



Safe Housing Program

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Safe Housing Program
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1990 Safe Housing Program

Under Housing Regulation, responded to complaints regarding heating, sanitation, water and sewage issues, size of sleeping areas and building envelop



1990 Safe Housing Program

Identified rental units with improper fire separation, poor fire exit, malfunctioning fire alarm, unsafe electrical outlets and building deficiencies

Inadequate response from building and electrical inspectors

Inadequate penalty from prosecution



1990 Safe Housing Committee

Coordinated joint inspection with:

- City of Edmonton Plumbing & Gas (plumbing inspectors)
- City of Edmonton Housing Services (building inspectors)
- Fire Rescue Services (fire inspectors)
- Inspections Group Inc. (electrical inspectors)



1992 Safe Housing Committee

Cooperative framework to perform inspections on rental buildings; jointly enforce health and safety improvements

Objective to improve housing conditions and preventive measures



1992 Safe Housing Committee

- Life Safety Features
- Fire Alarm and Detection Systems
- Evacuation or Escape
- Containment or Compartmentation
- Prevention



1992 Safe Housing Committee

The internal Safe Housing Standards made way for provincially-legislated documents that could be enforced by various parties:

- Alberta Building Code (1997) STANDATA
- Approved Fire Safety Guidelines for Rooming Houses and Converted Buildings (1999)
- Public Health Act: Minimum Housing and Health Standards (1999)



2007 Safe Housing Committee

- 15 years after the beginning of the project, many dwellings have been condemned, altered or upgraded to reduce risk and provide improved housing
- Some scrutinized properties were unfortunate subjects of fires that caused significant damage, and deaths
- Those buildings that were improved displayed ability to withstand fire, and provide timely escape
- Some were demolished





**Number of houses
demolished**

2006- 56

2007- 106

2008- 98

2009- 62



Safe Housing Committee

Improved prosecution resulting in hundred of thousand dollars fines and occasional jail sentences for slum landlords

New Disadvantaged Person Housing Program within Alberta Health Services, Edmonton

- City of Edmonton Derelict Housing Services
- Mental health
- Police services
- SPCA



Example of health promotion involving actions and changing social, environmental conditions to alleviate negative impacts on public health

- Policy initiatives, environmental strategies and community development

Questions? Comments?

