

# Emergency Crisis Support (ECS)

## Evacuations

The Province will, if local capacity has been exhausted, allocate provincial resources to support the evacuation of residents when a real and imminent threat exists, and all community and mutual aid resources have been accessed, or where the community leadership cannot ensure the safety of their citizens. Due to the significant impact on individuals, families, communities and workers involved in an evacuation, it is the goal of the Government of Saskatchewan to keep people within their home communities whenever possible by:

- Sheltering in place, and/or
- Establishing a fresh-air center

After declaring an emergency, a **Local Authority (Mayor), Municipality (Reeve), or First Nations (Chief)** can order its citizens to evacuate the area, under the authority of Section 21 of *The Emergency Planning Act, 1989*.

Emergency Crisis Support (ECS) is a program which is intended to meet the urgent, basic needs of Saskatchewan residents who have been displaced from their homes due to a disaster such as flooding or a forest fire, but it can be any event that forces people out of their homes. Generally, the resources of the local authority (municipality, First Nation, etc.) must be unable to cope with managing the event. The local authority can work with the Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) to request provincial assistance. ECS is designed to be used for larger, more complex events where local response alone will not be adequate.

ECS is a labour-intensive support that meets people's basic needs including:

- Registration and Enquiry (R&E)
- Lodging, food and clothing
- Psycho-social services
- Local transportation (in host community)
- Some recreational activities

ECS is activated after the home community determines that an evacuation is needed. The community leads the evacuation with the SPSA working collaboratively with the community. Evacuations are a group effort including the SPSA, Ministry of Health (MOH), Saskatchewan Health Authority (SHA), the evacuating community representatives, the hosting facility, and the community all working as partners.

## Human Service Support

ECS will respond as needed, upon request to events and situations across the province where human service support is required (i.e., Ukrainian Response Team, COVID-19 Isolation Sites, etc.). On an individual basis, ECS will provide support necessary to support the event/situation with staff, lodging, services, and transportation until no longer required.

For questions regarding Crisis and Community Support, please call:

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