

Statement of Procedures Available to Elderly Cambridge Citizens
in Times of Declared Emergencies

1. On matters which affect elderly citizens, the Council on Aging will coordinate all calls. The Council's office will be manned on a 24-hour basis and five telephone lines will remain open through number 498-9039.

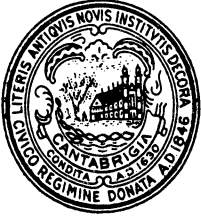
This office will arrange for help for those in need of emergency supplies of food, drugs, snow shovelling, transportation and other services depending on the kind of emergency. It will also be the Council's responsibility to receive offers of help from citizens wishing to volunteer their services on behalf of the elderly.

2. In cases of immediate danger to life and limb, citizens can, as always, contact both the Police and Fire Departments on a 24-hour basis by using the emergency number 911.

Calls not requiring immediate action should, however, be directed to 864-3400 for the Police, and 876-0125 for the Fire Department.

3. The general number for City Hall is 498-9000. If an operator is available, calls will be redirected toward the appropriate agency.
4. The Public Works Department at 498-9051 is open to handle emergency calls around-the-clock everyday of the year. Its main concerns are the city streets and roads and their safety. The Department can also respond to other problems such as obstacles to the delivery of fuel oil.
5. The Traffic Department will be open 24 hours a day during emergencies. This office, at number 498-9042, will answer questions about parking, traffic, transportation, and other matters of concern.
6. Cambridge Hospital may be reached at 354-2020. The Commissioner of Health and Hospitals will authorize, if necessary, the filling of drug prescriptions.
7. For calls requesting transportation, permission for use of vehicles when otherwise prohibited, or other emergency related requests, Civil Defense is the appropriate agency at 547-5355.
8. The Committee of Elders, a private association of senior citizens, will open its drop-in center at 15 Pearl Street during daylight hours and, if necessary, round-the-clock. Food, shelter, and referral services will be available. Telephone number is 868-0800.

9. The Somerville-Cambridge Economic Opportunity Committee, through its elderly service unit at 15 Pearl Street (868-0800), will make Elder-Van, a twelve-passenger vehicle equipped to handle two wheelchairs, available for medical emergencies.
10. The School Department will provide a variety of resources. It will keep open the Harrington School in East Cambridge and the Tobin School in West Cambridge for food and shelter, both day and night.. The Department will also make its buses available for emergency transportation, if occasion warrants.
11. The Somerville-Cambridge Home Care Corporation, which serves as Area Agency on Aging for the two-city region, will be open to handle all calls for help at 628-2601. This Home-Care Corporation can provide food, transportation, and other services, according to need. This agency will already have distributed hundreds of food kits for elderly people to keep on hand for times of emergency.
12. The Red Cross has emergency telephone coverage 24 hours a day, seven days a week at 354-7800. In times of local or national disaster, immediate emergency care and assistance in helping arrange for food, clothing, and shelter are available to the community.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE

CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 02139

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
JAMES L. SULLIVAN
City Manager

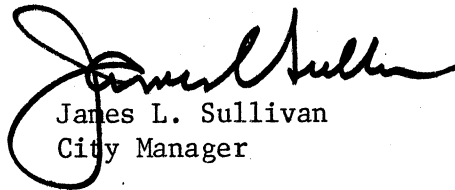
December 11, 1978

To the Honorable, the City Council:

During the blizzard of 1978 a number of emergency procedures were established to address the needs of the elderly in the City of Cambridge. One difficulty that arose was in communicating to the citizens of Cambridge the procedures to be followed in the event of an established emergency.

Accordingly, this year a committee was formed to review the procedures that should be available to elderly Cambridge citizens in times of declared emergency. Attached is a copy of the procedures to be followed with respect to established needs during a declared emergency.

Very truly yours,



James L. Sullivan
City Manager

JLS/mbf
Enc.

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RE: emergency procedures to address the
needs of the elderly during a declared emergency

In City Council,

December 11, 1978

12/11/78

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Board