

EMERGENCY COMFORT CENTRE INFORMATION

An Emergency Comfort Centre is a place where Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) community members can safely gather during times of emergency and disasters. Comfort Centres offer up-to-date emergency information, a gathering place and short term supports for impacted communities.

Emergency Comfort Centres are operated by your local Joint Emergency Management (JEM) Teams. JEM Teams are comprised solely of dedicated volunteers that work with HRM to help serve their community during disasters. There may be multiple activated Comfort Centres during a widespread emergency.

To facilitate a Comfort Centre, the HRM and JEM Teams may look to community facilities and organizations willing to operate and provide temporary space during an emergency, and periodically for emergency exercises.

The following are Comfort Centre facility requirements:

- a building that has passed fire and building inspections;
- a backup power source or willingness to have a system installed at no cost to the facility;
- potable water;
- heat;
- up-to-date 24/7 facility contact information;
- restroom facilities (wheelchair accessible preferred);
- wheelchair accessibility; and
- 24/7 access.

By signing up as a Comfort Centre, you may be eligible for grant funding opportunities towards supplies and facility improvements that are needed to operate during emergencies.

Your facility will not be expected to provide logistical support to the Comfort Centre apart from ensuring that JEM Teams have access and an emergency building contact. To ensure that your facility is protected while operating as a Comfort Centre, it is required that an Agreement be signed for insurance purposes.

If you think that your facility could operate as a Comfort Centre to support your community, please contact your local JEM Team representative for more information. By participating in this program, you will be contributing to the safety and comfort of community members during times of extreme distress.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Sincerely,

Your local Joint Emergency Management Team