

Eva,

There are many local authorities (particularly in the United States) which post signage in facilities designated as refuge areas or emergency shelters. The City of Burnaby, like other municipalities in the Metro Vancouver area, has pre-identified a number of potential facilities that may be used to provide information, comfort, service and goods referrals and, if necessary, temporary lodging to Burnaby residents.

The locations of facilities that could be activated as a Comfort Centre, Reception Centre, Resiliency Centre and Group Lodging Centre are not provided in advance to residents nor is signage installed stating same. Rather, the facilities activated and prepared to receive displaced and/or impacted persons will be communicated following the incident or emergency.

The magnitude, scale and impact of the incident must be first determined by city officials. Appropriate facilities must be selected, inspected, if necessary, to ensure they are safe for occupancy and use, and the capacity and capability of the facility assessed before it is made available to receive those impacted by the emergency.

Following a large scale emergency or disaster, city officials would communicate the facilities identified and opened to receive impacted persons. This communication could be via AM/FM radio (which is why it is so important to have a portable radio as part of your emergency supplies), television broadcasts, website notifications (www.burnaby.ca) and social media posts on Facebook (www.facebook.com/cityofburnaby) and Twitter (www.twitter.com/cityofburnaby).

I hope this provides the information sought by the Commission members. Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

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