

COUNCIL – ADMINISTRATION ROUND TABLE

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

JUNE 15, 2023

ORIENTATION TOPICS

1. Emergency Management Regulations
2. Emergency Management Program
3. Yellowknife Emergency Plan
4. Mayor/Council Roles
5. Communication
6. Question Period

This is NOT Emergency Management?



This is an emergency.

What is Emergency Management?

It is more than
just responding
to emergencies



A shared responsibility including the City, all orders of government, crown corporations, nongovernment organizations (NGO's), private businesses, commercial industries, social agencies and citizens act to prevent, mitigate against, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

Emergency Management Legislation



Relevant Legislation

- Cities, Towns and Villages Act

- Broad Powers & Duties

- e.g. the safety, health and welfare of people and the protection of people and property; Section 70 (1).

- Emergency Management Act

- Broad Powers & Duties as Local Authority

- e.g. Emergency Management & Response 10 (1) (2), Declaring State of Local Emergency; Section 18 (1).



Emergency Management By-law 4996

- Local Coordinator
 - City Manager
- Local Emergency Management Organization
EMA 10 (2)
 - Local Coordinator, Directors, Fire Chief
- All Council powers under *Emergency Management Act (EMA) 2018* delegated to Local Coordinator, except Declaration of Local State of Emergency through this By-law.

Emergency Management Framework

Recovery

Efforts (*psychosocial and infrastructure*) to repair and restore a community to normalcy after a disaster.

Response

Actions taken to minimize the impact on people, property, environment, and prevent further injury and loss of life.

Prevention

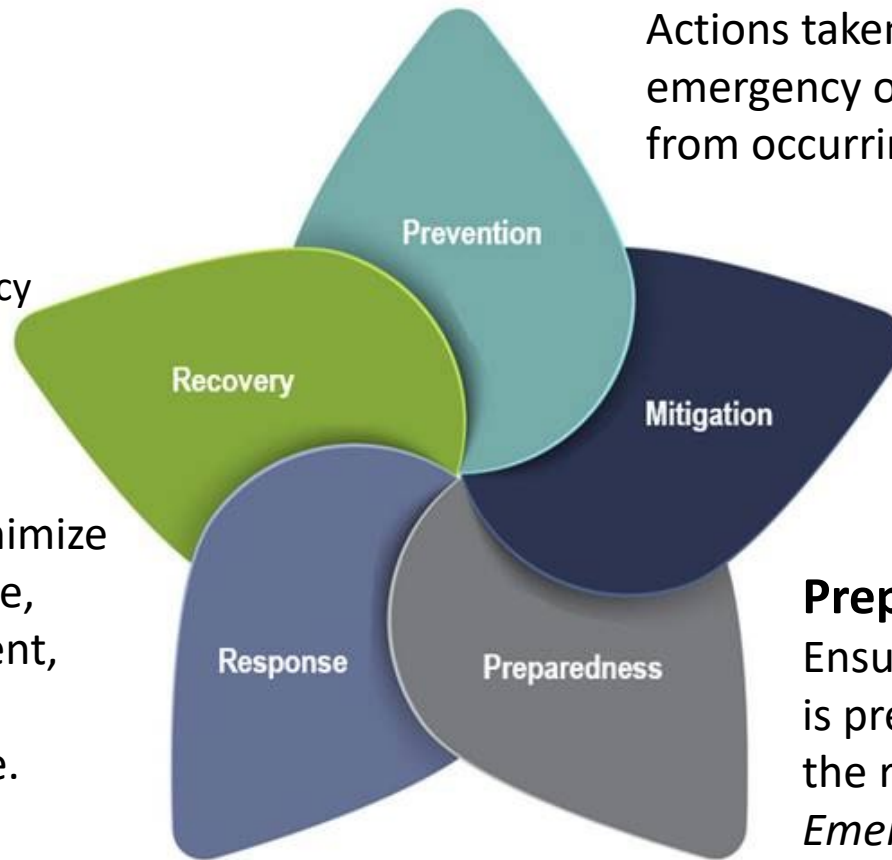
Actions taken to stop an emergency or disaster from occurring.

Mitigation

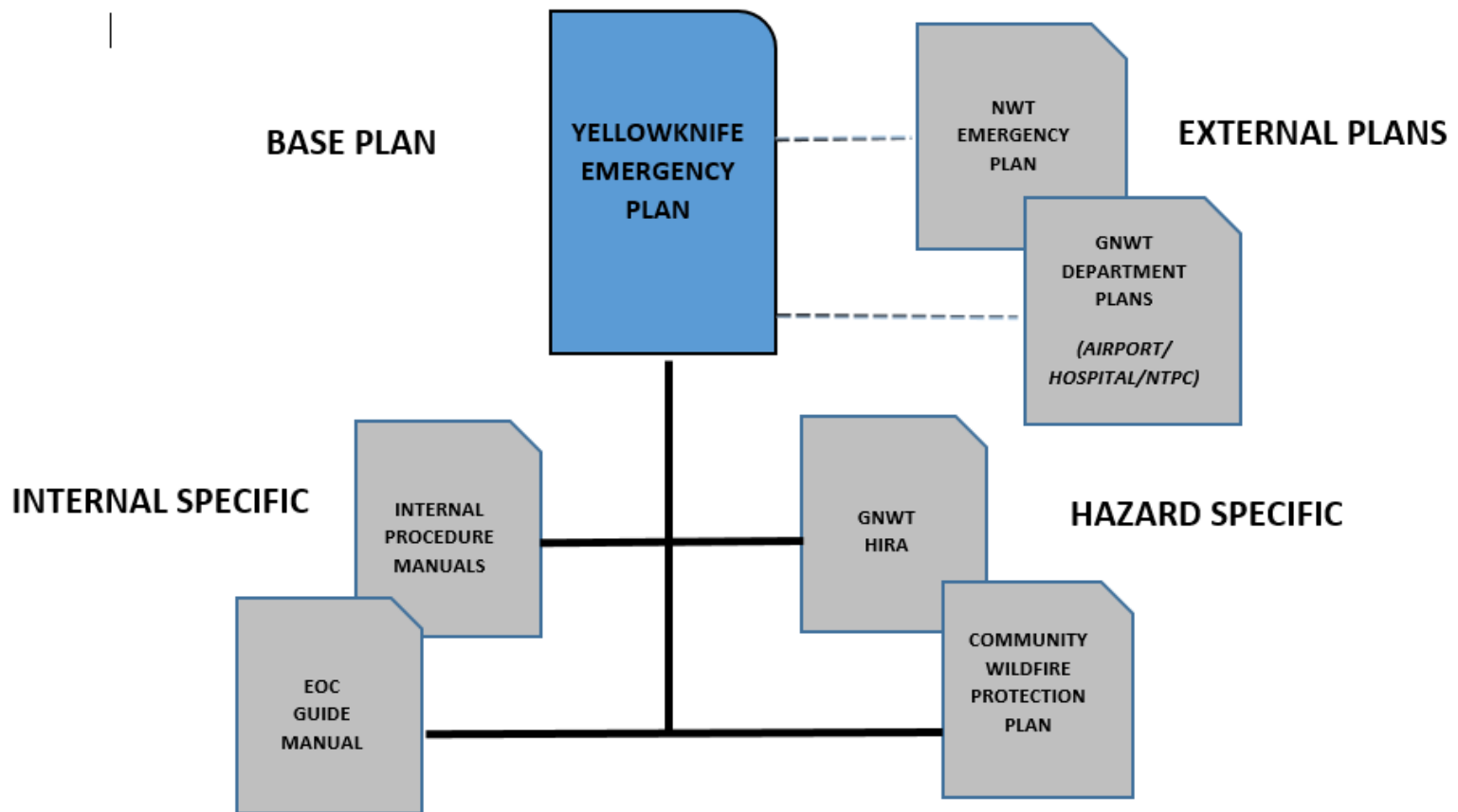
Measures to minimize the effect of a hazard, and guided by a cost / benefit analysis.

Preparedness

Ensuring the community is prepared, and we meet the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act, 2018*.



Emergency Management Framework



Emergency Management Objectives

1. Provide for the safety and health of all responders
2. Save lives
3. Reduce suffering
4. Protect public health
5. Protect government infrastructure
6. Protect property
7. Protect the environment
8. Reduce economic and social losses.



[illegible]

Emergency Management Program

- The Local Coordinator shall have the following duties and responsibilities:
 - a) develop, coordinate and implement an Emergency Management Plan for the City;
 - b) test the Emergency Management Plan in cooperation with City Departments and outside agencies;
 - c) ensure that the Emergency Management Plan is reviewed annually; and
 - d) develop information to educate the public on preparing for and dealing with emergencies.

City By-law 4996

Local Emergency Plans

Under Section 12, *EMA*, local emergency plans must:

- a) describe the emergency management system of the Local Authority;
- b) specify the roles and responsibilities of the Local Authority in responding to emergencies; and
- c) specify procedures for the coordination of responses to emergencies by the Local Authority or its agents.



Yellowknife Emergency Plan



Emergency Plan Activation

The Emergency Plan can be activated and implemented:

- Partially or entirely, at any time when an emergency or a disaster is anticipated or occurring;
- Regardless whether the City's EOC is activated;
- Regardless whether a "State of Local Emergency" has been or is being declared; and, with or without a formal statement or announcement the Plan has been activated.

Emergency Plan Activation

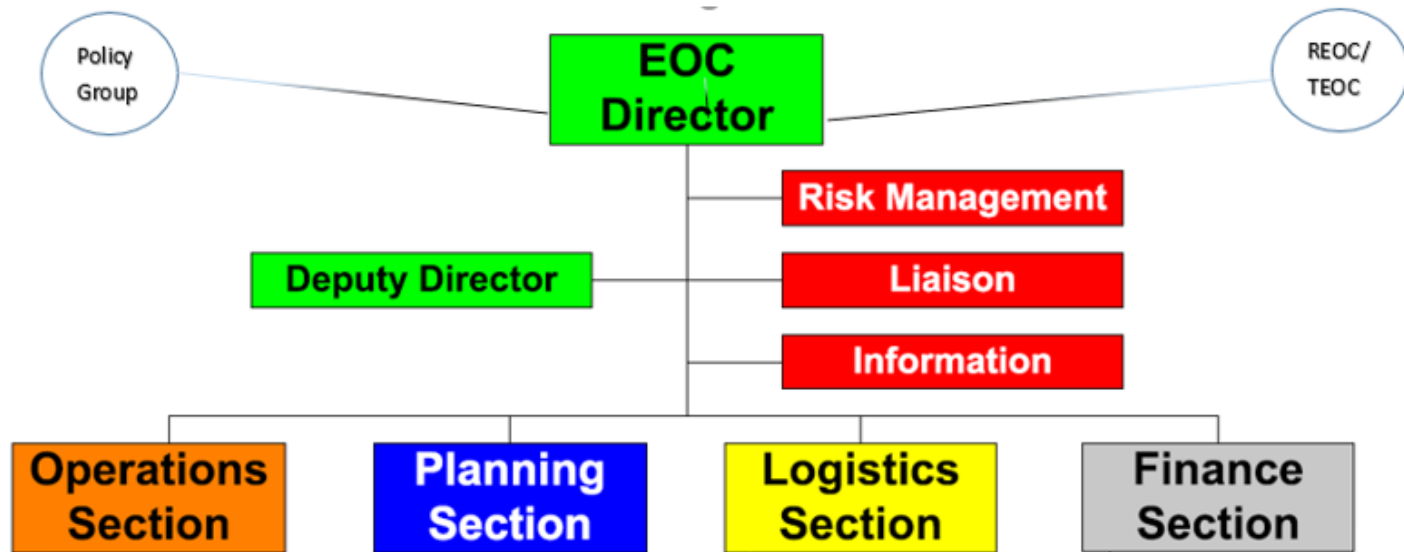
It is important to understand:

- Emergency Plan activation is contemplated when Responders request the support of the City of Yellowknife Emergency Program to establish the EOC if the incident grows beyond their capability;
- There are 3 Levels of Activation for the EOC based on needs:

1	Small scale, localized event where site responders need support, or for potential or planned events
2	Medium size event, impacting part(s) of the City
3	Large scale event, major impacts in the City

Emergency Operations Center

Within the EOC structure, the Management Team members are the key decision makers. They assume the roles in the structure which align with current job roles. The NWT regional and territorial organization support the EOC, as well as Mayor and Council as the **“Policy Group”**.



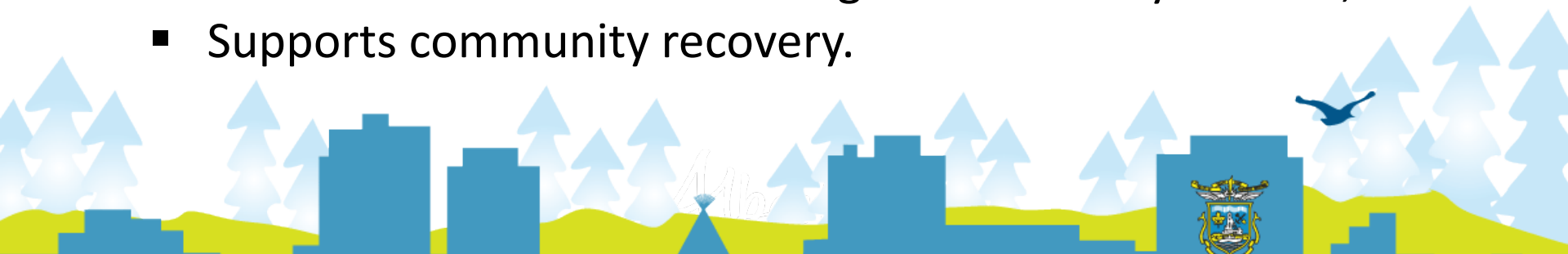
Role of the GNWT

The GNWT specifically, MACA's Emergency Management Organization (EMO) assists when:

- Events exceed municipal response capacity and/or involves more than one community; or
- There is significant threat to life or property.

EMO support:

- Collaborate with NWT communities for emergency operations;
- Coordinates support with resources;
- Funnel for Federal Government Assistance, including the Canadian Armed Forces through Public Safety Canada; &
- Supports community recovery.



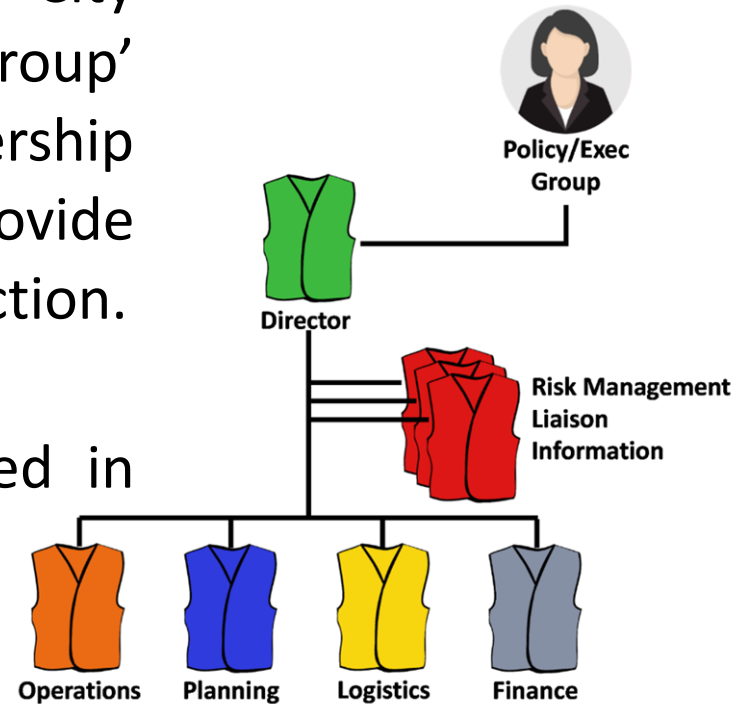
Council's Role



Council's Role

When an EOC is activated, the City may establish a 'Policy Group' comprised of elected leadership (Mayor & Council) in order to provide the EOC Director with policy direction.

Elected Officials are not involved in operations of the EOC.



Council's Role in an Emergency

Biggest Policy Direction for Mayor & Council during an emergency will be the need to declare a State of Local Emergency

EMA Section 18 (1) - If a Local Authority is satisfied an emergency exists or may exist, the Local Authority may, by resolution, declare a state of local emergency to exist in all or part of the community

(3) A declaration of a state of local emergency must identify the nature of the emergency and the area of the community affected by the emergency.

(4) A local authority shall not delegate the power to make a declaration of a state of local emergency or its renewal or its termination.

Council's Role in an Emergency

- Strategic support to the EOC Director;
- Sets expenditure limits;
- Approves higher-level requests for assistance;
- Changes/amends bylaws or policies;
- Amplify emergency comms to the public
- May act as an official spokesperson.



Council's Role in an Emergency

- Oversight to the response, not directing the response;
- Support to the City's overall response to the emergency or threat; and
- Keep constituents informed.



Council's Role in Emergency Planning

Biggest Policy Direction for non-emergency decisions with Mayor/Council will be the budget policy decisions that support emergency management.



Prevention and Mitigation Strategies require funding and Council support.

This comes in various forms including funding prevention action and activities, facilities, equipment, staffing, and by-law support for fire protection when applicable.

More focus on prevention and mitigation will reduce the cost and effort of the other 3 areas.

Community Risks



North Slave Region Hazard Summary

High

1. Fire/Explosion
2. Transportation Accidents
3. Critical Infrastructure Failure – Other

Medium

4. Human Disease
5. Industrial Emergency
6. Civil Unrest
7. Weather - Other Extreme
8. Weather - Winter Storm
9. Critical Infrastructure Failure - Energy Crisis
10. Weather - Wind Storm
11. Earth Movement - Permafrost Degradation
12. Snow Load Hazard

Low

13. Critical Infrastructure Failure - Water Contamination
14. Earth Movement – Other
15. Flood
16. Ice Hazard
17. Food and Agricultural Emergency
18. War/ International Incident
19. Earth Movement - Earthquake/ Tsunami
20. Falling Debris

NWT HIRA

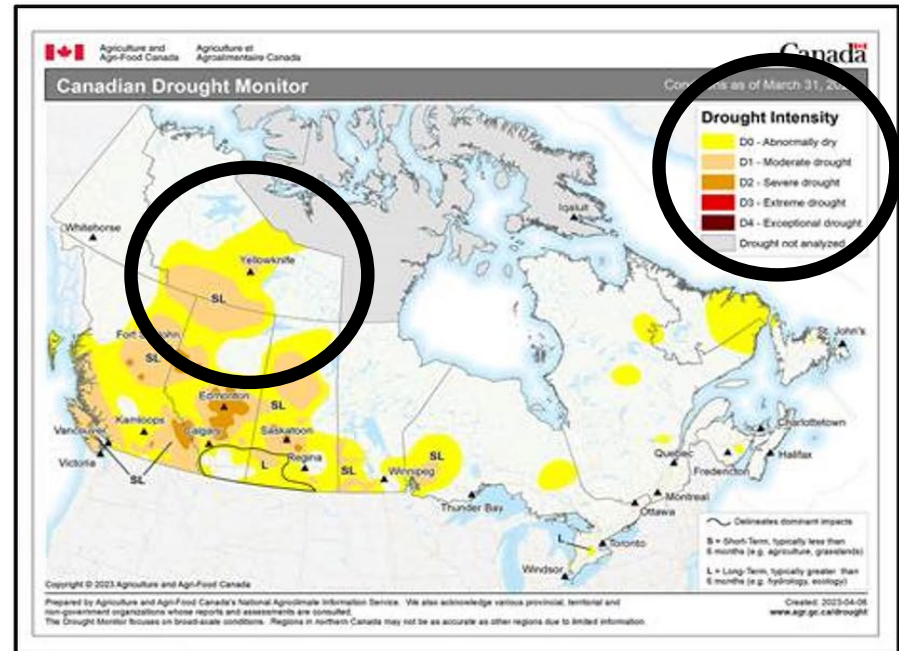
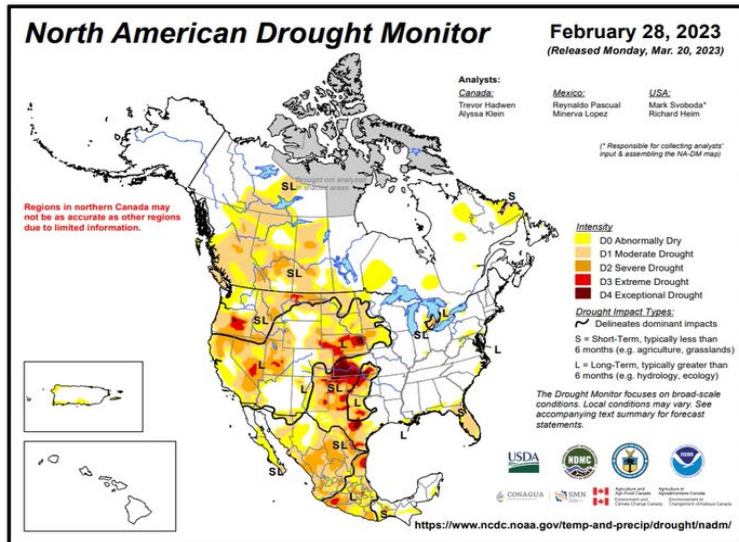
3 Risks with Highest Risk Level

HIGH

1. Fire/Explosion (*includes wildfire*);
2. Transportation Accidents (*supply chain impacts on single highway – food & fuel*)
3. Critical Infrastructure Failure – Other (*loss of power at extreme cold temps for short period*).

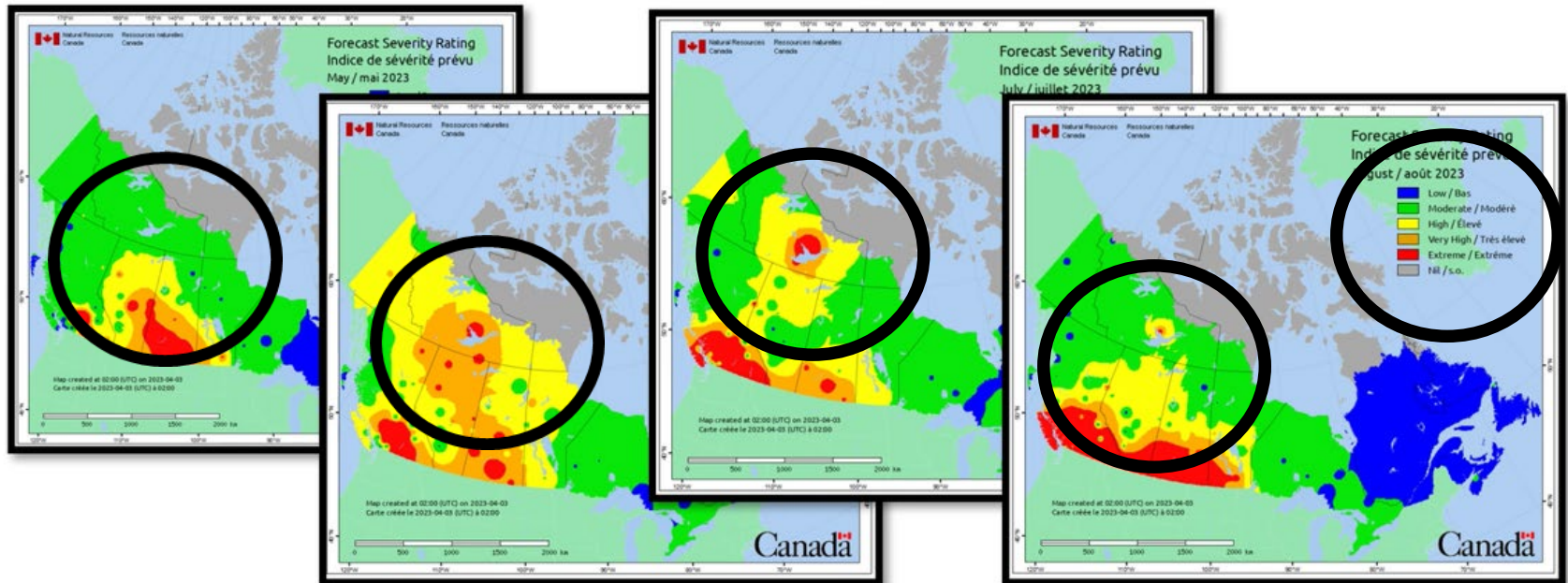
Wildfire Risk

Overwinter conditions



Wildfire Predictions May - August

Seasonal Predictions



Wildfire Risk Areas



Fuel Reduction and Removal

- Pink areas are higher priority, orange secondary priority, and green completed fuel reduction.
- Priority for residential, mixed industrial, and industrial.
- As you know, no FireSmarting in 2023.
- Seek to complete bulk of work in 2024 which will require significant project management.

Wildfire Preparedness

Operational Objectives for 2023

- Confirm EOC support program and update City Emergency Plan.
- Continue specific planning activities with partner agencies (Environment & Climate Change - ECC).
- Continue training for wildfire incidents with YKFD, and interoperable training with ECC.
- Coordination with ECC ongoing daily fire indices and fire weather behavior and conditions.
- Preplan areas of high risk interface for structural sprinkler protection if required.

Communication



Timely Communications

The Public wants information and will look to social media primarily for that information.

Important to provide Public Information Before a Disaster.

City strives to be in front of that message, as once a message goes online – there is limited control for accuracy.

Speed of events vs. need for verification.

Rumors will occur...

Consistent information is critical – Council amplifies the official comms



Crisis Communication

Crisis communications serves to:



- Save lives and reduce injury. Knowing the proper actions to take enables people to reduce their risk.
- Protect property and the environment. Understanding how to mitigate risk to property and the environment may lessen the damage inflicted by disasters
- Facilitate the tactical response by calming fears and managing expectations. People who know what to expect are more likely to follow instructions and allow responders to do their jobs.

NWT Emergency Alert

Broadcast Intrusive Alerts

- Critical and life-saving information to the public through television, radio and compatible wireless devices.
- Residents and visitors do not have to sign up for these alerts.
- Residents cannot opt out of receiving these alerts.

Alertable - App

Critical Alerts are immediate and threatening to public safety:

Three criteria MUST be met:

1. There is a significant threat to people
2. The risk is immediate.
3. The alert can provide critical or life-saving information.



Advisory Alert provides awareness and public preparation for a possible emergency.

- Could be same types of events that would result in a Critical Alert;
- Might be sent beforehand to prepare;
- Might be sent after when there is response & recovery info.

Emergency Spokesperson

An Official (s) representing the Local Authority may serve as the public face of the community emergency response:

- The mayor or member of council may be the designated spokesperson for the City during an emergency.
- Alternately a combination of administrative and elected officials may fill the role.
- The spokesperson builds trust and confidence with the public.



In Summary...Council's Role

- Need to understand emergency management and **your** legal responsibilities.
- Are ultimately responsible
- Do not coordinate the response - you are not “doing”.
- Support emergency planning by funding training & exercises, prevention programs and actions, and providing oversight with by-laws.
- During an emergency, provide encouragement & moral support to those doing the work. Make policy decisions and speak to the public

In Summary...GNWT's Role

- Strategic territorial leadership;
- Expert advice from Regional/Territorial members;
- 24/7 monitoring of all-hazards in the Northwest Territories;
- Coordination and support during local emergency operations;
- Public warning systems;
- Disaster Financial Assistance



Questions



Emergency Management is a Team Effort!