

# City of Yellowknife Emergency Program Update

September 16, 2024



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# Presentation Objectives

- KPMG After-Action Assessment
- Planning Overview
  - Community Emergency Plan
  - Community Emergency Plan References
  - Plan Implementation
  - Supporting Documents
  - Evacuation Plan
  - Communications Approach
- Next Steps

# After-Action Assessment

## 3 Phases of the 2023 North Slave Complex

1. Mitigation & Preparedness: the events and actions leading up to the evacuation;
2. Response: the events and actions during the evacuation; and
3. Recovery: the events and actions after the evacuation (e.g., re-entry).

## Key Finding Themes

1. Cross-Agency Coordination;
2. Public Communications;
3. Considerations for Vulnerable Populations;
4. Emergency Operations Centre and Continuity Management; and
5. Evacuation Planning, Response, and Recovery.

# After-Action Assessment Recommendations

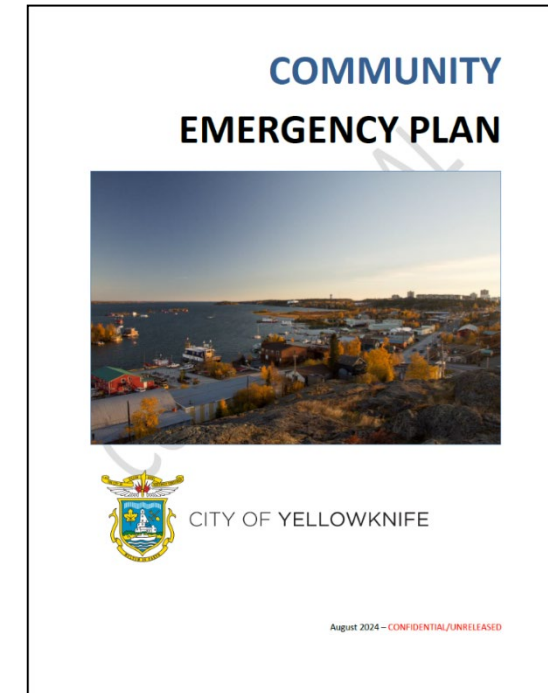
- 23/26 recommendations from the KPMG After-Action Assessment have already been started, many of them before the report was received.



- The work completed on the Community Emergency Plan, Evacuation Plan and Public Communications, as well as on-going coordination work with stakeholders and emergency response partners and the creation of function-specific documents, supports the achievement of the recommendations.

# Community Emergency Plan

- The provision of Emergency Preparedness is an obligatory function of municipal governance which must demonstrate a community's resolve to prepare for disastrous and catastrophic events.
- The Plan provides best practices for our local authority to follow during an emergency in the City. It guides the operations, organization, responsibilities, and coordination necessary to provide effective response and recovery from major emergencies or disasters as part of an emergency program.



# Community Risks and Hazards

- The City's location in the boreal forest creates two primary wildfire risks: wildfires approaching the City from outside the municipal boundary and wildland urban interface fires starting within the municipal boundary.
- Additional hazards potentially impacting the City include, but are not limited to: power failure, energy crisis, telecommunications failure, water contamination and supply issues, human disease and epidemics, industrial emergencies, transportation incidents (road, air, marine), severe weather, and winter storms.

Risk Assessment Matrix

Severity	Catastrophic					
	Major					
	Serious					
	Moderate					
	Low/Minor					
Likelihood	Rare	Not Likely	Possible	Highly Likely	Expected	

# Community Emergency Plan References

- Our Emergency Plan and support documents have benefited from the following framework, principles, and informal consultations throughout the development process:
  - ❑ *Emergency Management Act, S.N.W.T. 2018, c.17 (Emergency Management Act)*
  - ❑ *NWT Emergency Plan (April, 2024)*
  - ❑ MACA
  - ❑ KPMG, including the 2023 After-Action Assessment and additional exercise work
  - ❑ Justice Institute of British Columbia (JIBC)
  - ❑ National Fire Protection Association *NFPA 1600: Standard on Continuity, Emergency, and Crisis Management*
  - ❑ Canadian Standards Association *CSA Z1600 – Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs*
  - ❑ Public Safety Canada
  - ❑ Other industry and regional best practices and concepts



# Plan Implementation

## 1. MACA Review

- *Emergency Management Act* provides the City with powers relating to emergency management and requires the City to develop local emergency plans.
- Under the *Emergency Management Act* local authorities are required to “ensure that the Head of the Emergency Management Organization receives the most current version of the adopted local emergency plans”.
- MACA review of Community Emergency Plan ensures the plan agrees with the legislative components.

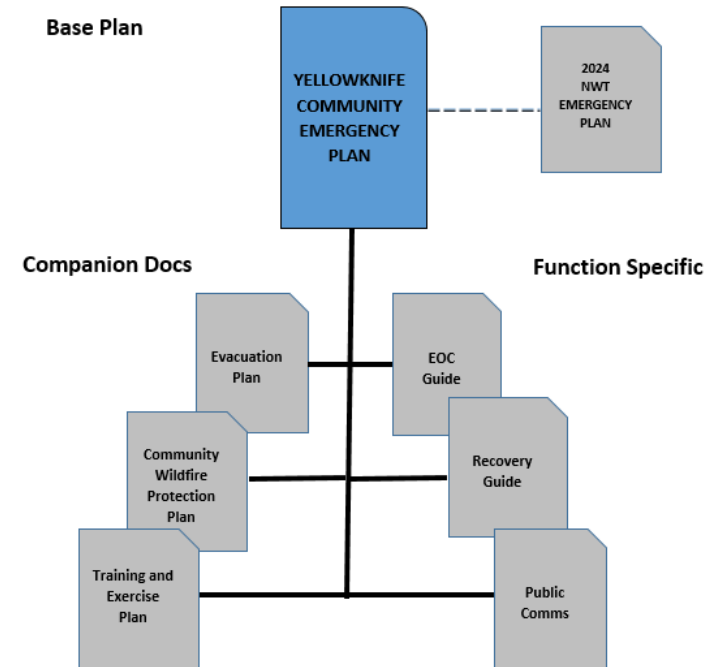
## 2. City of Yellowknife By-law 4996

- By-law 4996 establishes a Local Emergency Management Organization for the City of Yellowknife and appoints a “Local Coordinator.”
- The City Manager as the “Local Coordinator” develops, coordinates, and implements an Emergency Management Plan for the City.



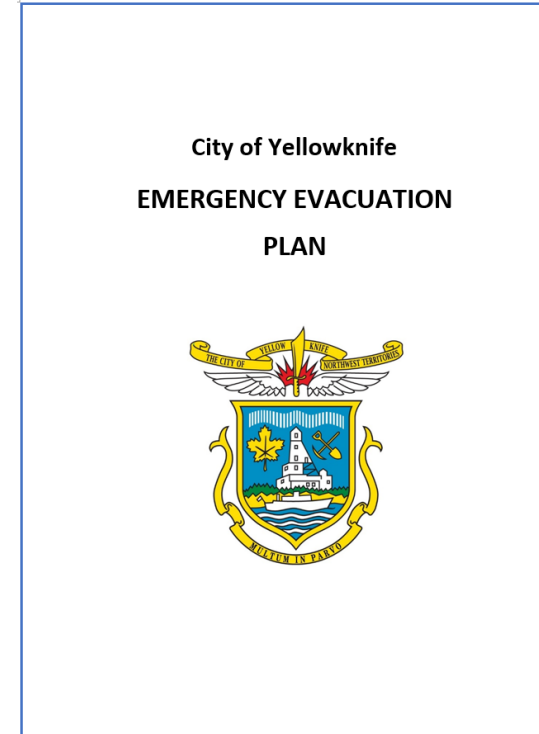
# Supporting Documents

- Community Emergency Plan
  - Broad framework document with supporting operational companion documents.
  - Additional detailed plans and standard operating procedures are developed underneath the overarching Community Emergency Plan.
  - This is the City's plan → how the City will operate in an emergency.



# Evacuation Plan

- Guides efforts to manage threats that may result in a partial or full evacuation of the City of Yellowknife.
- It serves as an essential tool for evacuations and is among a set of planning documentation intended to better manage and reduce the risk of evacuations.
- This plan sets out the structure and framework for managing partial or full evacuations of the City. Although there are many commonalities across evacuations and response efforts, each scenario will present unique considerations, resource needs, and operational tasks.
- Provides a resource for residents for coherence and consistency in the plans for how they are affected by evacuations.



# Internal Procedures and Guidelines

- Complementary supporting plans and procedures exist internally under the Community Emergency Plan framework.
- Additional documentation and best practices will continue to be developed as part of the continuous improvement of the emergency management program.

## Internal Crisis Communications Plan

- Provides procedures and guidelines on how to effectively and clearly communicate with the public, stakeholders, and media in a timely manner during an emergency situation or crisis event to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in the community.

## Internal Emergency Operations Guides

- Provides procedures and guidelines on how to conduct an emergency operational response within the City Emergency Operations Centre and outlines function-specific roles and responsibilities.

## Internal Hazard Specific Procedures and Plans

- Provides procedures and guidelines for preparing and responding to specific types of emergency situations.

# Public Communications Approach

- Key pillar of the community emergency plan and evacuation plan is providing clear and transparent information. No two emergencies are the same, and so no two responses can be the same. The incident response and corresponding public communication messaging in one situation will differ from a future one that is similar.
- The City is committed to sharing information and will only share information based on known facts. Communications will occur from the onset of an emergency and throughout, and until the emergency has been resolved.
- Procedures and guidelines on how to effectively and clearly communicate with the public, stakeholders, and media in a timely manner during an emergency situation or crisis event to ensure the safety and well-being of everyone in the community.



# Additional Emergency Management Items

- GNWT Environment and Climate Change (ECC)'s After-Action Assessment was released August 28, 2024.
- A larger GNWT After-Action Assessment process is currently underway and expected to be released later this year.
- Council can expect to see some areas for investment to implement the Community Emergency Plan and emergency management program in 2025.

# Next Steps

- Public/stakeholder education campaigns.
- Planning meetings on business continuity with community stakeholders.
- Further training on specific plan elements to reinforce and prepare participants on operational activities.
- Sector/department specific training.
- Exercises to validate the plan's objectives, demonstrate operational capability and promote preparedness.
- Continuous improvement through a cycle of planning, training, exercising, evaluating and revising.

# THANK YOU

## Questions?



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