme Weather Alert ...	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Plan 2011-2012

PURPOSE

The Plan's purpose is to maintain an operating structure which provides temporary sheltering resources for homeless people. The shelter resources in the extreme weather response plan are accessible to homeless people during periods of extreme weather. The plan is a seasonal response which works towards reducing hardships for homeless people during extreme winter weather.

The limitations, resources and intent of the plan cannot be used as a permanent solution to housing homeless in Surrey and White Rock. This is a temporary response aimed at reducing the risk to the life and health of homeless people In Surrey/White Rock area.

EXTREME WEATHER ALERT

In Surrey and White Rock, Extreme Weather is defined as Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless people such as:

- 1 Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius
- 2 Significant snow accumulation or sleet/freezing rain conditions
- 3 Significant windstorms that may present danger to persons living in wooded areas and/or makeshift shelters (cardboard boxes or lean-tos)
- 4 Periods of extended rain over 3 days creating conditions which make it difficult for people to keep dry

BC Housing acknowledges each community's plan is based on recognition of its own particular conditions, resources and clientele. Due to differences in weather, an "Extreme Weather Response" alert may be enacted in Surrey/White Rock when other Lower Mainland areas may not be facing extreme conditions.

LIMITATIONS OF THE EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE

The sites offer a warm place to sleep for a limited amount of time, a warm meal and if required, a one zone bus ticket. There are no enhanced services available at the sites. Due to the nature and purpose of the Extreme Weather Shelter response, the sites should not be considered as

permanent shelter sites. Extreme Weather sites open in response to inclement weather events which would put homeless people living outside at risk on a temporary basis.

In order to prevent program drift in the extreme weather response plan, readers need to be aware that the site locations have limited ability to respond to needs. Extreme weather sites have limited ability to respond to needs and cannot operate on a 24-hour basis. Readers must understand that persons who need more resources than a warm place to sleep for a night should not be discharged to these sites.

CO-ORDINATOR

The Surrey/ White Rock Areas have an Extreme Weather Response Coordinator.

The Coordinator or their designate decides when to call an Extreme Weather alert and which shelters will open on any given night of a response. They will make decisions based on weather reports, perceived or expressed need for shelter space in the communities, availability and ability of personnel at the facilities to open.

EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE IN ACTION

A phased response will be used in the North Surrey Area. Surrey Urban Mission (SUMS) will open first and additional space will open pending space demands at SUMS. Extreme Weather sites will open as needed. The Coordinator will continue to work with the Surrey EWR Committee to revise the text of this plan as it develops at the end of each season.

Each city and all organizations participating in the Extreme Weather Response will have an up to date copy of the Extreme Weather response Plan. An up-to-date version of the Extreme Weather Response Plan will be submitted to the Cities and participating organizations every year prior to November 1st.

Where possible the Surrey Coordinator will work on anticipating openings using a "three day window" of lead time to inform sheltering sites, the Regional Extreme Weather Coordinator and BC Housing of possible openings. Extreme Weather sites will open as needed.

Role of South Fraser Community Services Society

South Fraser Community Services Society (SFCSS) spaces are to be opened and used as the space of last resort. They will only open their suite when all shelter space in the community including the extreme shelters is full. SFCSS space is reserve space that can be activated only in emergency situations during the EWR season.

Step One: Coordinator calls an Extreme Weather Response

- The Coordinator calls for Extreme Weather Response by 10:00 am on the day it is to start. The Coordinator also informs participating organizations of the anticipated end date.
- The Coordinator follows the ASA activation procedures.
- Mobile outreach is activated for that day and works on contacting the homeless who are outside.
- All designated sheltering sites are notified by phone that they need to open.

Step Two: Notification of the Cities of Surrey and White Rock

The Coordinator will notify the City of Surrey and the City of White Rock that response has been called.

Step Three: Authorities and Hospitals notified

Fire Departments, After Hours Emergency Services Team, Surrey Memorial and Peace Arch hospitals are notified.

Step Four: All other participants informed

All of the organizations listed will be informed at that time. (See list of organizations under "Notification" below).

Step Five: Notification the Response is over

The Coordinator follows ASA deactivation procedures and notifies all sites the response is over. It is at this time any tweaks to the plan may be negotiated, discussed, agreed upon and possibly implemented or recommended to the GVSS.

TRANSPORTATION

If needed, all sites will provide a one zone bus ticket for people to use when leaving in the morning.

EQUIPMENT

Equipment purchased for the Extreme Weather program will be maintained at the sites until it is needed. It will be signed out to the participating sheltering organizations who participate in the Extreme Weather Response and will be returned within 3 days after declaring they are no longer participating in the plan.

MEDIA INQUIRIES

The Coordinator acts as spokesperson for Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response. BC Housing will offer media support in case of major media interest (e.g. if a controversial issue develops) or should it become necessary to coordinate the media response between communities. B.C. Housing has designated Sam Rainboth as their media contact person.

SUPPLIES

The Coordinator where possible will assist all shelters in the plan with needed supplies such as food, blankets, first aid kits and any other equipment needed.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN AGENCIES

All participating agencies will communicate information relevant to the Extreme Weather Response through the Coordinator and his/her designates during the period of the Response. The intent of this procedure is to minimize confusion and avoid duplication of effort.

VOLUNTEERS AND SUPERVISORS

Each participating shelter will provide volunteers to staff its own shelter space. The following organizations are possible sources of additional volunteers:

Nightshift Street Ministry

TRAINING

The Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Response Coordinator will train volunteers and staff involved in the Surrey/White Rock plan. Volunteers and staff will be trained in areas which support their roles in the plan. The curriculum will be adapted from the Volunteer Manual. Training content will include personal safety techniques, health precautions for volunteers/staff and emergency procedures.

AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES

Activation plans for each of the sites will be developed by the organizations that operate them. Each facility director will manage his/her site, but may call upon other agencies for assistance.

Each agency will:

- 1 Have its shelter premises inspected by the Fire Department to confirm its maximum capacity.

- 2 Provide appropriate numbers of volunteer and staff for its emergency shelter.
- 3 Provide a warm meal for the people accessing the services.

INSURANCE AND CAPACITY CERTIFICATION

BC Housing requires the Coordinator to be satisfied that participating shelter sites have adequate insurance and that they have been inspected by City fire officials to determine their appropriate occupancy load before listing them in the Extreme Weather Response Plan as participants eligible for funding.

REPORTING ACTIVITY AND EXPENSES

BC Housing forms will be used to record all intake data and expenses at each shelter. Nightly occupancy reports will be made promptly to Surrey EWR Coordinator via e-mail provide below. surreyextreme@shaw.ca

After opening sites for the extreme response, each site will ensure that their nightly occupancy reports are sent into BC Housing by 11:00 am the next day.

Invoices to BC housing need to be sent by the times BC housing specifies and no later than 2 weeks after the end of the season.

OUTREACH

In addition to the temporary emergency shelter, outreach services will be conducted for the homeless who choose to remain outside. Food and blankets will be handed out when available. Hyland House mobile outreach workers will work collaboratively with the RCMP and City of Surrey Bylaws department in trying to remain in contact with people who choose to remain outside during Extreme response activation.

ADDITIONAL SUPPORT NOTIFYING HOMELESS PEOPLE WHO ARE OUTSIDE

South Fraser Community Services will have any mobile staff working for them at the time of an Extreme Weather activation contact homeless people who they know are outside and inform them that extreme weather space has been activated.

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

The extreme weather response is active approximately 10-15 nights a year during the five-month period between November 1 and March 31 as weather conditions occur.

HOURS OF OPERATION

Shelters generally operate between 7:00 pm and 7:30 am. However, each shelter determines its own opening and closing times and communicates them to the Surrey EWR Coordinator.

EVALUATION & PLAN REVISION

Data is collected by the organizations involved in the response. It is collated and submitted to the Coordinator on each morning after a response. The Coordinator forwards these documents promptly to BC Housing's Emergency Shelter Program Manager.

The Extreme Weather Planning Group will reconvene before May 31, to assess the implementation of the current Response Plan and to amend it as required for the following season.

CITY ZONING REGULATIONS

Due to the extraordinary and occasional nature of Extreme Weather Shelter use, the City will not enforce its Zoning Bylaw in respect of this use if and when:

- 1) such a use is triggered by an Extreme Weather Response alert;
and ...
- 2) all shelter facilities to be used are identified in the Extreme Weather Response Plan, as approved by the Director of Development Services.

This would be a similar situation to the use of schools, churches and other facilities for temporary lodging and staging during an emergency/disaster event. There is a clear intent that Extreme Weather Shelters are not intended to be used for permanent housing.

Occupancy limits posted by the Surrey Fire Rescue Service may not be exceeded in any shelter facility without approval by the Fire Chief. In select cases, an interim Fire Safety Plan including a 24-hour fire watch may be considered to mitigate the lack of sufficient exit capacity with the approval of the Fire Chief.

SITES OPENED AFTER THE EWR PLAN IS SUBMITTED

Due to the nature and processes involved in setting up EWR sites, some may not be ready to operate at the start of the EWR season. After these sites have passed all inspections by the fire dept, the Coordinator will submit an updated the plan. The Coordinator will inform all

stakeholders of the sites coming into operation. Notification of a site being opened will include site address, contact details and site capacity.

EXTREME WEATHER SHELTERS FOR SURREY/WHITE ROCK

Cloverdale Church: 604-575-4208; (15 mats) danno180@hotmail.com

Surrey Urban Mission: 604-581-5172; (60 mats) sums@telus.net

Hyland House (Newton) 604- 599-8900 (15 beds) surreyextreme@shaw.ca

First United White Rock /South Surrey 604- 599-8900 (15 mats) rlavison@shaw.ca

NightShift Ministries 604-953-1114 (20mats) michael@nightshiftministries.org

South Fraser Community Services Society 604-589-8678 (10 mats)
shayne@southfraserservices.bc.ca

ACTIVATION/DEACTIVATION NOTIFICATION LIST

James Pratt	james@prattconsulting.ca
Phil Lemire,	plemire@city.whiterock.bc.ca
Ron Cross	RRCross@surrey.ca
Dominic Flanagan	dflanagan@bchousing.org
Roberta Randall	rrandall@bchousing.org
Fergus McCann	fmccann@bchousing.org
Paul Woolley:	Paul.Woolley@gov.bc.ca
Maryann Anderson	Maryann.Anderson@gov.bc.ca
Henry Herbstreit	HHerbstreit@surrey.ca
Daniel Barnscher	DABarnscher@surrey.ca
Rick Bamford	RJBamford@surrey.ca
Nick Marach	WNMarach@surrey.ca
Alice Sundberg	askalice@shaw.ca
Catherine Ferguson	cferguson@city.whiterock.bc.ca ,
Dianne Watts	dlwatts@surrey.ca
Terry Brock	terry.brock@fraserhealth.ca ,
Marina Mcbride	marina.mcbride@fraserhealth.ca
Aileen Murphy	amurphy@surrey.ca ,
Daniel Reed	danno180@hotmail.com ,
Peter Choy	PHChoy@surrey.ca
M. Berube	mdberube@surrey.ca
Dick Avison	rlavison@shaw.ca
Joan McMurtry	firstucminister@telus.net
Rubina Bedford	rbedford@bchousing.org

Phone calls:

Shelter Sites

Dick Avison, First United Church White Rock: 531 -6003

Daniel Reed, Cloverdale Christian Fellowship; 604 – 575-4208

Jonquil Hallgate, Surrey Urban Mission 604 – 786-0619

Peter Fedos, Hyland House 604 – 599-8900

Michael Smith, Night Shift Ministries 604-953-1114

Megan Baile. South Fraser Com. Serv. Society 604-589-8678

Outreach and support services

Hyland House Mobile Outreach – 604-599-8900

Front Room 589- 1002

Kla-How-Eya 584-2008

Phil Lemire, Fire Chief White Rock Office: 604-541-2122

RCMP Duty Officer 604 -599-7881

After Hours Emergency Services Team 604- 875 -6381

Carol Digby Peace Arch Hospital 604-531 5512 local 7270

Extreme Weather Locations:

Cloverdale Church:

17802 – 66 ave, Surrey

Surrey Urban Mission:

13388 - 104th Avenue Surrey

NightShift Ministries

10635 King George Boulevard (Hwy) Surrey

Hyland House (Newton) :

6595 King George Blvd.(Hwy) Surrey

First United White Rock /South Surrey :

15385 Semiahmoo Avenue White Rock

South Fraser Community Services Society

10697 135A Street Surrey, BC

**Extreme Weather Alerts in Other Communities in
Metro Vancouver and the Fraser Valley:**

1. Abbotsford Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

In Abbotsford, Extreme Weather is defined as:

- Temperatures at or below -0 degrees Celsius (-2 with wind chill); OR
- Measurable or significant snow accumulation; OR
- Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons. These conditions include prolonged heavy rain in combination with low temperatures.

2. Burnaby Extreme Weather Alert 2011/12

Extreme Weather is defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons such as:

- Temperatures at or below 0 Celsius {temperatures are not absolute and are flexible to other weather conditions}; OR
- Wind chill that reduces the temperature to 0 Celsius;
- Significant snow accumulation; OR
- Temperatures at 0 during times of extended rainfall that make it difficult or impossible for individuals to remain dry; OR
- Freezing rain and/or sleet; OR
- Severe wind warning.

3. Hope Extreme Weather Alert 2011/12

The Extreme Weather Alert will be activated when the weather meets the Extreme Weather parameters as set out below.

In Hope, Extreme Weather is defined as:

- Temperatures at or below 0 degrees Celsius and one of the below:
 - Measurable or significant snow accumulation; OR
 - Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons. These conditions include prolonged heavy rain in combination with low temperatures, and high winds.

4. Langley Extreme Weather Alert 2011/12

In Langley, Extreme Weather is defined as:

- Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius and /Or
- significant snow accumulation; AND/OR
- Five or more days of rain creating conditions where it is difficult for people to keep dry;
- Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless individuals.

5. Mission Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

In the District of Mission, extreme weather is defined:

- Temperature at or below 0 degrees,
- Weather warning of snow accumulation, OR
- Wind chill factor, OR
- Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of a homeless person. These conditions include prolonged heavy rain in combination with low temperatures.

6. New Westminster Extreme Weather Alert 2011/12

New Westminster Extreme Weather is defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and/or health of people who are homeless in New Westminster, such as:

- temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius or 0 to -2 degrees Celsius with a wind chill;
- heavy rain in combination with low temperatures (close to 0 degrees Celsius);
- five or more days of rain creating conditions where it is difficult for people to keep dry; (1)
- significant snow accumulation; and
- significant windstorms that present a risk to those living in wooded areas.

1 These conditions will necessitate the activation of an alert for only one night. After that night, five or more days of rain will have to occur prior to the activation of a similar alert, and, again, this will be for only one night.

7. North Shore Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

Extreme weather is defined, as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons such as:

- Temperatures at or below 0 degrees Celsius; OR +2 degrees with wind chill
- Significant snow accumulation; OR
- Freezing rain; OR
- Combination of low temperatures at or below 4 degrees with three or more consecutive days of rain

Temperature 'triggers' are not absolute and are flexible to other weather conditions.

On the North Shore, due to the geography of the area, extreme conditions may mean that the alert is enacted when other Metro Vancouver areas may not be facing extreme conditions.

8. Richmond Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

Extreme weather can include significant snow accumulations, severe winds or cold temperatures. For the purposes of a Richmond Extreme Weather alert, extreme weather is defined as:

- Conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons; OR

- Any snow accumulation; OR
- Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius (0 degrees C with wind chill); OR
- Temperatures near 0 degrees C with rainfall that makes it difficult or impossible for homeless persons to remain dry.

9. Sunshine Coast Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

Activation of the shelter will occur under any of following conditions:

- when the local temperature reaches 0 degrees or lower;
- when it is snowing or there is snow on the ground at the shelter in Sechelt;
- when an extreme weather alert has been issued and it is raining for long periods of time.

10. Surrey/White Rock Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

In Surrey and White Rock, Extreme Weather is defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless people such as:

- Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius;
- Significant snow accumulation or sleet/freezing rain conditions;
- Significant windstorms that may present danger to persons living in wooded areas and/or makeshift shelters (cardboard boxes or lean-tos);
- Periods of extended rain over 3 days creating conditions which make it difficult for people to keep dry.

11. Tri Cities Extreme Weather Alert 2011/12

Tri Cities Extreme weather is defined as conditions deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life and/or health of people who are homeless in the Tri Cities, such as:

- temperatures (day or night time)of -2 degrees Celsius or below, or 0 degrees Celsius below with a wind chill;
- heavy rain in combination with low temperatures (close to 0 degrees Celsius);
- significant snow accumulation; and
- significant windstorms that present a risk to those living in wooded areas.

12. Vancouver Extreme Weather Alert 2011/2012

For the 2011/12 Season, as in past years, an extreme weather alert will be called when weather conditions are deemed severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of homeless persons. Factors taken into account include:

- Temperatures near zero with rainfall that makes it difficult or impossible for homeless people to remain dry and/or
- Sleet/freezing rain; and/or
- Snow accumulation; and/or
- Sustained high winds; and/or
- Temperatures at or below -2 degrees Celsius

v:\wp-docs\admin & policy\11data\oct-dec\1150935am.docx
SAW 11/23/11 12:09 PM