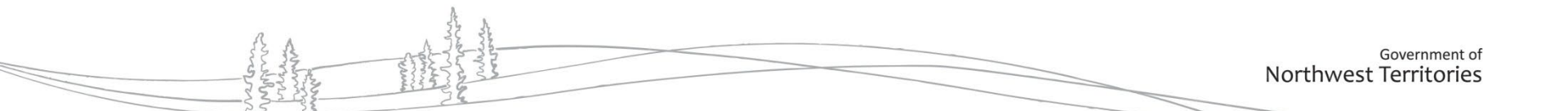




Emergency Management in the NWT

Presentation for Community Government Councils

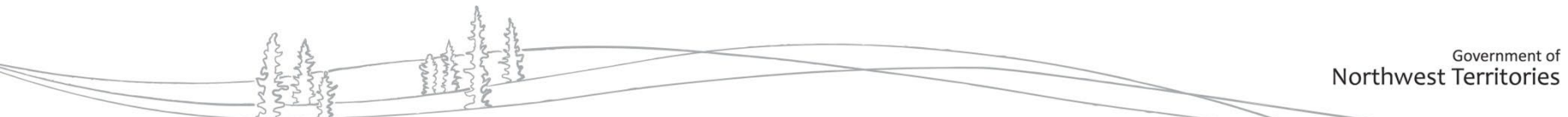
January 2024



Objective of the Presentation

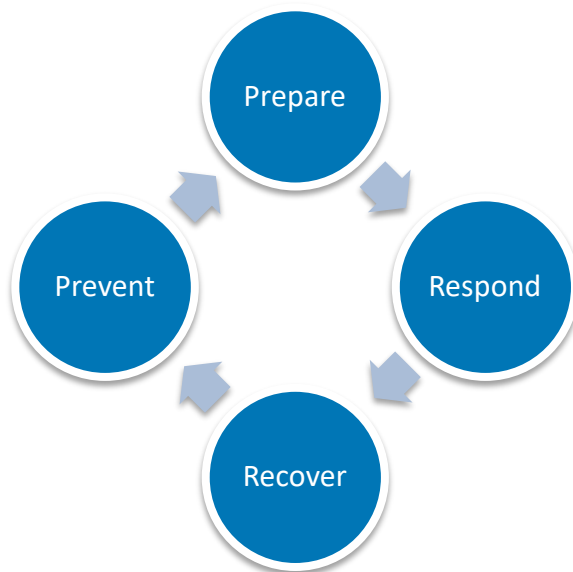
To provide community councils with a briefing on emergency management including:

- What is emergency management? What is the NWT's emergency management system?
- Why is emergency management important?
- Key features of territorial and federal emergency management legislation and policy
- Myths and misconceptions
- What this means for community governments



What is Emergency Management - Cycle

All NWT residents, community governments, and EMO levels work together to follow a comprehensive Emergency Management structure



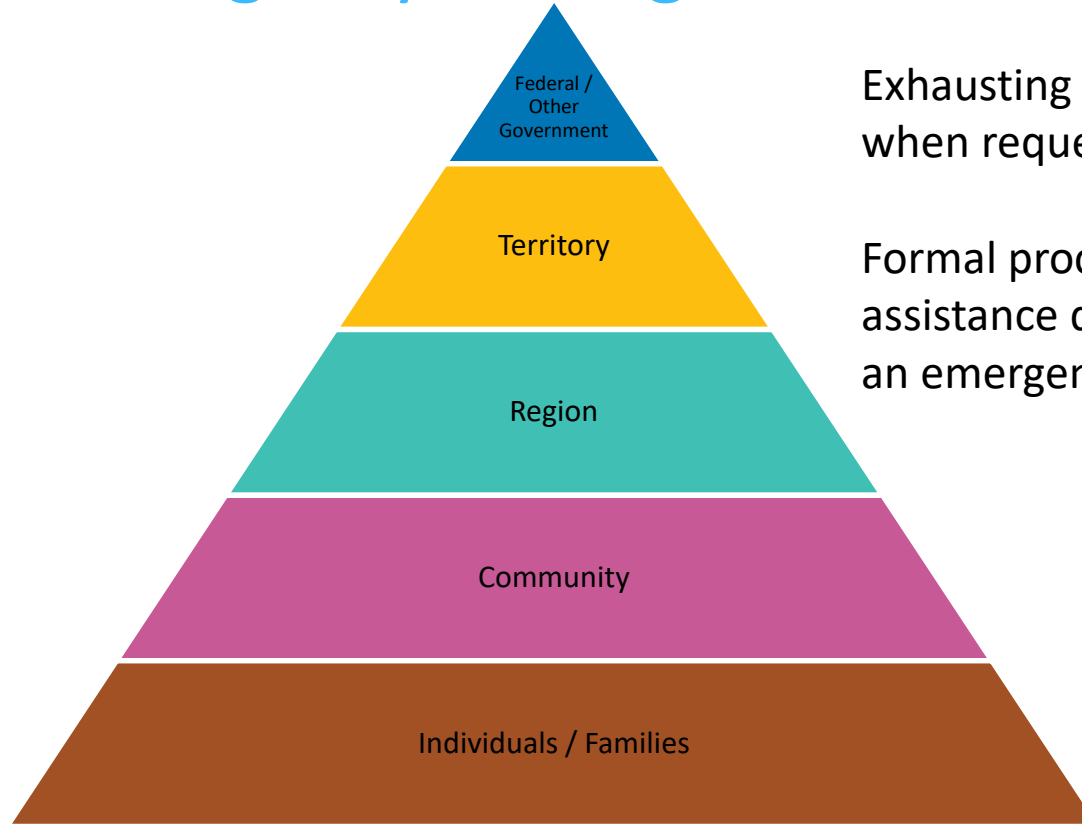
PREPARATION: Be ready by planning and knowing what to do before an emergency

EMERGENCY RESPONSE: Take action to save lives, critical infrastructure and property during an emergency

RECOVERY: Repair and restore homes and communities after the threat of an emergency is over

PREVENTION & MITIGATION: Take actions to prevent or mitigate in the future. What can we do better next time?

NWT Emergency Management Structure

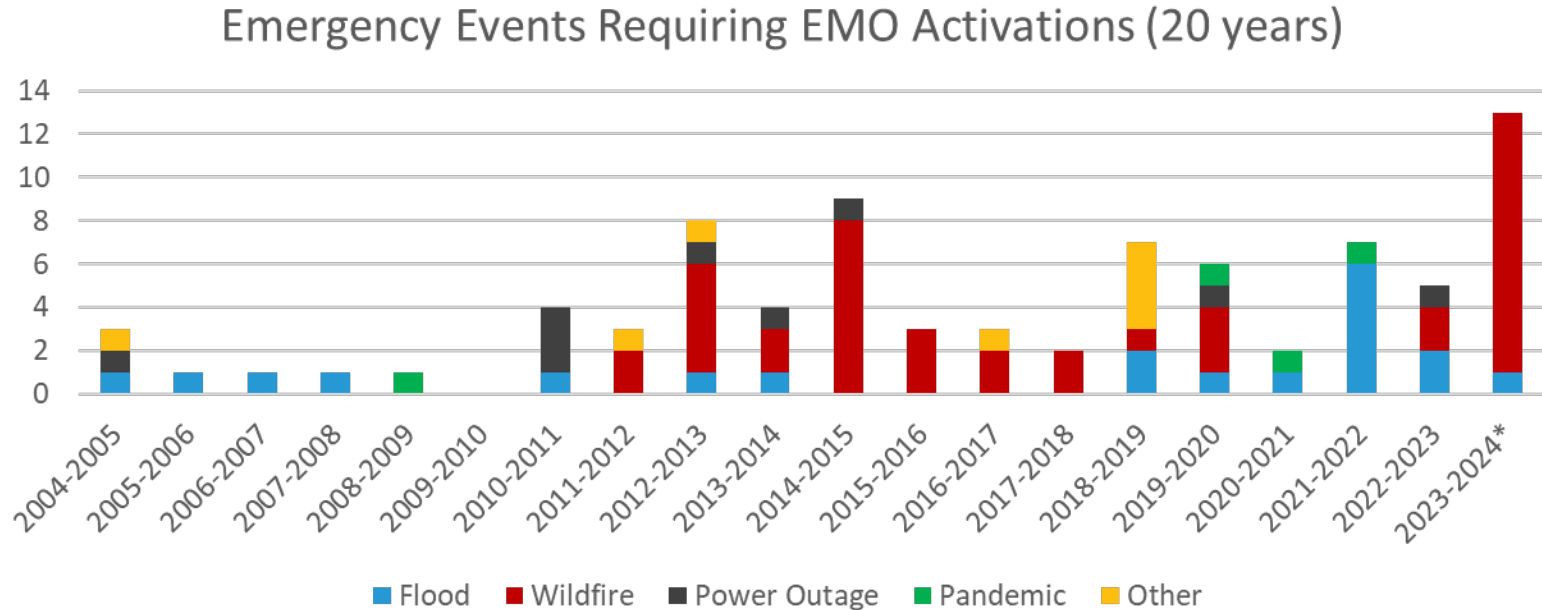


Exhausting capacity is key when requesting assistance.

Formal process to request assistance does not require an emergency declaration.

Why is Emergency Management Important?

- Events are increasing in frequency, complexity, and scale.



Legislative and Policy – Key Features

Four key pieces of territorial legislation and policy that guide emergency management:

- *Emergency Management Act*
- NWT Emergency Plan
- Disaster Assistance Policy – Cabinet Policy
- Disaster Assistance Funding Policy – Ministerial Policy

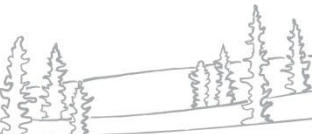
Also, federal programs:

- Disaster Assistance Financial Arrangements
- Emergency Management Assistance Program



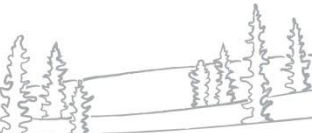
Emergency Management Act – Key Features

- Defines “emergency management”
- Establishes a system designed to prepare for, respond to and recover from civil emergencies in the NWT, to ensure the safety and security of residents
- Assigns responsibility to “local authorities” (community governments)
- Requires local authorities to:
 - Have a community emergency plan and update annually
 - Have a Local Emergency Management Organization (LEMO)



NWT Emergency Plan – Key Features

- 8 emergency response priorities that guide decision-making
- Outlines the emergency management structure (see next slide)
- Outlines EMO activation levels and what they mean
- Assigns roles and responsibilities
- All GNWT departments and agencies maintain their mandates
- Adopts Incident Command System



NWT Emergency Management Structure

Local Emergency Management Organizations (LEMOs)

- Led by community governments
- Membership determined by the community government – best practice is to include Indigenous governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses
- Community Emergency Plans

Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMOs)

- Chaired by MACA Regional Superintendents
- Membership from all regional GNWT departments and other partners
- Emergency Operations Centers in each Region
- NWT Emergency Plan

Territorial Emergency Management Organization (TEMO)

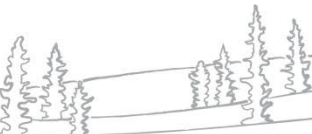
- Chaired by NWT EMO (MACA)
- Membership from all GNWT departments and other partners
- Emergency Operations Centre in Yellowknife
- NWT Emergency Plan



Emergency Management Organization

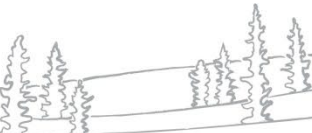
The EMO within MACA is made up of 10 staff – 5 in Yellowknife and 5 in regional offices.

- Assists community governments to improve their emergency management capacity:
 - Provides tools and templates including Community Emergency Plan template all hosted on a central EMO Portal for community governments;
 - Provides Community Emergency Planning and Tabletop Exercise Workshops to assist community governments with developing, updating and validating their emergency plans; and
 - Educates through the Emergency Management video series.
- Overall coordination of territorial emergency mitigation, planning, response, and recovery activities
 - Leads in administering the NWT Emergency Plan and response coordination
 - Provides support to community governments / LEMOs when assistance is requested
 - Administers the GNWT Disaster Assistance Policy when applied to a disaster event



Local Emergency Management Organization

- Established by the Local Authority (community government) through Bylaw
- Responsible to develop and implement emergency plans - and submit annual updates to GNWT
- Responsible for conducting mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery activities
- Vital in providing guidance and preparedness information to residents and in communications/support to them throughout an event
- Membership determined by the Local Authority (community government)
 - Typically includes community government staff, critical infrastructure providers, RCMP, Health Authority, Indigenous governments, and NGOs
 - Should include any organization who may have a role in emergency management or resources to contribute



Disaster Assistance Policy – Key Features

- Cabinet must approve application of DAP to a specific disaster event based on specific criteria:
 - Event and damage was widespread
 - Minister recommends the Policy be applied
 - Meets federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements eligibility
 - State of Emergency or State of Local Emergency
 - Local Authority conducted appropriate emergency operations
- Program of last resort – not a compensation or insurance program, assists with restoring to pre-disaster condition, provides for essential items only
- Eligibility must be established – availability of insurance is key
- Disaster assistance provided only if widespread disaster or evacuation based on risk actually occurs
- Ministerial policy sets out assistance levels and provides operational guidance



Federal Programs – Key Features

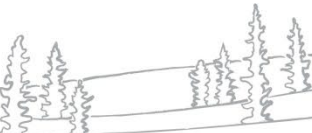
Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA)	Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP)
Applicable off reserve	Applicable on reserve (KFN; SRFN)
Reimbursement of eligible expenses calculated on a per capita sliding scale (typically no more than 90% reimbursement)	Up to 100% reimbursement of eligible expenses
Provides advances against future claim – one claim submitted on behalf of GNWT	No advances - ongoing invoicing on behalf of GNWT
MACA administers on behalf of GNWT	MACA administers on behalf of GNWT, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) or Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) may work directly with First Nations
MACA works with Public Safety Canada (PSC)	MACA works with ISC and CIRNAC

Myths and Misconceptions

- Everything is an emergency
- NWT EMO is responsible all the time
- GNWT is responsible for community governments / individuals
- Call the military and/or the Red Cross
- GNWT has a large budget for emergency preparedness and response
- Declaring a State of Local Emergency is tied to funding
- Other jurisdictions offer more support

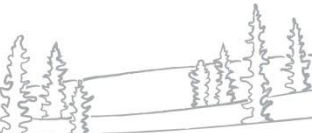
What does this mean for community councils?

- Local EMO membership
- Community Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Hazard Specific Plans (flood, wildfire, power outage)
- Essential Service Continuity Plan
- Evacuation and Hosting Plans
- Public Safety Communications Plan
- Resource Lists



Support for Community Governments

- Assists community governments to improve their emergency management capacity and when requested, provide support to emergency responses.
- Activities or tools available to assist community governments to improve emergency management capacity include:
 - Community emergency planning and tabletop exercise workshops to assist in developing or updating the community's emergency plan;
 - A Community Emergency Plan template – a guide to assist community governments in developing their emergency plans; and
 - A Community Emergency Management video series – to educate community emergency management officials on basic emergency management and the NWT emergency management system.
 - Continued testing of the NWT Public Alerting System, development of wildfire and flood alert templates in partnership with communities and use of the system to issue broadcast intrusive alerts.



City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

City and MACA are aligned on:

- Community Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
- Hazard Specific Plans (wildfire, power outage)
- Essential Service Continuity Plan
- Public Safety Communications Plan
- Resource Lists (Yellowknife Only)



City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

Program Objectives 2024 - City and MACA Collaboration

- Community Emergency Plan
 - Using MACA Template for revised plan;
- Training and Exercise Plan
 - Training from MACA to support the Incident Command System model;
 - Training from MACA on Emergency Operations Center;
 - Tabletop exercise workshops to assist in validating the community's emergency plan;
- Communications Plan
 - Enhancing City of Yellowknife's Public Safety website resources
 - Connecting to MACA and NWT Fire information



CITY OF YELLOWKNIFE

City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

2024 Recovery Objectives – Building Stronger

- After Action Assessment - KPMG independent review
 - Opportunities for public engagement
 - Review what worked well and what can be improved upon
 - Final report for July 2024
- Community Risk Mitigation
 - Vegetation/debris removal
 - Long term plan – natural infrastructure assets created (fire breaks)
- Financial impacts
 - Compensation winding up; seeking DFAA reimbursement



City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

Operational Objectives 2024

- Community Wildfire Protection Plan – risk assessment of wildland areas;
- Community Wildfire Pre-plan – operational guidelines for actions and mobilization of resources and equipment;
- Essential Service Contracts – lodging, fuel, food service, etc., for first responders and essential staff;
- Memoranda of Understanding – review and renew with each agency;
- Evacuation Framework- implementation requirements;
- Connection with Local partners ('Sit Rep' partners from 2023); and
- Internal preparations
 - Training and exercises for City staff
 - Updating Wildfire Smoke Procedures
 - Preparing City facilities to have 'better' air



City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

Recent Impacts to 2024 Objectives

- **Community Hosting**
 - Emergency Management system requires LEMO's to fully exhaust resources prior to asking for assistance, captured in memo from Minister of MACA;
 - HSSA has historically supported community hosting in Yellowknife which HSSA is identifying capacity issues with moving forward;
 - No City staff capacity to cover gap if HSSA decreases hosting support;
 - City has no internal capacity to research, engage, liaise, train, and resource for broader community support.



City of Yellowknife – Emergency Management

Recent Impacts to 2024 Goals

- **NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)**
 - Update completed sections of draft community plan with new 2024 HIRA info;
- **Evacuation Framework**
 - Evacuation Framework relies on community hosting support from HSSA;
 - City resources would be exhausted and would rely on the GNWT to facilitate movement of residents to identified reception communities.



Thank you

