DEARNESS HOME POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

POLICY
To ensure the safety and continued provision of services for residents a LTCH will follow the Code Grey Extreme Weather/Natural Disaster – Tornado Warning Emergency Response Plan procedures located below and in Appendix ‘B’ if a LTCH is located in a geographic area that a Tornado Warning has been issued for.

DESCRIPTION
Tornadoes are rotating columns of high winds. Tornadoes can be hard to predict and can move up to 70 km/hour and leave a long path of destruction including uprooted trees, overturned cars, and demolished houses. Beware of flying debris. Even small objects such as sticks and straw can become dangerous.

Tornado Watch – Issued when conditions are favourable for the development of severe thunderstorms with one or more tornadoes. Tornado Watches are also issued when the possibility of cold core funnel clouds is likely, and poses a threat to people on the ground. If there is a land spout on the ground, a Tornado Warning will be issued.

Tornado Warning – Issued when one or more tornadoes are occurring in the area specified or rotation is detected on weather radar, or when someone spots a supercell tornado or a land spout on the ground. The exact location of the tornado or storm will be given in the statement

Warnings are issued when severe weather is either imminent or occurring.

TORNOADO WARNING SIGNS
1. Severe thunderstorms.
2. An extremely dark sky, sometimes highlighted by green or yellow clouds.
3. A rumbling or whistling sound similar to the sound of a freight train.
4. A funnel cloud at the rear base of a thundercloud, often being a curtain of heavy rain or hail.
EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER (EOC)
Immediately upon implementation of a Code Grey Extreme Weather/Natural Disaster, an Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will be established by the Chief Warden. The reception area of the home will serve as the default location for the EOC.

DOCUMENTATION
All real and simulated emergency events shall be documented on the Emergency Drill Report located in Appendix ‘A’.
All formal activations of Emergency Response Plans shall include a formal debrief and review of the response plans within 30 days of the conclusion of the emergency. This debrief shall be documented separately from the original emergency response. Completed Emergency Drill Reports shall be logged in the Testing of Emergency Plans binder for a period of 2 years.

REPORTING
Every licensee of a LTCH shall ensure that the Director is informed in as much detail as is possible under the following timelines and in the associated circumstances;

Immediately
1. An emergency within the meaning of section 268 of the FLTCA, including fire, unplanned evacuation or intake of evacuees

No Later than One Business Day
1. An environmental hazard that affects the provision of care or the safety, security or well-being of one or more residents for a period greater than six hours, including;
   a. a breakdown or failure of the security system,
   b. a breakdown of major equipment or a system in the home,
   c. a loss of essential services, or
   d. flooding.

Report Submission
Where a licensee is required to make a report immediately as identified above and it is after normal business hours, the licensee shall make the report using the Ministry’s method for after-hours emergency contact. Contact information can be found in Appendix ‘C’ Communication Plan – Call in List.