

Part Two — Response Management

Concept of Response

An individual affected by an emergency is expected to have taken prudent pre-cautionary measures beforehand and must provide for their own initial response.

When an emergency is of the type or magnitude that exceeds an individual's capabilities, the Local Authority is the next level to respond. When the Local Authority's capacity to manage the response using community resources is exceeded, territorial assistance may be requested or offered.

The Minister may impose territorial control over response when an event impacts on a large area involving more than one community or region, or is beyond the legal capacity of Local Authorities. The Minister may also invoke territorial control by declaration of a State of Emergency.

Should territorial resources be exceeded, the GNWT may request assistance from the Government of Canada.

Response Structure

Generally, response to an emergency escalates through several levels of control. In principle, the organizational structure of government is retained and jurisdictional prerogatives continue as much as is possible.

Therefore, this Plan envisages four sets of conditions. Two conditions envisage local control with support provided as necessary. Two other conditions envisage territorial control wherein the Local Authorities continue to manage their own resources within the overall strategy of territorial management.

Annex F provides a Guide to conditions requiring escalation.

Level 1 - Local Control

Direction and control of emergency operations is the responsibility of the Local Authority, and Level 1 exists when:

- the emergency is expected to be of short duration,
- existing plans and resources are adequate, and
- the community impact is low to moderate.

A State of Local Emergency is not likely required under these conditions as a limited response under the community emergency plan is usually sufficient action.

The community informs the Regional Superintendent of the conditions, and Territorial departments or agencies may be in place for regulatory or monitoring requirements.

Level 2 - Local Control with Support

Direction and control of emergency operations continues as the responsibility of the Local Authority, but Level 2 exists when:

- the emergency is expected to be of longer duration,
- existing plans and resources may require support, and
- the community impact is moderate to high.

Any GNWT assistance will be in support of the Local Authority and in response to specific requests for assistance. Should conditions require, the Local Authority may declare a State of Local Emergency and will retain control of emergency operations.

The Regional Superintendent may designate an On-Site Advisor to proceed to the Local Authority's Emergency Operations Centre, or the emergency site, to provide advice and assistance.

Local Control will be vested in the Regional Su-

intendent when:

- an emergency occurs in an area outside the boundaries of any municipal corporation, or
- within a community not established as a municipal corporation, where no council is recognized under the *Indian Act* and no body is recognized by the Minister as representative of the community for the purposes of this Act pursuant to Sec.1 (c).

Level 2 - Territorial Control

The Local Authority will normally continue to coordinate the response of local agencies, but under the GNWT's overall management of the emergency.

The Regional Superintendent will provide strategic response management unless the support needs and organizational complexity dictate the TEOC assume overall control of operations.

When an emergency is a matter of territorial jurisdiction, or the combined resources of the Local Authority and the Region are insufficient to deal with the emergency, the GNWT may declare a State of Emergency for the area affected by the emergency.

Under a State of Emergency the Minister assumes overall control of the emergency and may exercise any and all powers reflected in the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* through the Emergency Measures Officer.

Agencies involved in implementation of the NWT Emergency Plan will be subject to the direction and control of the Emergency Measures Officer.

Under a Declaration of a State of Emergency, an Emergency Site Manager may be appointed by the TEOC to manage the actions of territorial, regional and local emergency response agencies. The Emergency Measures Officer may exercise his/her authority through this Plan or direct emergency operations through Regional Emergency Plans.

Level 3 - Major Emergencies

No single agency or government has the stand-alone capacity to manage a catastrophic event. The NWT Joint Support Plan for Major Emergencies involves the cooperative activities of federal, territorial and non-government agencies to support any lead agency of any government or the private sector when the event is likely to exceed their capacity.

A Joint Support Centre will normally be activated in Yellowknife. Representatives of federal, territorial and non-government agencies participate in sectoral support groups to meet the needs of the lead agency at this Centre.

The GNWT EMO will coordinate the provision of GNWT support to the Joint Support Centre, with officials recruited from territorial agencies.

Coordination

Local Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) The Local Authority may activate its Emergency Operations Centre and inform the Regional Superintendent of the incident. The EOC will coordinate local authority and integrated support activities of government and non-government agencies. Territorial departments on-site for regulatory purposes will ensure that the EOC is aware of their activities.

On Site Advisor The Regional Superintendent may assign an on-site advisor to support the Local Authority and assist in providing communication with territorial agencies and the Territorial EOC.

Regional EOC (REOC) The Regional Superintendent may activate a regional EOC when in support of or acting as a Local Authority in a Level I emergency. The REOC will coordinate territorial support to local authorities and provide communications and information to the local and territorial EOC's.

Territorial EOC (TEOC) The TEOC may be activated to support Level I emergencies and will function for Level II and III emergencies. The TEOC will coordinate overall territorial response, ensure communication with appropriate EOCs, provide regular information reports to the Minister, Emergency Measures Officer and participating agencies. It will coordinate the involvement of other departments and the TEOC response to emergent needs from the incident area.

Additional details on the TEOC arrangements are in Annex G.

Notification

Responsibility

The responsibility to notify authorities of an emergency rests with the community or agency responsible for managing the response.

Process

Where an emergency is within a community's jurisdiction, the Senior Administrative Officer (SAO) notifies the Superintendent for the applicable region of the emergency and provides details of the incident. Notification should be given immediately by the most effective means and should be followed up by written reports when circumstances permit.

If the Superintendent, or other designated MACA official, cannot be contacted then notification should be given directly to EMO via its **24/365** emergency number (**867-873-7554**).

The Superintendent advises EMO immediately of any emergency affecting the GNWT and/or a community or communities within the region. Information on the nature of the emergency is provided if no assistance is required, and the nature of the assistance required is detailed if headquarters assistance is necessary.

Notification can be provided by fax, telephone or e-mail during normal office hours, and by contacting the EMO **24/365** emergency telephone number (**867-873-7554**) after regular hours.

EMO ensures the Deputy Minister, the Minister (through the Minister's Executive Assistant), the Director of Communications and other appropriate response agencies and partners are kept advised, in a timely manner, on emergency conditions in the NWT.

Mutual Aid

When emergencies require the prompt access to resources of other jurisdictions to minimize property damage and personal injury in either the Northwest Territories or another jurisdiction, mutual aid arrangements may be activated and requests for, and the lending of resources, will be subject to the terms and conditions set out in Annex H.

Specific emergency conditions are provided for under special inter-jurisdictional arrangements such as the interprovincial/territorial agreement currently in place for forest fire operations.

Emergency Telecommunications

Guidelines for local, departmental and territorial emergency telecommunications resources and their provision are contained in Annex I.

State of Emergency

In the event of an emergency the Minister may make an order to declare a State of Emergency for any or all parts of the Northwest Territories.

The procedure is identified in Annex J.

