

## **Municipal and Community Affairs Wildfire 2023 – High Level Chronology**

### **Territorial Emergency Management Organization**

- 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)

### **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
- Late May – Wildfire originated in British Columbia burning outside Smbaa K'e
- May 31:
  - Smbaa K'e issues evacuation order
  - Smbaa K'e residents evacuate to Fort Simpson as designated evacuation centre
  - Dehcho REMO activated
- June 6 – Hay River evacuation alert rescinded
- 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  - KFN evacuation order rescinded
  - Hay River evacuation alert rescinded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 – Smbaa K'e downgrades evacuation order to alert
- June 29
  - Wekweètì issues evacuation alert
  - Wekweètì issues evacuation order. No evacuation centre stood up (residents stayed with family or friends)
  - Smbaa K'e downgrades evacuation order to an alert
- June 30 – Smbaa K'e residents return home

- July 2 – Dehcho REMO deactivated
- July 4 and 5 – Wekweètı residents return home
- 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 Behchoko and deemed to be in close proximity
  - ECC recommends evacuation; Behchoko issues evacuation alert followed by evacuation order
  - Behchoko 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 (Behchoko 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
  - ECC reports naturally caused wildfire 12 km Inuvik
  - Inuvik REMO activated
- August 3
  - Evacuation order for Behchoko 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
- 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
- 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, N’dilo, Dettah and Ingraham Trail directing all residents to evacuate by noon on August 18
- August 16 to 18 – evacuation from Yellowknife of residents Yellowknife, N’dilo, 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
- 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, N'dilo, 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 centres 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)
- September 18 – Fort Smith re-entry of general public (ground and GNWT flights)
- September 22 – Enterprise re-entry of residents with undamaged homes