

NWT Emergency Planning

Update on an After Action Review of territorial and regional civil emergency response efforts during the 2014 fire season and preparations to update the Northwest Territories' (NWT) emergency plan.

CONTEXT

With an expected increase in the severity and number of natural disasters occurring due to increasing global temperatures, there is a need for an improved and up-to-date territorial emergency management regime. Potential disaster related impacts resulting from climate change include an increase in the frequency and severity of flooding, an increase in the number and intensity of wildfires, and an increase in permafrost thaw slumps (landslides). This work will help improve emergency response capacity as well as identify risk reduction measures designed to reduce the climate change vulnerability of populations at risk.

Photo Credit: Government of the Northwest Territories



OBJECTIVE

To understand changing response requirements and improve and update the NWT Emergency Plan with best practices to ensure an effective emergency response to more severe and frequent natural disasters identified in the NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment. It will also be informed by an after action review (AAR) of the 2014 summer wildfires.

APPROACH

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) coordinated the AAR, which included:

- Evaluation of territorial and regional civil emergency response efforts during the 2014 wildfire season.
- Research theory, best practices, and comparative models on key emergency response topics.

This work focused on:

- Control and coordination
- Emergency communications;
- Risk assessments; and
- Civil emergency response activities.

Research on best practice in Emergency management and recommendations from the AAR will form the basis of the update to the NWT Emergency Plan.

EXPECTED RESULTS

This project is expected to produce the following resources upon its completion:

- A thorough and complete after-action review of the civil emergency response during the summer 2014 wildfires.
- A best practices research document to guide the NWT Emergency plan update.

Significance

Global temperatures are expected to increase further during the 21st century and is expected to be substantially greater than the global average, which is expected to have a significant influence on the severity and number of natural disasters.

Partners

- GNWT Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- GNWT Department of Environment and Natural Resources
- Territorial Emergency Response Committee
- Northwest Territories Association of Communities

FOR MORE INFO

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