

PUBLIC NOTICE – surface water tests in Old Crow

June 7, 2024: This is an update from the Department of Health and Social Services on the Porcupine River flood watch and evacuation alerts in Old Crow.

Flood and evacuation alerts

On May 17 and May 21, 2024, the Yukon government, in conjunction with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation Emergency Operation Centre, issued evacuation alerts due to a Flood Watch for the Porcupine River during seasonal breakup and the risk of flooding along the North Road and the Ski Lodge Road of Old Crow during freshet. On May 24, 2024, the Evacuation Alert was rescinded.

Surface water tests

A series of surface water samples have since been collected from areas that may have been affected by flood water near the sewage lagoon. The surface water was tested at: Ski Lodge Road, Lake North, 197 Creek, Frost Creek and Airport Gravel Pit.

Test results

All surface water samples were sent for bacteriological testing and analysis. **The sample results do not indicate any significant contamination at these locations.** The results do not indicate the presence of bacteria above levels deemed acceptable for surface water to be used for recreational purposes like swimming.

Safety advisory: avoid swimming

This is the first wave of surface water tests and we anticipate continued testing to ensure public safety. Although these initial results do not indicate the presence of bacteria at levels of concern, in an abundance of caution, until more samples can be collected and analyzed, **we recommend people avoid exposure to surface water, including swimming, in these areas.**

Residents should also avoid areas where overland flooding occurred around the sewage lagoon and dump road until further notice.

Looking ahead

The Department Health and Social Services will continue to work with the Department of Community Services to identify any additional sampling needed to confirm there are no lasting effects from the flood waters. This work will include continued engagement with Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation to understand any additional areas of concern and additional sampling and testing as needed.

Contact

For more information on the testing, results, and health advisories, contact:

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Related information:

May 24, 2024 – rescinded – Evacuation Alert – Old Crow

<https://yukon.ca/en/may-24-2024-rescinded-evacuation-alert-old-crow>

Revised evacuation alert — Old Crow — May 21, 2024

<https://yukon.ca/en/revised-evacuation-alert-old-crow>

Evacuation alert — Old Crow — May 17, 2024

<https://yukon.ca/en/evacuation-alert-old-crow-may-17-2024>