



City of Vancouver *Planning - By-law Administration Bulletins*

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EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICE CONTAINERS

Authority - Director of Planning

Effective December 11, 2009

Although by law, a development permit is required for placing a storage container on a site, such development may be exempted from this requirement by the Director of Planning in the case of Emergency Social Service (ESS) containers.

The City of Vancouver Emergency Social Services provides for the various needs of evacuees in a disaster or emergency situation. Partnering with the Vancouver Park Board and Vancouver School Board, amongst other agencies, the ESS Plan includes the operation of Emergency Reception Centres and the provision of emergency supplies. These supplies are typically stored in containers at community centres, City works yards, the PNE grounds, E-Comm and school sites.

1 Intent

The provision of open space and the promotion of health and safety are amongst the objectives of zoning and regulated via the various District Schedules. Albeit the placement of a storage container on a site would typically be subject to the requirements of a development permit, in the instance of a container used for the storage of emergency supplies, the Director of Planning would consider the use of such container as being accessory to the principal use of the site.

2 Conditions

The Director of Planning will exempt emergency social service containers from the requirement of a development permit if the following criteria are met:

- (a) the container is being placed on an Emergency Reception Centre site, as outlined in the ESS Program, or on a grade K-12 school site;
- (b) the container is placed in a location that minimizes impact on the views or open space of residential neighbours, while incorporating CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) principles to address areas for concealment, vandalism, mischief, surveillance, etc.;
- (c) the placement of the container does not require the relaxation of any required parking or loading spaces and does not impact any service access routes (e.g., vehicular, exiting, firefighting, etc.);
- (d) the footprint of the container is not more than 15 m² (and typically 6m in length x 2.4m in width x 2.6m in height); and
- (e) the container must only be used for the purpose of storing emergency supplies.

3 Development Permit Required

In the event of neighbourhood objection to the location of an ESS container, the Director of Planning may require that the container be relocated or a development permit be obtained.

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