

July 16, 2021

Dear User Group,

Re: Severe Weather Procedures

Last night, the Air Quality Health Index (AQI) in our community escalated quickly and exceeded The City's limits for operation. Thankfully, most of our sport partners responded quickly and cancelled programming. Typically, The City would contact anyone holding a facility rental permit to advise of facility closure and this did not happen last night.

Due to the recent string of hot dry weather, as well as the smoke from various wildfires in BC and western states of the US, we wanted to remind all our sport groups of our procedures for severe weather, and in this case air quality.

As mentioned, The City of Red Deer monitors air quality daily using Environment Canada's Air Quality Health Index (found [here](#)). It is on a scale from 1 to 10, with 10 being very high risk. The City of Red Deer outdoor amenities such as sports fields, pools, and outdoor water features/spray parks, (to name a few) will close if the AQI is greater than 7; these amenities will remain closed until AQI is 7 or lower. The Facility Supervisor/Operator at each site will be monitoring and will making the final decision on whether the amenity needs to close or not, based on Environment Canada's AQI. If your organization operates an amenity directly, the decision and responsibility to close and notify your participants is yours.

The City of Red Deer always endeavors to give our users as much notice as possible about these cancellations; however, as we experienced last night, these things can change quickly. If you are unsure about whether or not amenities are closed, please feel free to check The City of Red Deer social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, etc.). If City facilities are closed due to severe weather, we will try our best to reschedule your booking for an alternate date or time. If rescheduling isn't possible, we will offer a full refund.

Additional information about The City of Red Deer's response to severe weather is found [here](#).

Please reach out to facilitybookings@reddeer.ca if you have any additional questions.

Regards,



Jesse Smith
Sport and Recreation Coordinator(interim)

cc: Barb McKee, Recreation Superintendent
cc: Curtis Martinek, Recreation Projects Superintendent