



Northwest Territories Emergency Management System

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

Le Système de gestion des urgences des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Rapport annuel 2025

*Mandate commitment of the 19th Legislative Assembly
Engagement du mandat de la 19^e Assemblée législative*





Minister's Message

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report on the Northwest Territories (NWT) Emergency Management System.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) has committed to tabling an annual report on improvements to the emergency management system. This report is the first in meeting this commitment.

This report provides information on improvements to the Emergency Management System, including activities undertaken by the NWT Emergency Management Organization (EMO), for the period from April 2024 to December 2025.



The NWT faces a wide range of hazards and risks that could lead to an emergency or disaster. The top two hazards in the NWT are floods and wildfires, both of which are predicted to become more frequent and severe in the coming years due to climate change. This expectation has been reinforced in recent years with the major flood events in 2021 and 2022 and the more recent wildfire events in 2023, 2024 and 2025. Combined, these events have resulted in over \$363.8 million in losses.

Emergency management in the NWT is everyone's responsibility – individuals, local authorities (community governments), Indigenous governments, non-government organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and other emergency management partners. The NWT Emergency Plan, developed under the Emergency Management Act (EMA), outlines how emergency management partners work together to support communities and respond to widespread, large-scale, and complex emergencies. The NWT EMO coordinates GNWT emergency management programs and activities to promote and support the safety and security of all NWT residents and visitors.

The NWT EMO is committed to a continuous improvement cycle in which After Action Reviews (AARs) are conducted after each major emergency event, and recommendations are brought forward to improve the NWT emergency management system. Undertaking these AARs is a key component in enhancing local, regional, and territorial EMO capacity and resilience.

Emergency events cannot be entirely prevented, but we can all do our part to be prepared for them. Residents and communities can be ready for emergencies by ensuring they have the tools and information needed to understand potential risks and plan for them. Knowing the risks and preparing for them is key to getting through any emergency. The GNWT is here to assist and support communities and residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergency events.

The Honourable Vince McKay
Minister, Municipal and Community affairs





Message du ministre

Je suis heureux de présenter le rapport annuel sur le système de gestion des urgences des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

À titre de ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires (MAMC), je me suis engagé à déposer un rapport annuel sur les améliorations apportées au système de gestion des urgences. Le présent rapport est le premier à donner suite à cet engagement. Ce rapport contient des renseignements sur les améliorations apportées au système de gestion des urgences, y compris les activités menées par l'Organisation de gestion des urgences des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (OGU), pour la période allant d'avril 2024 à décembre 2025.



Les TNO sont exposés à un large éventail de risques pouvant entraîner des situations d'urgence ou des catastrophes. Les deux principaux risques aux TNO sont les inondations et les feux de forêt, lesquels devraient être plus fréquents et plus graves au cours des prochaines années en raison du changement climatique.

Cette tendance s'est confirmée ces dernières années, notamment avec les importantes inondations de 2021 et 2022, ainsi que les feux de forêt survenus plus récemment en 2023, 2024 et 2025. Ensemble, ces événements ont entraîné des pertes totalisant plus de 354,4 millions \$.

La gestion des urgences aux TNO est une responsabilité partagée par les particuliers, les autorités locales (administrations communautaires), les gouvernements autochtones, les organismes non gouvernementaux (ONG), le secteur privé, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) et les autres partenaires en gestion des urgences. Le Plan d'urgence des TNO, élaboré en vertu de la Loi sur la gestion des urgences (LGU), précise comment les partenaires en gestion des urgences collaborent pour soutenir les collectivités et intervenir lors de situations d'urgence généralisées, de grande envergure ou complexes. L'OGU des TNO coordonne les programmes et les activités de gestion des urgences du GTNO afin de protéger l'ensemble des résidents et des visiteurs des TNO.

L'OGU des TNO s'est engagée dans un cycle d'amélioration continue qui prévoit la réalisation d'analyses après incident (AAI) après chaque situation d'urgence majeure, et la formulation des recommandations pour améliorer le système de gestion des urgences des TNO. Il est essentiel de procéder à des AAI pour renforcer la capacité d'adaptation de l'OGU à l'échelle locale, régionale et territoriale.

Les situations d'urgence ne peuvent pas être entièrement évitées, mais nous pouvons tous faire notre part pour être prêts si elles surviennent. Les résidents et les collectivités peuvent le faire en s'assurant qu'ils possèdent les outils et les renseignements nécessaires pour bien comprendre les risques et planifier en conséquence. La connaissance des risques et la préparation sont essentielles pour faire face aux situations d'urgence. Le GTNO est là pour accompagner les collectivités et les résidents avant, pendant et après ce type d'événement.

**- L'honorable Vince McKay,
ministre des Affaires municipales et communautaires**



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Executive Summary

Northwest Territories Emergency Management System Annual Report 2025

Introduction

This Annual Report provides information about the NWT's emergency management system, the key risks facing communities, major response activities during the reporting period of April 2024 to December 2025, and the main areas where the system needs to continue to improve.

The NWT faces a range of hazards, with flooding and wildfires identified as the top risks. These events are expected to become more frequent and severe, increasing impacts on residents, infrastructure, and community operations. The NWT EMO uses a Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) to rank NWT hazards and prioritize preparedness, mitigation, training, and response planning.

Emergency management in the NWT is a shared responsibility across individuals and families, community governments, Indigenous governments, non-government organizations, the private sector, and the GNWT, guided by the Emergency Management Act and the NWT Emergency Plan.

The NWT emergency management system includes 33 Local Emergency Management Organizations (LEMOs) supported by five Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMOs), which are further supported by the Territorial Emergency Management Organization (TEMO). LEMOs lead community government emergency responses, REMOs work closely with and support LEMOs, and the TEMO supports REMOs, coordinates community requests for assistance, and manages territorial-level emergencies.

Preparedness Activities

Preparedness is a critical component of any emergency management program. It increases an organization's ability to respond effectively to hazard impacts and mitigate some long-term effects. To raise awareness of disaster risks and the actions individuals can take to prepare for emergencies, the NWT EMO conducts an annual public awareness campaign called "Be Ready". NWT EMO also provides direct support to community governments in developing and updating their Community Emergency Plans (CEPs) by offering general training, planning information, templates and tools, and by working with Regional Emergency Management Coordinators (REMC) to deliver emergency management workshops on developing a CEP and to provide tailored tabletop exercises (TTXs) to validate CEPs. Eight of these activities were conducted between April 2024 and December 2025 in direct support of community emergency planning and preparedness involving 12 different communities.

Emergency Events

During the reporting period, the NWT EMO supported responses to multiple wildfire-related events, including evacuations and sustained high-risk situations. These included evacuations in Fort Good Hope (June–July 2024), Whatì (August–September 2025), and Fort Providence (August–September 2025). The TEMO was activated for a total of 111 days in response to seven events during this period. REMOs (South Slave, Dehcho, North Slave and Sahtu) were activated for a total of 135 days.

Three communities (Fort Good Hope, Whati and Fort Providence) declared a State of Local Emergency (SOLE), seven operational public alerts were issued, and approximately 1,475 residents were evacuated from Fort Good Hope, Whati and Fort Providence. The NWT EMO responded to 23 community requests for support. In addition, the GNWT participated in four tests of the National Public Alerting System.

The NWT EMO uses the Incident Command System (ICS) response model for managing emergencies in the territory, and ICS training is required to maintain EMO staff skill levels and meet EMO surge capacity requirements. Between April 2024 and December 2025, 17 ICS training activities were conducted, and online ICS 100 was made available to EMO and GNWT surge capacity staff across the NWT. This resulted in 426 training opportunities for various levels of ICS, for current staff upgrading their existing skills and entry-level training for EMO and GNWT surge capacity staff.

Recovery after major events can take years and requires balancing immediate needs with longer-term efforts to reduce future vulnerability. In each of the past five years, the NWT has been affected by major events that have caused damage and required different levels of recovery activity. This includes the 2021 Floods with an estimated \$34.5 million in costs, 2022 Floods with an estimated \$107.8 million in costs, 2023 Wildfires with an estimated \$204.6 million in costs, 2024 Wildfires with an estimated \$7.4 million in costs, and 2025 Wildfires with an estimated \$9.5 million in costs. A significant amount of work remains to complete the recovery from some of these emergency events.

Moving Forward

The NWT EMO is committed to working with emergency management partners to ensure the emergency management system is updated and responsive to changing risk conditions through an AAR process. AARs have been conducted for each major event over the past five years, resulting in a number of recommendations to improve the emergency management system, legislation, plans and programs. This work includes key initiatives to:

- Work with Indigenous governments to develop a model to formally incorporate them into NWT emergency planning, preparedness and response.
- Develop an Emergency Social Support (ESS) Framework to ensure residents are supported in a coordinated way, including NGOs for stronger integration of ESS within the broader emergency management system.
- Review and update emergency management legislation and policies, including the Emergency Management Act, the NWT Emergency Plan, and the Disaster Assistance Policy.

Conclusion

Emergency management and preparedness are everyone's responsibility. Individuals and families, community governments, Indigenous governments, the private sector and NGOs must all do their part to ensure the safety and security of residents and visitors. Through effective coordination and collaboration, the GNWT supports the work of all levels of government and all partners to ensure the NWT is well prepared for any emergency that may come our way.

Sommaire

Rapport annuel 2025 sur le système de gestion des urgences des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Introduction

Le présent rapport annuel fournit de l'information sur le système de gestion des situations d'urgence des TNO, les principaux risques auxquels les collectivités sont confrontées, les principales activités d'intervention menées durant la période visée (avril 2024 à décembre 2025), ainsi que les principaux domaines dans lesquels le système doit continuer de s'améliorer.

Les TNO sont exposés à divers types de situations d'urgence, mais ce sont les inondations et les feux de forêt qui figurent parmi les risques les plus élevés. Ces incidents devraient devenir plus fréquents et plus graves, ce qui accentuera leurs répercussions sur les résidents, les infrastructures et le fonctionnement des collectivités. L'Organisation de gestion des urgences (OGU) des TNO utilise un système de détermination des dangers et évaluation des risques (DDER) pour classer les dangers aux TNO et établir les priorités en matière de préparation, d'atténuation, de formation et de planification des interventions.

La gestion des urgences aux TNO est une responsabilité partagée par les particuliers, les familles, les administrations communautaires, les gouvernements autochtones, les organismes non gouvernementaux, le secteur privé et le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO). Elle est encadrée par la Loi sur la gestion des urgences et le Plan d'urgence des TNO.

Le système de gestion des urgences des TNO comprend 33 organisations de gestion des urgences locales (OGUL), appuyées par cinq organisations de gestion des urgences régionales (OGUR), elles-mêmes appuyées par l'Organisation de gestion des urgences territoriale (OGUT, également appelée OGU des TNO). Les OGUL dirigent les interventions d'urgence des administrations communautaires. Les OGUR collaborent étroitement avec les OGUL, et l'OGUT appuie les OGUR, coordonne les demandes d'aide des collectivités et gère les urgences à l'échelle territoriale.

Activités de préparation

La préparation est une composante essentielle de tout programme de gestion des urgences. Elle renforce la capacité d'une organisation à intervenir efficacement lors de catastrophes et à atténuer certaines répercussions à long terme. Pour sensibiliser le public aux risques de catastrophes naturelles et aux mesures que les personnes peuvent prendre pour se préparer aux situations d'urgence, l'OGU des TNO (OGU) mène chaque année une campagne de sensibilisation du public intitulée « Soyez prêt ». L'OGU des TNO offre également un soutien direct aux administrations communautaires pour l'élaboration et la mise à jour de leurs plans d'urgence communautaires (PUC) en offrant des formations générales, de l'information sur la planification, des modèles et des outils ainsi qu'en collaborant avec les coordonnateurs régionaux de la gestion des urgences pour organiser des ateliers sur l'élaboration des PUC et des simulations d'exercice sur maquette afin de valider ces plans. D'avril 2024 à décembre 2025, huit de ces activités ont été menées afin de soutenir directement la planification et la préparation communautaires en matière d'urgences, en collaboration avec 12 collectivités.

Situations d'urgence

Au cours de la période visée, l'OGU des TNO a appuyé plusieurs interventions liées à des feux de forêt, notamment des évacuations et des situations à risque élevé prolongées. Ces interventions comprenaient notamment des évacuations à Fort Good Hope (juin et juillet 2024), à Whatì (août et septembre 2025) et à Fort Providence (août et septembre 2025). L'OGUT a été mobilisée pendant un total de 111 jours en réponse à sept événements au cours de cette période. Les OGUR du Slave Sud, du Dehcho, du Slave Nord et du Sahtu ont quant à elles été mobilisées pendant un total de 135 jours.

Trois collectivités (Fort Good Hope, Whatì et Fort Providence) ont déclaré un état d'urgence local (EUL), sept alertes publiques opérationnelles ont été émises et environ 1 475 résidents ont été évacués de Fort Good Hope, de Whatì et de Fort Providence. L'OGU des TNO a répondu à 23 demandes d'aide provenant des collectivités. De plus, le GTNO a participé à quatre essais du Système national d'alertes au public.

L'OGU des TNO utilise le Système de commandement des interventions (SCI) comme modèle d'intervention pour la gestion des urgences aux TNO. La formation au SCI est essentielle pour maintenir les compétences du personnel des OGU et répondre aux exigences liées à la capacité de mobilisation. D'avril 2024 à décembre 2025, 17 activités de formation sur le SCI ont été offertes, et la formation en ligne SCI 100 a été mise à la disposition du personnel des OGU et du GTNO appelé à travailler durant les périodes de mobilisation, partout aux TNO. Ces activités ont permis de proposer 426 possibilités de formation sur les différents niveaux du SCI, tant pour le perfectionnement des compétences du personnel en poste que pour la formation de base du personnel des OGU et du personnel du GTNO mobilisé en cas de besoin.

Le rétablissement à la suite d'événements majeurs peut s'échelonner sur plusieurs années et exige de trouver un équilibre entre les besoins immédiats et les efforts à plus long terme visant à réduire la vulnérabilité des collectivités. Au cours des cinq dernières années, les TNO ont été touchés tous les ans par des événements majeurs ayant causé des dommages et nécessité divers niveaux d'activités de rétablissement. Il s'agit notamment des inondations de 2021, dont les coûts sont estimés à 34,5 millions de dollars, des inondations de 2022 (107,8 millions de dollars), des feux de forêt de 2023 (204,6 millions de dollars), des feux de forêt de 2024 (7,4 millions de dollars) et des feux de forêt de 2025 (9,5 millions de dollars). Un important travail de rétablissement demeure nécessaire pour certaines de ces situations d'urgence.

Prochaines étapes

L'OGU des TNO s'engage à travailler avec ses partenaires de gestion des urgences afin que le système de gestion des urgences demeure à jour et réactif face à l'évolution des risques, grâce à un processus d'analyse après incident (AAI). Des AAI ont été réalisées pour chacune des situations d'urgence majeures survenues au cours des cinq dernières années, ce qui a mené à plusieurs recommandations visant à améliorer le système de gestion des urgences, la législation, les plans et les programmes. Ces travaux comprennent des initiatives clés visant à :

- travailler avec les gouvernements autochtones à l'élaboration d'un modèle permettant de les intégrer officiellement aux processus de planification des situations d'urgence et de préparation à celles-ci et aux interventions d'urgence aux TNO;
- élaborer un cadre de soutien social en situation d'urgence (SSSU) afin d'assurer un soutien coordonné à la population, notamment par une meilleure intégration des organisations non gouvernementales (ONG) au sein du système global de gestion des urgences;
- mettre à jour la législation et les politiques de gestion des urgences, notamment la Loi sur la gestion des urgences, le Plan d'urgence des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et la Politique sur l'aide en cas de sinistre.

Conclusion

La préparation aux situations d'urgence est l'affaire de tous. Les particuliers et les familles, les administrations communautaires, les gouvernements autochtones, le secteur privé et les organisations non gouvernementales doivent tous contribuer à assurer la sécurité de la population et des touristes. Grâce à une coordination et à une collaboration efficaces, le GTNO appuie le travail de tous les ordres de gouvernement et de l'ensemble des partenaires afin que les TNO soient bien préparés aux situations d'urgence.

Introduction

Background

The NWT contains a diverse landscape that includes rugged mountain ranges, extensive bodies of water and numerous waterways, remote barren lands and a variable climate which can present a wide range of hazards. Like most areas of Canada, the NWT has experienced natural, technological and human-caused hazards in the past and will continue to do so in the future.

Wildfires and floods are of particular concern to many communities as they are identified as the two highest risks in the territory. Other threats may include critical infrastructure failure (such as the closure of major highways due to floods or fires), severe weather occurrences, and transportation incidents. Emergencies related to these events can occur at any time, with or without warning.

The NWT has had a long history of emergency events impacting residents and communities, and these experiences helped shape the NWT emergency management system. This includes the following major events:

- May 2006 Aklavik Flooding
- June 2012 Nahanni Butte flooding
- Summer 2014 Wildfires (multiple communities)
- March 2020 – March 2022 Covid-19 Pandemic (all of NWT)
- May 2021 Spring Breakup flooding (multiple communities)
- May 2022 Hay River and Kát’odeeche First Nation flooding
- Summer 2023 wildfires (multiple communities)
- 2024 Fort Good Hope wildfire
- 2025 Fort Providence and Whatì wildfires

A snapshot of emergency events in the NWT over the past 20 years is provided below.

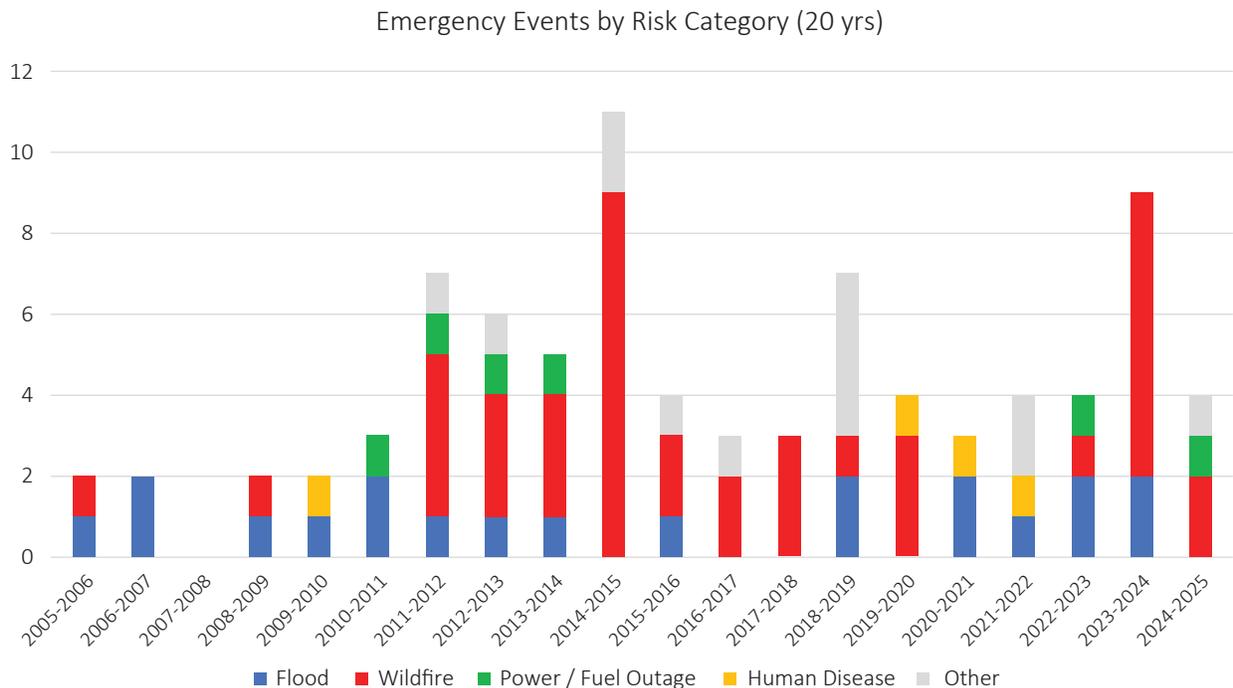


FIGURE 1: NWT EMERGENCY EVENTS - 20 YEARS

NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment

Governments have limited resources, and planning for every possible hazard is not a realistic method for emergency management. However, an informed ranking of hazards provides a cost-effective approach to risk mitigation, preparedness, emergency planning and response. To assess risk in the NWT, the NWT EMO has conducted and maintains a Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA) that assesses the likelihood and consequences of the top 20 hazards in the territory. The HIRA is a critical part of the NWT emergency management system and is re-evaluated and updated as required.

HIRA identifies hazards, risk levels, impacts, strategies, climate change indicators, and history, and is used to inform preparedness programs, mitigation strategies, emergency response plans, exercises, training and awareness programs. It also serves as a historical reference for emergency events in the territories.

NWT Emergency Management System

In Canada, emergency management is carried out in a responsible manner at all levels of society, starting from the individual (and families) to community governments, the province/territory, and the federal government. The NWT system builds on that approach by including a regional component to better serve community emergency management requirements.

NWT Hazard Summary	
Extreme	
1.	Flood (Ice Jam / Freshet)
High	
2.	Wildfire / Interface Fire
Medium	
3.	Critical Services - Power / Fuel Interruption
4.	Transportation Incident-Road / Ice Road Closure
5.	Human Disease (Pandemic / Epidemic)
6.	Severe Weather - Extreme cold
7.	Hazardous Materials - Spill
8.	Severe Weather - Snowstorm / Windstorm
9.	Structural Fire
10.	Earth Movement - Erosion
11.	Transportation Incident - Aircraft Incident
12.	Snow Load Hazard
Low	
13.	Earth Movement - Permafrost Degradation
14.	Critical Services - Water Services Interruption
15.	Hazardous Materials - Explosion
16.	Public Safety - Cyber Security
17.	Animal Disease
18.	Public Safety - Social Action
Negligible	
19.	Earth Movement - Earthquake
20.	Space Debris

FIGURE 2: NWT RANKED HAZARDS - 2023 HIRA

Responsibility for dealing with emergencies progresses upward from the individual to the community level, then on to the provincial/territorial and federal levels as required. The EMA outlines the authorities, responsibilities and structure for the NWT emergency management system.

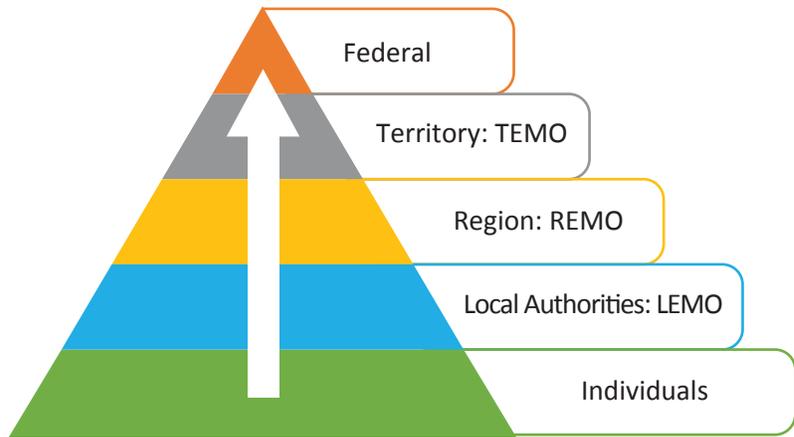


FIGURE 3: LEVELS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

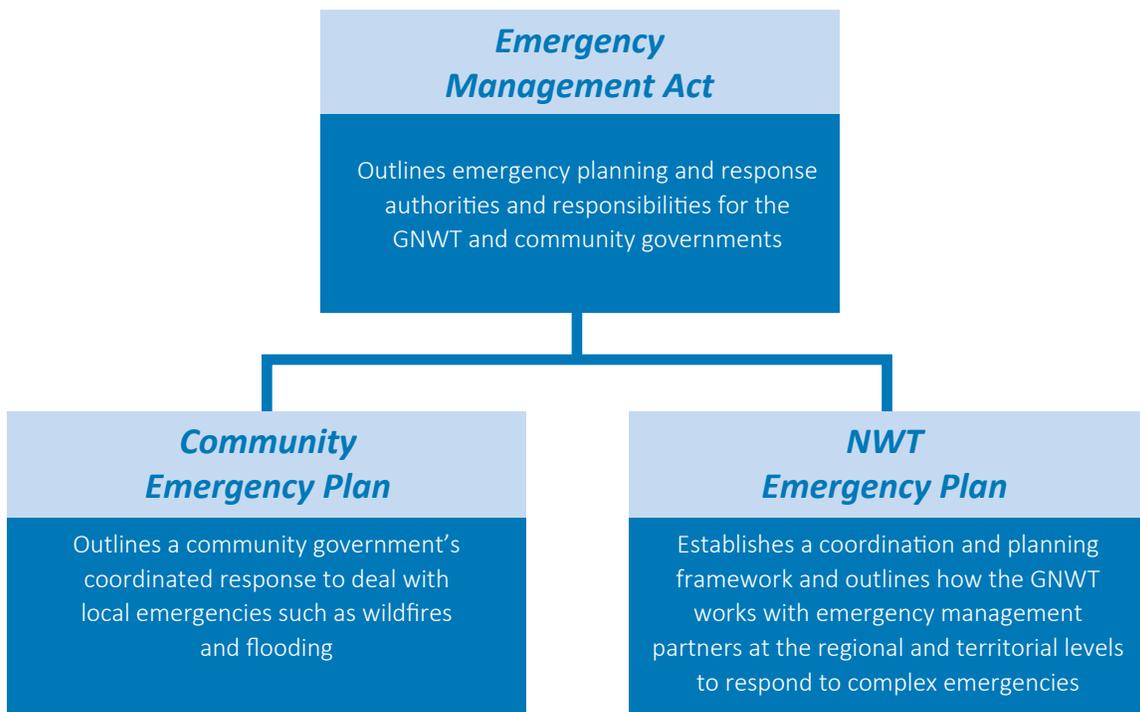


FIGURE 4: RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE EMA, COMMUNITY EMERGENCY PLANS AND THE NWT EMERGENCY PLAN

The NWT Emergency Plan, issued under the authority of the EMA, provides the structure of the NWT emergency management system, assigns roles and responsibilities to emergency management partners, provides a framework for GNWT Departments, Local Authorities (community governments), NGOs and other key partners in preparing for and responding to emergencies, and outlines procedures for the coordination of responses to territorial emergencies and in supporting Local Authorities during emergencies.

During an emergency event LEMOs lead the community government’s response, REMOs work closely with and support LEMOs, and the TEMO supports REMOs and coordinates community requests for assistance.

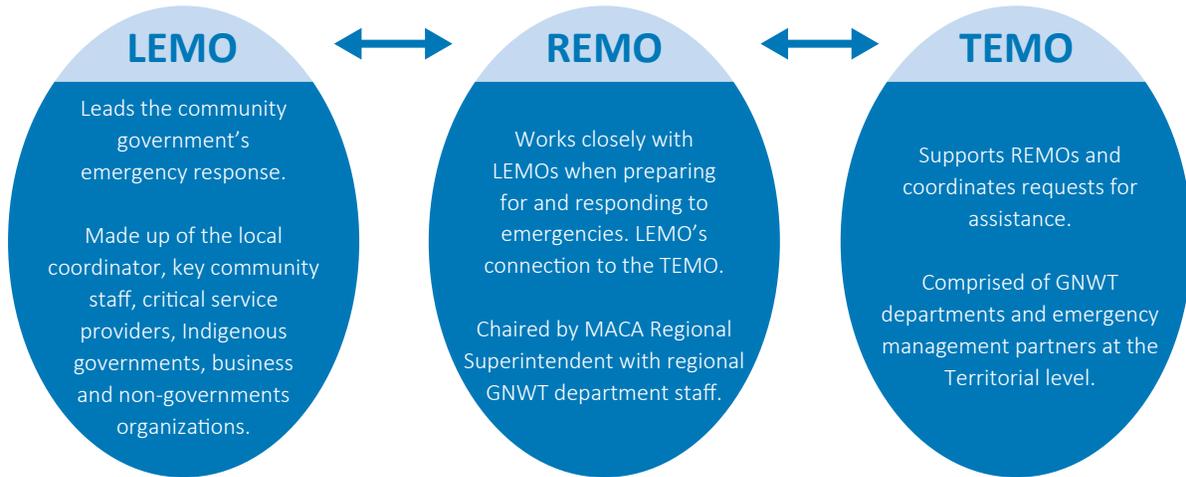


FIGURE 5: NWT EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATIONS

NWT Emergency Management Structure

The NWT emergency management structure consists of 33 LEMOs, supported by five REMOs, which in turn are supported by the TEMO.

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 Centres 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



FIGURE 6: NWT ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS (REMOs)

NWT Emergency Management Organization

Over the past few years, the NWT EMO has increased its capacity and capabilities through a number of initiatives including:

- REMC positions were established in 2023 and fully staffed in all five regions in 2024, with a focus on supporting community government preparedness and response.
- A protocol for communicating with Indigenous governments during major emergency response situations was developed in 2024. This protocol was used during the 2024 and 2025 high-risk seasons and is now part of the Standard Operating Procedures used during emergency events.
- A surge capacity protocol was implemented in 2024 where GNWT staff are trained in ICS and become part of a pool available to support EMO and GNWT emergency response requirements and activities.
- The NWT Emergency Plan was updated in April 2024 to clarify roles and responsibilities, underscore the need for hosting and evacuation plans, and provide better clarity and changes to reimbursable expenses related to emergency events.
- MACA added a training coordinator position to EMO in 2025 to implement a 4-year Incident Command System (ICS) training plan in support of EMO staff sustainment and to meet surge staff training requirements.
- In 2025, MACA established working groups with Indigenous governments through the NWT Council of Leaders (NWTCOL), and with local governments through the Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) and Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT), to review and consider potential amendments to the EMA.

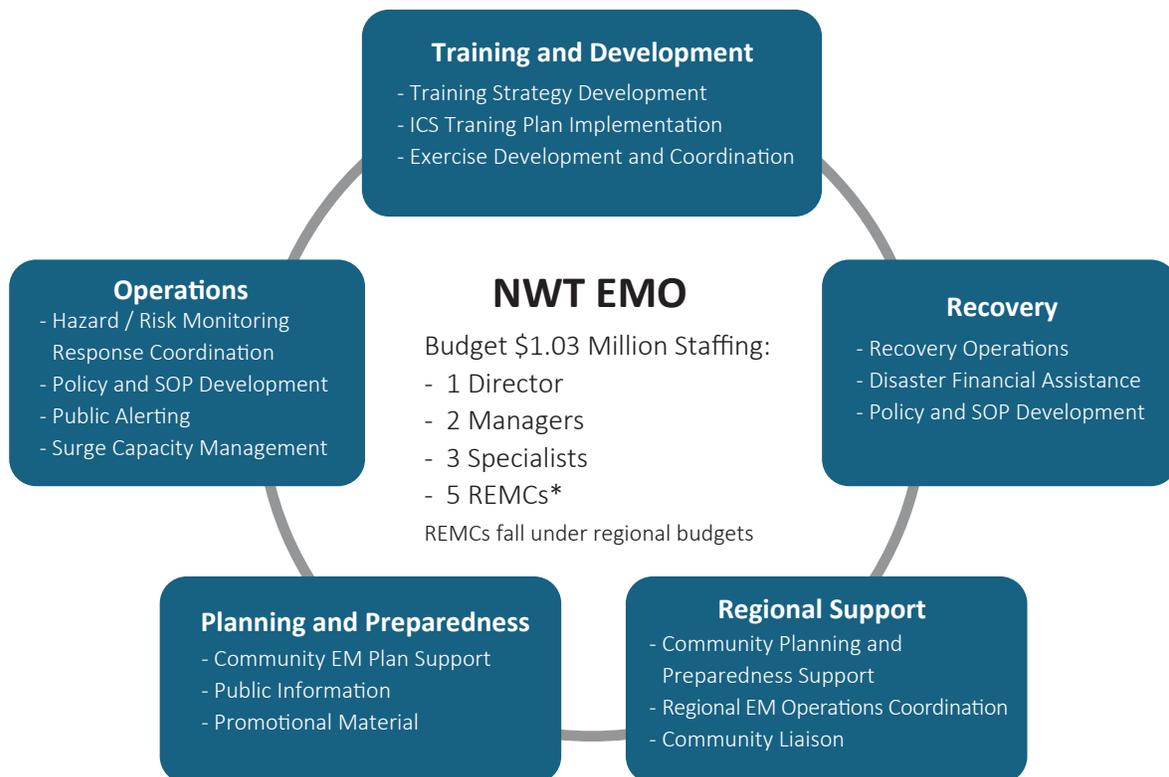


FIGURE 7: NWT EMO STRUCTURE

Preparedness Activities

Emergency preparedness is everyone’s responsibility. Preparedness increases the ability to respond effectively to hazard impacts and mitigate some long-term effects. It involves planning, training and education, resource management, and conducting exercises to validate emergency plans. It builds better coordination and cooperation between agencies and key partners. The GNWT works to improve the preparedness of NWT residents and communities through public information and awareness, education, and support for community emergency preparedness and planning.

Public Communication and Education

To raise awareness of disaster risks and the actions individuals can take to prepare for emergencies, the NWT EMO conducts an annual public awareness campaign called “Be Ready”. The goal of this territorial campaign includes:

- Promoting a culture of readiness where individuals and families take proactive steps to prepare;
- Empowering residents with knowledge and tools to reduce personal and community risk;
- Supporting self-sufficiency during the first 72 hours of an emergency, reducing reliance on emergency services; and
- Addressing recommendations related to public communications identified in AARs.



FIGURE 8: PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Direct Emergency Planning and Preparedness Support to Communities

The EMA requires community governments to have an emergency coordinator, a LEMO, and a CEP that is updated and a copy of which is provided to the Head of EMO in MACA annually. MACA provides assistance and support to community governments, as the lead for emergency preparedness and response, in meeting these obligations.

NWT EMO provides direct support to community governments in developing and updating their CEPs by offering general training, planning information, templates and tools, and by working with REMCs to deliver emergency management workshops on developing a CEP and offering tailored TTXs to validate CEPs.

Community governments are responsible for communicating information about their CEPs with their residents. The table below outlines the status of all CEPs as of December 2025.

Table 1.1: CEP status of communities in the Beaufort Delta Region

Beaufort Delta Region			
Community	Status of CEP	CEP Workshop	Tabletop Exercise Workshop
Aklavik	A flood plan was received in 2025, and MACA provided a draft CEP to the community government in 2024	April 2024	
Fort McPherson	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2018	February 2018	
Inuvik	Received CEP in 2019		Hosting TTX 2022
Paulatuk	MACA provided a draft CEP to the community government in 2025		
Sachs Harbour	Received CEP in 2014	October 2014	
Tsiigehtchic	MACA provided a draft CEP to the community government in 2025	March 2024	
Tuktoyaktuk	MACA provided a draft CEP to the community government in 2024	December 2024	Airport Exercise 2022 and MACA TTX 2023
Ulukhaktok	Received CEP in 2020	January 2020	September 2023

Table 1.2: CEP status of communities in the Sahtu Region

Sahtu Region			
Community	Status of CEP	CEP Workshop	Tabletop Exercise Workshop
Colville Lake	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2018	November 2018	
Déline	MACA sent revisions back to the community government for their 2025 draft CEP	November 2022	July 2023
Fort Good Hope	MACA sent revisions back to the community government for their 2025 draft CEP		Wildfire Event 2024
Norman Wells	Received CEP in 2020	October 2015	Wildfire Event 2024
Tulita	MACA sent revisions back to the community government for their 2025 draft CEP	March 2023 - Virtual	Wildfire TTX April 2025 Self Evacuation in 2023

Table 1.3: CEP status of communities in the North Slave Region

North Slave Region			
Community	Status of CEP	CEP Workshop	Tabletop Exercise Workshop
Łutselk'e	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2024	February 2024	
Behchoko	MACA sent revisions back to the community government for their 2024 draft CEP	February 2024	April 2017, COVID 2022 Response TTX 2025 and January 2025 Tliche TTX
Dettah	Received CEP in 2020	April 2013	October 2023
Gamètì	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2024	March 2024	January 2025 Tliche TTX
Wekweètì	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2024	January 2024	January 2025 Tliche TTX
Whatì	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2024	April 2024	January 2025 Tliche TTX
Yellowknife	Received CEP in 2025, missing referenced appendices	April 2024 EOC Training: EOC Essentials April 2025 Planned: EM Workshop May 2025	Hosting exercise, May 2023 Exercise Hosted Spring 2025

Table 1.4: CEP status of communities in the Dehcho Region

Dehcho Region			
Community	Status of CEP	CEP Workshop	Tabletop Exercise Workshop
Fort Liard	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2024	March 2024	
Fort Simpson	MACA sent revisions back to the community government for their 2025 draft CEP	February 2024	July 2023
Jean Marie River	Received CEP in 2025		April 2023
Nahanni Butte	Received CEP in 2024	March 2024	February 2023
Sambaa K'e	Received CEP in 2008	March 2025	
Wrigley	MACA provided a draft CEP to the Community government in 2019	February 2019	

Table 1.5: CEP status of communities in the South Slave Region

South Slave Region			
Community	Status of CEP	CEP Workshop	Tabletop Exercise Workshop
Enterprise	Received CEP in 2023	February 2023	November 2022
Fort Providence	Received CEP in 2025	February 2024	April 2025
Fort Resolution	Received CEP in 2024	April 2024	
Fort Smith	Received CEP in 2025	June 2014	October 2024
Hay River	Received CEP in 2025		Community leads a Tabletop Exercise annually and MACA participates.
Kátł'odeeche First Nation	Received CEP in 2024	January 2025	April 2025 (Annually)
Kakisa	Received draft CEP in 2017	February 2015	

Community Emergency Preparedness Resources

The NWT EMO provides resources to community governments to support community emergency preparedness and planning. These resources are reviewed annually and new resources are added to provide community governments with accurate tools that address challenges as they are identified.

Table 2: NWT EMO resources available to communities

Area of Support	Resource Description	Purpose
General Community Emergency Management Info	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood readiness video Declaring a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) info sheet Community Bylaw template Info resources on Rangers, People with Disabilities and Emergency Management Strategy for Canada 	To improve understanding of emergency management in general
Community Emergency Plan template	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes appendices for contact information, HIRA information, action plans, resource inventories, SOLE template, evacuation and hosting plans, evacuation alerts, resources and supports, and a Request for Assistance form 	To support community emergency plan development
Be Ready Campaign information for communities and to share with residents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be Ready for floods information Evacuation Preparedness Checklist Community flood preparedness checklist Evacuee Registration form Infosheet on Evacuations and Hosting Infosheet on requesting public alerts during emergencies Tabletop exercise presentation on flooding 	To share awareness of flood risk and evacuation requirements
Evacuation and Hosting Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Infosheet on Evacuation Centre Costs Template for an Evacuation Plan Template for a Hosting Plan Evacuation Preparedness Checklist 	Specific support for evacuations and hosting activities
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Planning Guide for re-entry after an evacuation Infosheet on evacuee expectations and code of conduct Evacuee registration form Emergency Messaging Guide for Community Governments 	Support for community communications activities during emergencies
After Action Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Template for an AAR Final Report Guide on conducting an AAR Workshop 	Support for the Community AAR process

In cooperation with the LGANT, the NWT EMO makes available the following courses to community government staff:

Table 3: NWT EMO courses available to community government staff

Resource	Description	Purpose
Basic Emergency Management Training	Course made available through Local Government Administrators of the NWT	To provide general emergency management awareness to community government staff
Incident Command System (ICS) -100 Course	Prerequisite for all other ICS training	To provide the basis for further ICS training

Summary of April 2024 to December 2025 Emergency Planning and Preparedness Support

Formal offers of support to assist with CEPs are sent by the Minister to all community governments in the NWT. In addition, REMCs undertake regular outreach and follow-up to assist and support community emergency preparedness and planning.

As indicated in the table below, eight activities were conducted between April 2024 and December 2025 in direct support of community emergency planning and preparedness involving 12 different communities.

Table 4: Emergency planning and preparedness activities, April 2024 - December 2025

No.	Activity	Date	Community	Goal
1.	CEP Workshop	Apr 2024	Aklavik	Update CEP
2.	CEP Workshop	Apr 2024	Whatì	Update CEP
3.	CEP Workshop	Apr 2024	Fort Resolution	Update CEP
4.	TTX Workshop	Oct 2024	Kát'odeeche First Nation	Validation of CEP
5.	EOC Essentials training/TTX	Nov 2024	Fort Smith	Validation of CEP and training
6.	CEP Workshop	Dec 2024	Tuktoyaktuk	Update CEP
	Regional TTX	Jan 2025	Behchokq/Gamtì/ Wekweètì/Whatì	Validation of CEPs and regional support
7.	TTX Workshop	Apr 2025	Fort Providence	Validation of CEP
8.	EMO 101 Workshop	Jul 2025	Fort Providence	Education

Emergency Events: April 2024 - December 2025

2024 Wildfires

Fort Liard

On May 10, 2024, the wildfire identified as FS002-24 caused an evacuation notice to be issued to residents of Fort Liard. The wildfire risk was complicated by damage to fibre optic lines, causing communications outages across southern NWT. On May 12, repairs were made to the communications line, and services gradually returned. The wildfire threat also decreased and, on May 14, returned to normal. There was no damage to community structures from this wildfire.

Fort Good Hope

On June 15, 2024, the wildfire identified as VQ001-24 caused an evacuation order to be issued for residents of Fort Good Hope. This event resulted in the evacuation of approximately 380 residents who were hosted in Norman Wells and Déline. Some evacuees also stayed at a fish camp outside Fort Good Hope. The evacuation order was lifted on July 6 and residents began returning to the community. There were no damages to community structures as a result of this wildfire.

2025 Wildfires

Whatì

On August 25, 2025, the wildfire identified as ZF048-25 caused an evacuation notice to be issued to residents of Whatì. This was upgraded to an evacuation alert on August 27 and an evacuation order on August 29, 2025. All 613 residents, excluding emergency personnel, evacuated and were hosted in Behchokq and Yellowknife. The evacuation order was fully lifted on September 6, 2025, allowing residents to return to the community. There were no damages to structures in Whatì as a result of this wildfire.

Fort Providence

On August 31, 2025, an evacuation order was issued for Fort Providence. Approximately 459 residents were relocated to Hay River while emergency personnel remained in the community. Some individuals were stranded in Yellowknife due to a hand games tournament and were accommodated at the Yellowknife evacuation centre. The evacuation order was downgraded to an evacuation notice on September 11, and Fort Providence residents were able to return to the community. There was no damage to structures in Fort Providence as a result of this wildfire.

Jean Marie River

On July 7, 2025, the wildfire identified as FS014-25 caused an evacuation alert to be issued for residents of Jean Marie River. The community remained at high risk of this wildfire until September 15. The initial evacuation alert was downgraded to a notice on July 12, then back to an evacuation alert on July 27, downgraded to a notice on August 6, reissued as an evacuation alert on September 2, and finally downgraded to a notice on September 15. Structural protection units were staged in the community for the duration of the risk period. No evacuation or damage to the community resulted from this wildfire.

Emergency Response Operations

EMO Operational Statistics: April 2024 – December 2025

The TEMO was activated for a total of 111 days in response to seven events during this period. REMOs (South Slave, Dehcho, North Slave and Sahtu) were activated for a total of 135 days. Three communities (Fort Good Hope, Whatì and Fort Providence) declared a SOLE, seven operational public alerts were issued, and approximately 1,475 residents were evacuated from Fort Good Hope, Whatì and Fort Providence. The NWT EMO responded to 23 community requests for support. In addition, the NWT participated in four tests of the National Public Alerting System.

Table 5: EMO activations between April 2024 and December 2025

Event	Date	Territorial EMO Days Activated	Regional EMO Days Activated	Public Alerts	SOLE Declared	Number of Evacuees	Community Requests for Support
National Public Alert Test	8 May 2024	0	0	Test 1	0	0	0
Fort Liard Wildfire and NWT Comms Outage	10-14 May 2024	4	Dehcho 4 South Slave 4	0	0	0	4
Fort Good Hope Wildfire	15 Jun - 6 Jul 2024	22	Sahtu 22	Evac order 1	1	381	10
National Public Alert Test	20 Nov 2024	0	0	Test 1	0	0	0
National Public Alert Test	7 May 2025	0	0	Test 1	0	0	0
Fort Smith Wildfire	10-11 May 2025	2	South Slave 2	Evac Alert 1	0	0	0
Jean Marie River Wildfire	7 Jul - 22 Aug 2025	47	Dehcho 47	0	0	0	1
Whatì Wildfire	25 Aug - 7 Sep 2025	*14	*North Slave 14	Evac Alert 1 Evac Order 1	1	459	5
Fort Providence Wildfire	30 Aug - 18 Sep 2025	*20	*North Slave 20	Evac order 2	1	635	3
Jean Marie River Wildfire	30 Aug - 29 Sep 2025	*31	Dehcho 31	0	0	0	0
Civil Emergency-Beaufort Delta	20 Sep 2025	0	0	Dangerous Person 1	0	0	0
National Public Alert Test	19 Nov 2025	0	0	Test 1	0	0	0
*Denotes concurrent activities - adjusted to days of unique activation		85	South Slave 6 Dehcho 82 North Slave 25 Sahtu 22				
Total		111	135	Test 4 Operational 7	3	1475	23

ICS Training Activity Statistics

GNWT Staff and Key EMO Partners

The NWT EMO uses the ICS response model for managing emergencies in the territory. ICS training is provided to up to 10% of GNWT staff to maintain EMO staff skill levels, meet EMO surge capacity requirements, support other Departments' surge capacity requirements, and build a pool of ICS-trained staff to support all Departments' emergency management needs. As of December 2025, a total of 137 GNWT staff were on the EMO surge capacity list. Approximately 426 GNWT staff (7.8% of all GNWT staff) have completed some ICS training.

Seventeen ICS training activities were conducted between April 2024 and December 2025, and online ICS 100 was made available to EMO and GNWT surge capacity staff across the territories. This resulted in approximately 426 individuals receiving different levels of ICS training.

Table 6: Summary of April 2024 – December 2025 ICS Training Activity

	Course	Description	Students
1.	ICS-100	ICS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System	111
2.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	20
3.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	20
4.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	18
5.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	20
6.	ICS-402	ICS for Executives	*15
7.	ICS-402	ICS for Executives	*15
8.	ICS-402	ICS for Executives	*15
9.	ICS-402	ICS for Executives	*15
10.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	17
11.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	18
12.	ICS-100	ICS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System	70
13.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	12
14.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	12
15.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	12
16.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	12
17.	ICS-200	Basic ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents	12
18.	ICS-300	Intermediate ICS, ICS for Expanding Incidents	12
		Total number of students:	426

Recovery Activities

Recovery entails the measures taken to repair or restore conditions to an acceptable level after a disaster. It involves decisions and actions related to assessing damage, restoring essential services, the return of evacuees, repairing and replacing property, restoring businesses, and repairing and rebuilding infrastructure. The process may take years and requires balancing the more immediate need to return a community to normalcy with the longer-term goal of reducing future vulnerability.

In each of the past five years, the NWT has been affected by major events that have had direct disaster impacts on various communities and required varying levels of recovery activities. A significant amount of work remains to complete the recovery from these recent emergency events. Work remaining to complete the recovery activity is outlined in the table below.

Table 7: Work remaining on recovery from 2021-2025 floods and wildfires

	2021 Floods	2022 Floods	2023 Fires	2024 Fires	2025 Fires
Estimated Costs	\$34.5 million	\$107.8 million	\$204.6 million	\$7.4 million	\$9.5 million
Outstanding Activity	Remaining work includes:	Remaining work includes:	Remaining work includes:	Remaining work includes:	Remaining work includes:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial audits and final claim process for federal disaster assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resident and small business claims Mitigation work Support to community recovery work Support to community mitigation work Remediation of properties from environmental contamination Cost recovery for GNWT Financial audits and final claim process for federal disaster assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and processing of community claims Confirming eligibility of remaining community recovery projects Confirming GNWT costs and eligibility Confirming Alberta costs, eligibility and processing for hosting NWT residents Financial audits and final claim process for federal disaster assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessing eligibility and processing community claims Financial audits and final claim process for federal disaster assistance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compiling and assessing eligibility of GNWT costs Assessing eligibility and processing community claims Financial audits and final claim process for federal disaster assistance

Moving Forward

After Action Reviews

Under the *Emergency Management Act*, the NWT EMO may review and recommend modifications of territorial and local authority emergency plans and programs. Developing recommendations requires an understanding of how well emergency plans and programs work during emergency events. To gain and share an understanding of past events and the effectiveness of emergency plans, the NWT EMO relies on AARs.

The goal of an AAR is to evaluate and improve plans, programs, and protocols in preparation for future events. It involves reviewing the event, identifying what went well, what could be improved, and drawing conclusions for improvement. The AAR is part of the EMO's commitment to improving emergency response in the territories and should be considered within the context of CEPs, the NWT Emergency Plan, and other emergency response protocols.

While the NWT EMO may conduct internal reviews and make minor changes to plans and programs after dealing with minor events (within the capacity of a community and region to deal with), major events resulting in damage to communities and/or requiring disaster assistance require a formal AAR by an independent contractor, and the report is made public.

Depending on the scale and scope of the disaster, response and recovery requirements, some AAR reports can take up to a couple of years or more to produce. Recommendations from these reports are reviewed by the Territorial Planning Committee and considered for updates to emergency management legislation, plans and programs. Any recommendations regarding community governments or other EMO partners are shared with them for consideration in updating their plans and programs. Once an AAR report is available, a formal response to any GNWT recommendations is made public along with the report.

The NWT EMO works with all GNWT Departments to implement AAR recommendations within their mandate areas. As the NWT EMO has experience with what worked well and what didn't at the time of the event, and in an effort to be better prepared for the next high-risk season, much of this work begins shortly after the event and may be completed before the AAR and GNWT response to the recommendations are even made public.

The work, activities, and improvements described in this report are guided by lessons learned during each disaster, including recommendations from AARs and issues identified by Community Governments and GNWT staff. In many cases, implementation begins immediately following an event, well before the AAR and the GNWT's formal response are publicly released. This ensures readiness for the next high-risk season. Ongoing and completed initiatives should be understood as direct responses to AAR findings; for example, ICS training has been delivered to both community and GNWT staff in line with recent AAR recommendations.

Over the past five years, there have been several major events in the NWT that have required formal AARs. This includes the 2021 Floods, 2022 Floods, 2023 Wildfires, 2024 Wildfire and 2025 Wildfires. AARs associated with these events have been completed or are in the process of being completed, as indicated below. Addressing lessons learned and implementation of AAR recommendations is an ongoing process.



FIGURE 9: AARS FROM THE PAST FIVE YEARS

Indigenous Government Participation

MACA has committed to collaborate with Indigenous governments (IGs) to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. MACA is working with IGs on the development of a model to formally incorporate them in emergency planning, preparedness and response. MACA continues to work with, and support, IGs in emergency planning, preparedness and response.

MACA has established working groups with Indigenous governments, through the NWT Council of Leaders, and the NWT Association of Communities and LGANT, to engage on potential amendments to the EMA.

Emergency Social Supports

The GNWT recognizes that effective delivery of Emergency Social Supports (ESS) is a core component of an equitable and coordinated emergency response. The events associated with the evacuations in 2023 highlighted the need for stronger integration of ESS into the broader emergency management system.

Additionally, NGOs typically serve residents with significant or complex needs, who are more likely to be disproportionately affected by emergency events.

The GNWT is committed to developing an ESS Framework to ensure residents are supported in a coordinated way, and this will include NGOs. This Framework will:

- Describe roles and responsibilities for all key partners, including the GNWT, NGOs, IGs, and community governments; and
- Be developed through engagement with key partners and is expected to be completed within a year.

As an immediate step, over the coming year, the NWT EMO will provide ICS training to GNWT staff and surge staff identified to support ESS functions during emergency events. This training will ensure that ESS staff are prepared to operate within a standardized ICS structure.

Community governments, as the lead for emergency management at the local level, are encouraged to ensure that individuals and NGOs identified to deliver ESS in their communities are included in local ICS training plans. The NWT EMO will continue to offer support and guidance to community governments in developing and validating their CEPs to plan, coordinate, and deliver services effectively during emergencies. Strengthening ICS knowledge among ESS staff across both GNWT and community levels will enhance coordination, clarify roles, and improve the delivery of supports to residents during emergencies and evacuations.

Legislative and Policy Initiatives

Many recommendations from past AARs have highlighted the need to update emergency management legislation, policy, and operational procedures. MACA is currently reviewing and updating its policies to include:

Table 8: Policies under review or being updated

Regulatory Initiative	Description of Work	Timeline	Status
Emergency Management Act and/or Regulations	The GNWT has committed to a review of the EMA and will consider development of regulations as part of that review process. This review will be conducted in consultation with the NWT Council of Leaders and the NWTAC/LGANT Working Groups.	3-5 Years	MACA has asked for additional resources to complete this work. Amendments to the EMA are anticipated in the 21st Legislative Assembly
Disaster Assistance Policy	An updated Disaster Recovery Policy is being developed to align with changes made to the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).	1-2 Years	Policy review is underway to align updates with the Federal DFAA amendments implemented in April 2025.
NWT Emergency Plan Update	The NWT Emergency Plan was updated in 2024. The Plan will be reviewed to ensure implementation of the 2023 Wildfire AAR recommendations.	1-2 Years	Research and analysis are ongoing.

Conclusion

This report provides an overview of the NWT emergency management system, prevalent hazards, historical events and EMO preparedness and response activities. It also includes ongoing activities to improve the system and better prepare for future emergencies.

Emergency management and preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Individuals and families, businesses, Indigenous governments, communities, the private sector and NGOs must all do their part to ensure the safety and security of residents and visitors. Through effective coordination and collaboration, the GNWT supports the work of all levels of government and all partners to ensure the NWT is well prepared for any emergency that may come our way.

For more information, including the GNWT's public responses to recommendations from each After Action Review, please visit <https://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/en/services/emergency-management-nwt>.

Appendix 1 - List of Acronyms

Acronym	Meaning
AAR	After Action Review
CEP	Community Emergency Plan
DFAA	Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements
EMA	Emergency Management Act
EMO	Emergency Management Organization
ESS	Emergency Social Services
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
HIRA	Hazard Identification Risk Assessment
ICS	Incident Command System
IGs	Indigenous Governments
LEMO	Local Emergency Management Organization
LGANT	Local Government Administrators of the NWT
MACA	Municipal and Community Affairs
NGOs	Non-Government Organizations
NWT	NWT Northwest Territories
NWTAC	Northwest Territories Association of Communities
NWTCOL	Northwest Territories Council of Leaders
REMC	Regional Emergency Management Coordinator
REMO	Regional Emergency Management Organization
SOLE	State of Local Emergency
TEMO	Territorial Emergency Management Organization
TPC	Territorial Planning Committee
TTX	Table-top Exercise