



**May 25, 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.

**From the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA):**

**Fort Simpson:**

- GNWT officials are in Fort Simpson today to discuss damage assessment needs with the Village.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.
- The Village is still accepting 'large' donations of cleaning supplies. Cash donations can be made through United Way NWT at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/united-way-nwt/>

**Jean Marie River:**

- The evacuation centre in Fort Providence continues to support evacuees from Jean Marie River.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees. The GNWT continues the work to determine damage assessment needs for the community.

**Tulita:**

- The community continues to monitor flood conditions.
- The Regional EMO is working with the community to ensure resources are in place should flooding occur and support be requested.

**Fort Good Hope:**

- On May 25, water levels continue to rise causing localized flooding in low laying areas of the community.
- At 10:00am on May 25th, the local council declared a state of local emergency due to high water levels.
- The community EMO is activated and is notifying residents of the risk, assisting with evacuations of high risk areas and has opened up an evacuation centre to host evacuees within the community.
- The Regional EMO is supporting by providing cots and blankets and remains in close contact with the community EMO.
- **Due to operational requirements on the ground, media are asked to direct questions about flood response to EMO headquarters. Enquiries can be directed to Jay\_Boast@gov.nt.ca**

**Aklavik:**

- Residents should be aware of flood risk and are advised to consider personal and household flood preparation activities.

- The Regional EMO is prepared to support an evacuation if requested. The community continues to monitor and provide feedback on flood response needs.

**Other:**

- The EMO is planning for water level surveys to be completed in Hay River, KFN, Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson, Fort Good Hope and other communities who may be affected by high water levels causing flooding this spring.

Monitoring of flood conditions continues across the NWT. Risk is also ELEVATED in the following communities:

- Fort McPherson
- Tsiigehtchic

**From the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA):**

- Now that Simpson HC is back up and running the HEP plans to travel to the community and participate in the demobilization of the temporary structure used as a health centre during the flood. The structure will return to Yellowknife to ensure its readiness in communities still at risk of flooding.
- The HSS Flood EOC continues daily along with ongoing EMO meetings focused on flood response.

Note we will have more updates for FGH after 3 since they just declared a state of emergency.

**From the Department of Infrastructure (INF):**

**Jean Marie River**

- Jean Marie Airport has largely returned to regular operations. Two hour prior permission for flights is no longer required. All airfield lighting is still out of service and flare pots are available outside of daylight hours with two-hour prior notice. A new regulator for the Jean Marie Airport field electric centre has been ordered, but is expected to take nine more weeks to arrive. When it arrives, the airport electrician will arrange for it to be installed to restore the airfield lighting system and allow the discontinuance of flare pots.
- GNWT inspectors have now completed the electrical and boiler assessments on flood-damaged buildings. Contractors are currently working on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.

**Fort Simpson**

- Airport staff continue to help with offloading supply planes when they come in or escorting crews picking up the supplies airside.
- GNWT inspectors have now completed the electrical and boiler assessments on flood-damaged buildings. Contractors are currently working on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.

**From the COVID Secretariat:**

- Isolation centres are providing accommodations to anyone who may be in self isolation but must move to another location because of the flood.
- ProtectNWT is keeping track of Individuals who have filed Self-Isolation Plans and are self-isolating in communities at risk of floods and is in regular contact with them as the flooding situation evolves.
- ProtectNWT is informing individuals self-isolating of what they need to do if there is an evacuation in their community.
- Isolation Centre staff have confirmed there are sufficient rooms available to receive and host isolating community residents in the regional-hub Isolation Centres, if needed.
- If required, COVID Secretariat will work with MACA and individuals to ensure they have safe transportation to an alternate isolation location.
- The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer reviews exceptional circumstance requests submitted to ProtectNWT to isolate in small, non-regional hub communities and will take into consideration the risk of possible flooding as part of the overall health risk assessment.
- COVID Secretariat communications staff is collaborating with MACA to ensure information is provided to the public and impacted communities in a timely manner about the evolving flood situation.

**From the Department of Lands:**

- Lands Sahtu Regional Office is participating in Regional EOC meetings

**From the NWT Housing Corporation:**

- In Jean Marie River, an assessment report will be provided this week along with a lab report on fuel-contaminated soils to determine needs for repairs, replacements and/or remediation.
- The NWT HC is arriving in Fort Simpson this evening to assist MACA in a preliminary assessment of non-NWTHC assets for flood damage.
- In Tulita, all units are at low risk. The situation continues to be monitored.
- In Norman Wells all units are at low risk. The situation continues to be monitored.
- In Fort Good Hope, flooding is occurring in Zone 1. People living in Zone 1 have been evacuated and residents in Zone 2 have self-evacuated. The community remains on high risk.
- In Inuvik, no unit flooding is anticipated.
- In Aklavik, new exterior sewer tank hatches will be flown into the community to secure these tanks during anticipated flooding.
- In Fort McPherson, all units currently at low risk

**From the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC):**

- All eligible customers in Jean Marie River and Fort Simpson have been re-energized – any buildings that do not yet have power require approval of an electrical inspection before they can be re-energized
- Maintenance crew will be onsite in Jean Marie River this week working on repairs to the power plant – temporary generator continues to provide power to the community
- Given that power has been restored to all eligible customers in Jean Marie River and Fort Simpson, the customer service line will return to regular hours (8:30 am – 6:00 pm)

- As waters rise in Fort Good Hope, NTPC has disconnected some meters in low lying areas in order to keep residents safe, protect equipment and maintain power to customers in higher areas.