



**May 26, 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 were in Fort Simpson on May 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss damage assessment needs with the Village and will return on May 27<sup>th</sup>.
- 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:**

- GNWT officials are in Jean Marie River today to discuss damage assessment needs with the community.
- 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.

**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:**

- May 26, the community has reported that the water level dropped 1.4m overnight and the ice is moving well down the river. The upper road in the community is now passable. The 30 cots and blankets have been sent to the community as requested.
- The community EMO remains 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 communication between the local, regional and territorial EMO is ongoing and community needs are under constant evaluation.
- **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):**

- HSS monitoring flooding in FGH and Aklavik.
- No action has been taken in the last 24 hours

**From the Department of Infrastructure (INF):****Jean Marie River**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Regional staff have conducted an initial site inspection of GNWT assets within the community.

**Fort Simpson**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Regional staff have completed building assessments on all GNWT assets in the community. Minimal water penetration was found in three assets. These assets are being remediated.
- The Public Works and Services compound sustained extensive flood damage to all GNWT buildings. Extensive remediation/clean-up will be required.

**Fort Good Hope:**

- The Department continues to monitor and will send in GNWT inspectors to complete electrical and boiler assessments once the water recedes for houses where services were disconnected.
- Airport Maintenance Contractor in Fort Good Hope is monitoring the bridge to the airport.

**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 Environment and Natural Resources (ENR):**

##### **Fort Good Hope Flood Response:**

- Renewable Resource Officers assigned to assessing damage, documenting flood impacts, and potential environmental damage
- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Deputy Incident Commander assigned to Regional Emergency Operations Centre to strengthen response.

##### **Flood preparation efforts down-river:**

- Regional office in Beaufort Delta working with local and regional Emergency Measures Offices to monitor and prepare for potential flooding

##### **Water monitoring intelligence:**

- Daily briefings and reports on water levels and ice conditions are provided to local, regional, and territorial EMOs to inform risk assessments and preparation.
- Coordinating acquisition and interpretation of satellite imagery from the Government Operations Centre and Natural Resources Canada, and optical imagery from Joint Task Force North and other sources.
- Consulting with Alberta river ice experts to better predict potential ice movement.

##### **Continued assistance to Fort Simpson effort:**

- Ongoing monitoring for bears and other wildlife.
- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Distribution of food and supplies to those still displaced

##### **Continuing assistance to Jean Marie River:**

- Renewable Resource Officer on site to monitor for bears and other wildlife.

- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Distribution of food and supplies.

**Flood preparation efforts down-river:**

- Regional office in Beaufort Delta working with local and regional Emergency Measures Offices to monitor and prepare for potential flooding.

**Disaster relief programs:**

- Continued advertising of [Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Fund](#) on social media and radio. Hunters and trappers may be eligible for support if they have lost equipment or cabins. [Contact a regional office to get started.](#)

**From the Department of Lands:**

- The Sahtu officer remains on standby to aid Fort Good Hope and continues to partake in Regional EOC meetings
- The Beaufort Delta is waiting for break up to move their way and will be available to aid when requested or needed.

**From the NWT Housing Corporation:**

**Jean Marie River and Fort Simpson**

- An assessment report will be provided this week.

**Tulita and Norman Wells**

- All units are at low risk. The situation continues to be monitored.

**Fort Good Hope**

- There are roughly a dozen affected units. Among those, one belongs to the NWT HC.
- An assessment team will be mobilized, when it is safe for all units.

**Inuvik**

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

**Aklavik**

- The fuel and sewer tanks are being pumped down.

**Fort McPherson**

- All units currently at low risk.

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

- Additional staffing resources from NTPC's Inuvik office arrived in Fort Good Hope yesterday afternoon
- On Tuesday, NTPC de-energized approximately 20 meters in Fort Good Hope, including at the municipal building, in order to maintain power to customers in higher areas – as water receded on Wednesday, most were re-energized

- NTPC's power plant continues to operate and will likely be able to continue to provide power throughout a flooding event – the plant is located right beside the tank farm owned by the Department of Infrastructure's Fuel Services Division
- Installation of the temporary water dam around the variable speed generator in Aklavik was completed yesterday
- Cleaning and repair work at the Jean Marie River plant will be ongoing for the next week