



Emergency Management in the NWT

Responsibilities and Powers

This document provides an overview of emergency management responsibilities and the powers available under the Northwest Territories (NWT) [Emergency Management Act](#) (the Act).

Although this document speaks only to responsibilities and powers described in the Act, it is important to recognize that emergency management and preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Individuals and families, businesses, communities, governments, the private sector, and non-government organizations must all do their part to ensure the safety and security of people, property, the environment, and economy. For more information on emergency management roles and responsibilities, see the NWT Emergency Plan.

The Act requires, and informs the development and implementation of, both Territorial and Community Emergency Plans and programs. The Act also outlines the roles, responsibilities and powers of entities involved.

For the purposes of the tables on the following pages, these entities are grouped as described below:

The **Minister** who has responsibility for administration of the Act is the Minister responsible for the Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

The **NWT Emergency Management Organization** consists of the Territorial Emergency Management Organization (TEMO) situated within the department of MACA Emergency Management Division and includes five Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMOs) situated in MACA regional offices and led by MACA regional superintendents.

Local Authorities includes the Local Emergency Management Organization (LEMO). LEMO membership should include Local Authority leadership and staff, Indigenous government representatives, critical service providers, and community partners.

Responsibilities

The following table outlines some of the emergency management responsibilities and authorities provided for in the *Act*. For more information, please refer to the NWT Emergency Plan and the [Emergency Management Act](#).

Description of Authority or Responsibility	Minister	Local Authority	NWT Emergency Management Organization
EMERGENCY PLANS			
Shall establish and maintain a Local Emergency Management Organization (LEMO) to develop and implement Community Emergency Plans		✓	
Shall prepare, or cause to be prepared, adopt and maintain Community Emergency Plans and programs		✓	
Shall develop and maintain Territorial Emergency Plans			✓
Shall review Community Emergency Plans annually		✓	
Shall review Territorial Emergency Plans annually			✓
May review and approve or require modifications to Territorial or Community Emergency Plans and programs	✓		
May review and recommend modifications of Territorial and Community Emergency Plans and Programs			✓
May enter into agreements and make payments for the provision of services in the development or implementation of emergency plans or programs.	✓	✓	
May provide advice and assistance to Local Authorities in the development, implementation and maintenance of emergency programs			✓
May coordinate and lead emergency management planning for the GNWT and public agencies			✓
May provide advice to the Minister in respect of emergency planning			✓
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT			
May conduct or authorize the conduct of emergency operations outside of the community		✓	✓
May conduct or authorize the conduct of emergency management activities inside the community		✓	✓
May authorize the temporary engagement of volunteers for carrying out emergency management operations and activities		✓	✓
Shall administer the Emergency Management Organization and exercise powers and carry out duties as required by the Act.			✓
Shall exercise any other powers and perform any other duties as directed by the Minister for the purposes of the Act.			✓

Powers

The table below describes some of the powers available during a declared State of Emergency (Minister) or a declared State of Local Emergency (local authority) and associated recovery periods, and who is authorized to exercise the powers. Nothing in the *Act* should be considered as forbidding the use of all or part of an emergency plan or program where there has not been a declaration of a state of emergency.

Description of Power	Minister Declared State of Emergency	Local Authority Declared State of Local Emergency
May make an order declaring a state of emergency relating to all or any part of the Northwest Territories	✓	
May, by resolution, declare a state of local emergency to exist in all or part of the community		✓
May put into effect emergency plans or programs	✓	✓
May authorize or require a local authority to put into effect emergency plans or programs for the community	✓	
May terminate or renew a declared state of emergency at any time before its expiry	✓	✓
May acquire or utilize real or personal property, whether private or public, considered necessary to prevent, combat or alleviate the effects of the emergency	✓	✓
May authorize or require a qualified person to render aid of the type that the person is qualified to provide	✓	✓
May control or prohibit travel to or from any area within the Northwest Territories	✓	
May provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies	✓	
May provide, maintain, and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of the Northwest Territories	✓	
May authorize the entry into any building or onto any land, without warrant, by a person implementing emergency plans or programs	✓	
May cause the demolition or removal of vegetation, structures, equipment, or vehicles, if it is necessary or appropriate to reach the scene of the emergency or to attempt to forestall its occurrence or to combat its progress	✓	✓
May procure, ration or fix prices for food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies, or the use of property, services, resources, or equipment within the Northwest Territories	✓	
May authorize the conscription of persons needed to respond to the emergency	✓	
May do any other act or thing to mitigate, respond to and recover from the effects of the emergency	✓	✓