



May 16, 2021
Public Safety Notice

**GNWT's Response to
Flooding in the Dehcho, South Slave and Sahtu**

The Government of the Northwest Territories is actively working through the Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO) in affected communities to ensure that the response to flooding is coordinated, timely and responsive to the rapidly evolving situation. GNWT departments are working to provide a variety of assistance and support according to their respective mandates.

Fort Simpson:

As of May 14, the evacuation order for the island remains in effect. The evacuation centre in Fort Smith and most recently Hay River continue to support Fort Simpson evacuees. On May 16th the water receded and residents were being allowed on the island. The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.

All residents in Fort Simpson have been offered evacuation again, three flights have been provided from Fort Simpson to date, and the last flight went to Hay River Saturday evening with 24 evacuees on board. Approximately 126 Fort Simpson residents have been evacuated to Fort Smith.

A temporary insulated tent has been deployed by the Department of Health and Social Services. It has been assembled at the evacuation site to serve as a health centre. The Department has also made a formal Request for Federal Assistance to the National Emergency Strategic Stockpile to replenish supplies and continue to build a stockpile of blankets and comfort care packages to support future evacuee needs.

On Saturday, May 15th, 11,000 pounds of groceries was flown to Fort Simpson. This food has been made available to Fort Simpson evacuees through the Regional Emergency Management Organization (EMO).

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has provided equipment such as tents, stoves and shower kits, as well as local personnel to assist with set up of emergency camps. Renewable Resource Officers are conducting regular patrols of the emergency camping area in Fort Simpson and are on call for any wildlife issues. ENR fire crews are helping the Town of Fort Smith with logistical support for their hosting of Fort Simpson residents evacuated to Fort Smith.

The GNWT has made a formal Request which was approved on the same day, 15 May 2021 for the assistance of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) local Rangers, to support local officials in impacted and at risk communities working on flood preparedness and response activities along the Mackenzie River. The rangers will be engaging through local EMOs.

Jean Marie River:

The evacuation centre in Fort Providence continues to support evacuees from Jean Marie River. Approximately 34 residents of Jean Marie River had been evacuated to Fort Providence as of Friday, May 14, 2021.

The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees. The GNWT is making preparations for an initial assessment of damaged buildings in the community.

The NWT Power Corporate is planning to restore power to the community using a portable generator when it is safe to do so.

The Department of Infrastructure has arranged to have sea cans sent to the community to be used by resident for storage until water levels subside.

The Department of ENR has sent officers to monitor the entrance to the community and offer support, and an initial assessment of spills has been started. Additionally, ENR has provided equipment such as tents, stoves and shower kits, and has provided personnel to assist with set up of emergency camps.

Hay River, and K'atl'odeeche First Nation:

As of May 10 the evacuation order has been lifted for Vale Island and West Channel. The local EMO will continue to monitor conditions.

Tulita:

The local EMO has begun flood watch in the community. Community members should be starting to prepare in the event that an evacuation is necessary.

ENR has completed assessments in the community to prevent spills should there be flooding.

Fort Good Hope:

The local EMO has begun flood watch in the community. Community members should be starting to prepare in the event that an evacuation is necessary.

ENR has completed assessments in the community to prevent spills should there be flooding.

Other:

Risk is also ELEVATED in the following communities:

- Aklavik
- Fort McPherson
- Tuktoyaktuk

ENR's Hydrologist continues to monitor and report on water levels and ice pack along the river systems and is in regular contact with communities and Regional Emergency Management Organizations throughout the NWT to ensure that plans are in place to respond quickly.