



WILDFIRE 2023

HIGH LEVEL CHRONOLOGY

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

SEPTEMBER 2023

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kīspin ki nitawih̄tīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłjchq yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots' o gonede.

Tłjchq

ʔerih̄t'ís Dēne Sų́líné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóttı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgháh got'ıe zhatıé k'ée edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahí.

South Slavey

K'áshshó got'ıne xədə k'é hederı ʔedjhtl'é yerııwę nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yınohthan jı', diıts'at ginohkhı.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.

Inuvialuktun

Č'đđ ııı^{sb}Δ^c ʌıLJΔı^c Δı^bııı^cııı^bııı^b, ııı^cııı^cııı^c ııı^cııı^cııı^c.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titıqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptınnut hivajarłutit.

Inuinnaqtun

Indigenous Languages:

request_Indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca

French:

867-767-9348

866-561-1664 Toll Free

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Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

Territorial Emergency Management Organization (TEMO)

AUGUST 7 to SEPTEMBER 7 – Fibre optic line down between Inuvik to Fort Good Hope

AUGUST 11 – Territorial Emergency Management Organization (TEMO) activated

AUGUST 11 – Request for Federal Assistance submitted – Canadian Armed Forces

AUGUST 13 – Fibre optic line down impacting Hay River, Fort Smith, Enterprise, Fort Providence and Jean Marie River

SEPTEMBER 7 – Request for Federal Assistance submitted - Search and Rescue

SEPTEMBER 18 – Final TEMO meeting for wildfire season

SEPTEMBER 19 – Incident Commander stands down Incident Management Team (IMT)

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Department of Municipal and Community Affairs

Community Governments

- MAY 14 – Kát’odeeche First Nation (KFN) receives notification from Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) of wildfire burning 5kms from community
 - ECC recommends evacuation of KFN
 - KFN issues an alert followed by an evacuation order for full evacuation of reserve
 - KFN evacuates to Hay River as designated evacuation centre, then moves to Yellowknife the same day
 - Hay River issues State of Local Emergency
 - South Slave Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) activated

- MAY 15 – Hay River issues evacuation order
 - Hay River and KFN residents evacuate to Yellowknife as designated evacuation centre

- MAY 24 – Hay River essential employees return

- MAY 25 – Hay River evacuation order downgraded to an evacuation alert for portions of the community (Vale Island, Mile 5)
 - General public allowed to return
 - Individuals with special needs asked to not return to Hay River until emergency alert lifted and Hay River Health and Social Services Authority is fully operational

- MAY 30 – Remaining Hay River evacuees in Yellowknife return based on restoration of majority of health services. Evacuation alert remains in place

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LATE MAY – Wildfire originated in British Columbia burning outside Samba K'e

MAY 31 – Samba K'e issues evacuation order

- Samba K'e residents evacuate to Fort Simpson as designated evacuation centre
- Dehcho REMO activated

JUNE 6 – KFN evacuation order rescinded

- Hay River evacuation alert rescinded
- South Slave REMO deactivated

JUNE 28 – Notification of fire burning outside Wekweètì

JUNE 29 – Wekweètì issues evacuation alert

- Wekweètì issues evacuation order. No evacuation centre stood up (residents stayed with family or friends)
- Samba K'e downgrades evacuation order to an alert

JUNE 30 – Samba K'e residents return home

JULY 2 – Dehcho REMO deactivated

JULY 4 and 5 – Wekweètì residents return home

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- JULY 21 – Highway 3 (unincorporated area) evacuation order issued for km 276 to 290
- JULY 22 – Highway 3 (unincorporated area) evacuation order expanded to include km 256 to 290
- JULY 24 – North Slave REMO activated
 - Fire burning outside Behchokò and deemed to be in close proximity
 - ECC recommends evacuation; Behchokò issues evacuation alert followed by evacuation order
 - Behchokò residents evacuate to Yellowknife as designated evacuation centre
- JULY 25 – ECC report of natural caused fire 12 km outside Inuvik
- JULY 26 – Evacuation centre stood up in Enterprise (Behchokò supports)
- JULY 29 – Fort Smith issues an evacuation notice
- JULY 31 – Edzo area residents return to Edzo under an evacuation alert
 - Rae and Frank Channel area residents remain under an evacuation order
- AUGUST 1 – Inuvik REMO activated

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AUGUST 3 – Evacuation order for Behchokò and Frank Channel area residents changed to evacuation alert and residents return home

AUGUST 4 – Evacuation order issued for Highway 3 km 284 to 306 (Boundary Creek)

– Yellowknife reception centre closed

AUGUST 8 – Evacuation alert for Rae area residents lifted

– Edzo and Frank Channel area residents remain under an evacuation alert

– ECC advises residents living between km 284 and Yellowknife to remain on alert and be ready to leave on short notice

– Kakisa issues Evacuation alert

AUGUST 9 – South Slave REMO activated

AUGUST 10 – Inuvik issues evacuation notice

AUGUST 11 – Fort Smith issues an evacuation alert

– EMO Incident Management Team (IMT) activated

– Alberta Emergency Management Agency discussions begin for support to South Slave communities, and Yellowknife pre-evacuation capacity discussions

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AUGUST 12 – Fort Smith issues an evacuation order

- North Slave REMO activated

AUGUST 13 – Hay River, KFN (reports own hosting arrangements in Meander River), Enterprise - evacuation order issued (updated)

- Fire impacts Enterprise directly, with significant catastrophic damage to majority of structures
- Jean Marie River issues state of emergency; evacuation order issued
- Jean Marie River residents evacuate to Fort Simpson as designated evacuation centre
- Fibre optic line down impacting Hay River, Fort Smith, Enterprise, Fort Providence and Jean Marie River
- Dehcho REMO activated
- Evacuation alert for Highway 3 km 307 to 320
- Evacuation order for Highway 3 km 284 to 306

AUGUST 14 – Evacuation order issued by the GNWT for North Prosperous Lake, North Prelude Lake, all of River Lake

- Evacuation order issued by the GNWT for Highway 3: kms 284 to 320 (Boundary Creek)
- City of Yellowknife declares a State of Local Emergency

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AUGUST 15 – GNWT declares Territorial State of Emergency

- Yellowknife issues evacuation alert for Kam Lake, Grace Lake, Engle Business District
- City of Yellowknife submits formal request for support from the GNWT

AUGUST 16 – GNWT issues evacuation order for Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah and Ingraham Trail directing all residents to evacuate by noon on August 18

AUGUST 16 to 18 – Evacuation from Yellowknife of residents from Yellowknife, Ndilo, Dettah, Ingraham Trail, Fort Smith and Hay River to Alberta, Manitoba, and Yukon; health patients evacuated to British Columbia

AUGUST 17 – Kakisa issues evacuation order (designated hosting community is Fort Simpson)

- Inuvik rescinds evacuation notice; REMO stood down

AUGUST 24 – Evacuation order for Jean Marie River is lifted

- Residents return home under an evacuation alert

AUGUST 28 – GNWT and Yellowknife advance to phase 3 of Yellowknife's re-entry plan – City provides for essential workers to return

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AUGUST 30 – Announcement that Highway 1 expected to be closed to traffic from September 1 to September 3 due to severe weather event

– GNWT and Yellowknife pause repatriation of essential workers, except healthcare-related staff (by air only)

SEPTEMBER 1 – Yellowknife and Yellowknives Dene First Nation announce September 4 and 5 for re-entry of essential workers and September 6 for re-entry for general public

SEPTEMBER 6 – Evacuation order for Yellowknife, Ndilq, Dettah and Ingraham Trail downgraded to an evacuation alert

– Residents start to return home

SEPTEMBER 9 – Kakisa downgrades evacuation order to an alert; residents return home and Fort Simpson evacuation centre stands down

SEPTEMBER 12 – Dehcho REMO deactivated

SEPTEMBER 14 – North Slave REMO deactivated

SEPTEMBER 16 – Fort Smith and Hay River start re-entry of essential workers

SEPTEMBER 17 – Hay River re-entry of general public (ground and GNWT flights)

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SEPTEMBER 18 – Fort Smith re-entry of general public (ground and GNWT flights)

SEPTEMBER 22 – Enterprise re-entry of residents with undamaged homes



