

**Yukon**



2022 Yukon After Action Summary

Last Updated: March 10, 2023



Contents

2022 AAR Context.....	2
Incident Overview.....	3
Localized Events.....	4
2022 EMO AAR Debrief.....	4
How EMO Evolved from 2021, Through 2022.....	4
2021 Recommendations – Current State.....	5-8
Conclusion.....	9

Documents Approval

Signature:	Date:
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Director, Emergency Measures Organization (Yukon)

2022 AAR Context

In 2021, the Yukon Territory experienced its most extreme emergency season with numerous floods around the Southern Lakes Region and Carmacks. A state of emergency was declared July 9th, 2021 and was in effect through to September 14th, 2021.

Through the spring and summer of 2021, the EMO office also led the ongoing Covid-19 response while operating well beyond capacity. Though there were many successes, the extreme situation in 2021 exposed the need to revisit our operations, capacity, and services.

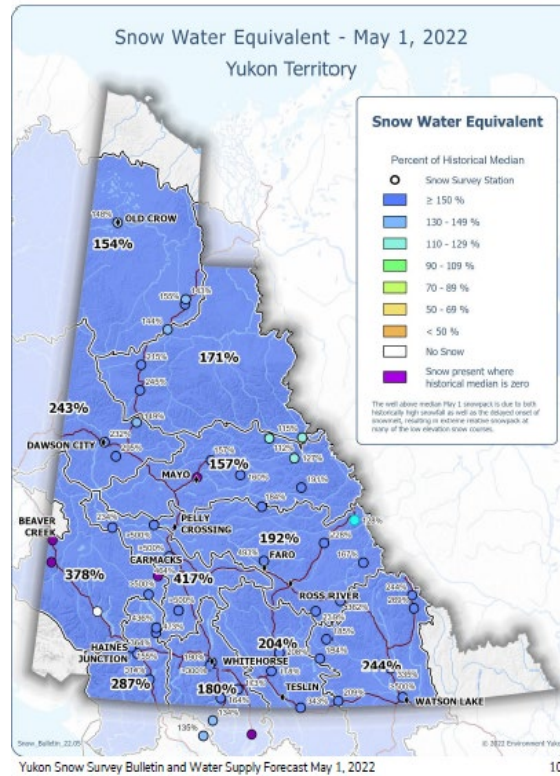
Resilience and Foresight Consulting was hired to conduct a comprehensive AAR on the events of the 2021 season which were ongoing as the 2022 season unfolded. The refinement of the recommendations and the completion of the implementation plan for the project are still pending at the time of the 2022 AAR.

The response in 2022 saw many improvements as we had learned much, but it was also limited by capacity and not having the recommendations from the 2021 AAR in place with an implementation plan.

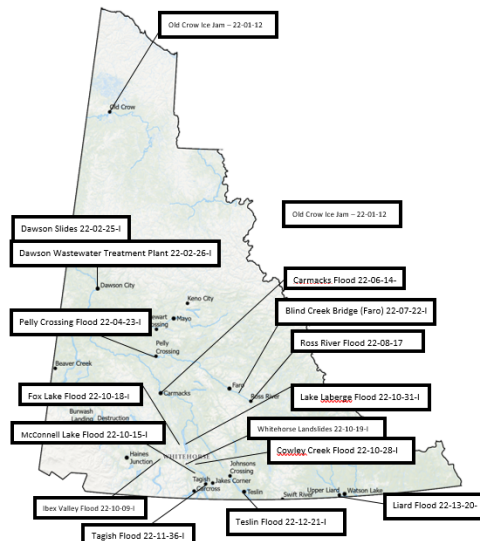
The 2022 AAR is a working document that will show our progress and gaps and is in effect an epilogue to be added to the 2021 AAR.

Incident Overview

The Yukon experienced record setting snowpack depths across all watershed basins in 2022 creating a persistent and widespread high risk of freshet, summer lake flooding, and high ground water tables (leading to basement flooding and landslides). On June 09, the Yukon Emergency Coordination Centre was activated in response to escalating flood and landslide conditions and to support community mitigation and response actions.



By July 13th, 2022, EMO was managing 16 incidents across the Yukon. Sites identified on map below.



Localized Incidents

For a more in-depth description of each event, please follow the hyperlink below.

J:\1_Flood Recovery\DFAA\2022_DF\AA\2023-01-31_EventDescriptionsYukonFreshet-EDITS.pdf

EMO 2022 AAR Debrief

After the 2022 response season, EMO conducted an AAR debrief in house that identified the strengths, challenges, and opportunities from the 2022 activation. Hyperlink below.

J:\1_Flood Recovery\AAR\AAR 2022\2022_AAR_Review_ECC.docx

How EMO Evolved from 2021, Through 2022

2021 vs 2022 Activation – What was different?

- EMO/ECC handled 16 incidents across the Yukon throughout the summer of 2022, dramatically outnumbering past incidents in one timeframe.
- 2021 flood response coincided with ongoing Covid-19 response, and a 300 day + operational period of activation.
- EMO/ECC took the lead as the ICP for all events; past flooding events were handled by WFM as an IMT (2007/2012/2021).
- EMO focused heavily on flood preparations and communications for 2022.
 - 2 sandbagging machines, tiger dams and a stronger stock of flood material were purchased.
 - Pre-planning with First Nations and Municipalities with high flood risk were prioritized and received flood mitigation materials in early spring.
 - Seasonal flood briefings and strong/consistent flood information materials were distributed to First Nations, Municipalities and LAC's.
- EMO/WFM relationship strengthened with an interim joint flood coordination plan.
- ECC worked with CS-HR to populate and deliver a rotating roster of YG employees throughout the activation.
- EMO began conversation with affected communities early regarding training and recovery planning.
- YG handled all incidents in territory and did not call for any mutual aid for flood response.

2021 Recommendation – Current State

Emergency Plans, Policy & Governance				
<i>In alignment with Canada's EM Strategy, Priority 1: Enhance whole of society collaboration and governance to strengthen resilience.</i>				
#	Recommendation	What Was in Place in 2022	What Is in Place Currently (Start of 2023)	Next Steps
1	Develop a Yukon Territorial Framework for Emergency Management and Disaster Risk Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work identified on this project 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation beginning now 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
2	Review and update the Yukon Government Emergency Coordination Plan (ECP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work identified on this document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS-Policy has identified that this document is out of date and needs updating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No timeline has been set for updating and circulating this document.
3	Integrate emergency management responsibilities into departmental mandates and ensure resources for implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An AAR discussion held between 15-25 ADM and Directors across YG that spoke to the events of 2021 and discuss how departments can engage with one another during any emergency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work has begun in CS – PS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
4	Establish decision-making protocols and train senior leadership and elected officials in emergency management policies and practices.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No work started on this project. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential ICS 400 – elected officials training in 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to train senior leadership in Emergency Management principles and understandings.
5	Clarify flood response policy, including issues related to public-private responsibilities, volunteer management, and recovery programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversations started at the department level around the need for an updated YG flood policy. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conversation still on going outlining the need for senior leaderships to establish a YG flood policy. (Response Thresholds) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO/PS are updating hazard assessment forms including options for homeowners to consider on their own if hazard does not require YG response
6	Explore options to enhance local-level planning and clarify response authorities, particularly for unincorporated communities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO delivered multiple preparedness meetings and provided information to LAC's and MLAs as requested. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with LACs to create flood committees for unincorporated areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO to engage with FMO to propose flood planning/training with VFDs for unincorporated communities.

Flood Preparedness

In alignment with Canada's EM Strategy Priorities 2 & 3: Improve understanding of disaster risk in all sectors of society, and; Increase focus on whole-of-society disaster prevention and mitigation activities

#	Recommendation	What Was in Place in 2022	What Is in Place Currently (Start of 2023)	Next Steps
7	Invest in a Hazard Risk & Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA) to support evidence-based emergency management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Due to the increase to the Yukon's snowpack, EMO dedicated majority of its resources towards preparing for the 2022 response and delivering recovery initiatives from 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct HRVA's and updated Emergency Plans for the following First Nation and Municipal Communities: COD/THFN, VOM/NNDFN, VOHJ/CAFN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire more funding through the Climate Change Secretariat's "Our Clean Future" initiative to plan and facilitate HRVA's and update Emergency Plans for all First Nation and Municipal Communities across the Yukon.
8	Resource enhancements to flood modelling, mapping, and forecasting to support emergency planning, response and risk reduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO worked with WRB to gain a better picture of the elevated snowpack and flood risk. EMO contracted Stantec to develop inundation maps that displayed flood risk areas within each community through various levels of increased water. 	<p>Through 2022/2023, EMO in partnership with other various departments across Yukon Government has been spear heading a variety of initiatives to enhance flood modelling, mapping, and forecasting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Operating Picture (COP) created for use in future events. Yukon inundation maps developed through Stantec. Flood Mapping Projects & First Nation Flood Mapping forum. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with Yukon Government branches to elevate resources and tools used to better map flood risk in the Territory
9	Develop a process to engage partners and departments in seasonal planning for flood hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO hosted numerous online Territory wide seasonal preparedness meetings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process will be the same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO working with PS comms to develop seasonal meeting schedule for 2023
10	Conduct seasonal tabletop exercises to support flood preparedness and response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One tabletop exercise was conducted through (HEPR). Burn out from 2021 response season. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO/WFM to host a jointly run tabletop exercise. EMO will also host two ECC training sessions facilitated by (HEPR). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue momentum built from 2023 and plan to host more tabletop exercises across the Territory.
11	Support Municipalities and First Nation Governments to lead local-level emergency planning efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO hosted numerous online Territory wide seasonal preparedness meetings. EMO Shipped flood materials to flood risk communities early to limit the start time for a potential response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO is looking into costs for YG ICS 100/200 instructors to begin to offer more training through the Yukon. Conduct HRVA's and updated Emergency Plans for the following First Nation and Municipal Communities: COD/THFN, VOM/NNDFN, VOHJ/CAFN. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acquire more funding through the Climate Change Secretariat's "Our Clean Future" initiative to plan and facilitate HRVA's, update Emergency Plans and facilitate more training opportunities.

Incident Management, Response & Recovery

In alignment with Canada's EM Strategy Priorities 4 & 5: Enhance disaster response capacity and coordination and foster the development of new capabilities, and; Strengthen recovery efforts by building back better to minimize the impact of future disasters.

#	Recommendation	What Was in Place in 2022	What Is in Place Currently (Start of 2023)	Next Steps
12	Update the Flood Coordination Plan (FCP) and develop Tactical Response Guidelines for flood hazards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directors of WFM/EMO created a draft 2021 flood response plan that was used. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> WFM/ EMO working on producing a document encompassing both the 2016 flood plan and incorporating elements of the 2021 draft plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalize a flood response plan with thresholds established for YG's activation and response into individual and community flooding scenarios.
13	Ensure that staff safety, mental health and wellness is prioritized at all stages of a response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO established a OH&S structure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO has recognized the importance of having a safety officer within the leadership team within the ECC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scope for a safety officer position within the ECC during activation.
14	Continue to strengthen HR and staff reassignment processes for emergency management and incident response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CS-HR supported the ECC as best they could, no other HR department was engaged for the ECC recruitment process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO working with CS-HR on current standing. CS-HR anticipates being understaffed this summer. Nothing formally established. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish an understand with PSC and create a policy around HRMT use for ECC activation and a policy/ understanding around departmental release of employees for YG emergency purposes.
15	Build capacity for and resource inter-departmental response.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO met with various departments across YG to discuss the topic of response. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO will host two, two-day training workshops focusing on Yukon Government employee EOC training. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO exploring ICS train the trainer courses for EMO staff.
16	Explore options to YG's expand all-hazards tactical response capabilities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No exploration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO/WFM are working collaboratively in formulating a joint flood coordination plan for 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A
17	Modernize EM technologies and practices for more efficient information sharing and analysis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EMO transitioned to the use of Microsoft Team for ease of file sharing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Common Operating Picture (COP) that will be ready for training use before the summer of 2023 activation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COP training for EMO staff scheduled in March 2023
18	Plan for and develop programming to support volunteer response during future flood emergencies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a completed volunteer management guide created in the summer of 2021. This plan is in final draft form and has never been finalized and or distributed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Volunteer Management Guide still in draft form. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan should be finalized and ready for use in future responses.

19	Develop an emergency public communications plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood briefings provided on an as-needed basis; guidelines are informal. • EMO and CA improved communications with unincorporated communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A communications strategy is developed between EMO and WRB to guide seasonal communications and outreach. • Bilingual social media templates already created. • CS now manages an emergency communications roster of communications staff from across government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued collaboration and pre-planning as needed. • Aviation branch will be added to group for use of emergency comms roster.
20	Streamline resource procurement and management practices and support training for staff in these roles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lot of effort was placed in getting ready for 2022 response. Material distribution and warehousing were at the forefront of discussions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMO and WFM Incident Management leads meeting weekly to discuss situational awareness and response planning. • EMO will have training with WFM to learn and adapt practices to ensure forms, resources and tracking are done in tandem with WFM Logistics. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A
21	Build recovery planning guidelines and public information into flood response plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EMO produced a recovery plan, scanned, and connected with other jurisdictions to align best practices. • Worked with communications to put out flood specific information for the public. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No DFAA staff • 1 staff member working on the berm demobilization of the Marsh Lake berms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hire DFAA specific staff • Funding pressure submitted to include DFAA staff.

Conclusion

Emergency management is an ongoing process of increasing efficiencies, resiliencies, and continuing improvement to all processes. After action reviews are a standard practice and staple in the emergency management field to reflect upon past experiences and performance of the systems put into place to address the hazards to the wellbeing of all Yukoners. As it was said at the beginning of this AAR, this is a continuation of the extensive 2021 AAR report viewed through the lens of the 2022 response.

There were 21 overall recommendations highlighted in the 2021 AAR. To date 1 of these recommendations has been met, 14 are in progress, and 6 have not been addressed. All recommendations are being considered but are varying levels of feasibility and expediency of completion. EMO and Protective Services will continue to document efforts to meet recommendations as they change and evolve with time and to be better suited for future events.