



# YARMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (REMO)

## EVACUATION PLAN

*Yarmouth County Regional Emergency Management Organization  
Evacuation Plan*

***Table of Contents***

Policy	3
Procedures	4
Notification	4
Area of Impact	5
Vulnerable Population	5
Vulnerable Infrastructure	5
Lead Agencies	5
Process and Assumptions	6
General Approach	7
Summary of REMO decisions	7
Agency Duties and Responsibilities	7
RCMP	7
Fire Service	8
Ground Search and Rescue	8
Ambulance Service	8
Emergency Social Services (DCS)	9
Transportation Service	9



## **YARMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (REMO)**

### **EVACUATION PLAN**

**(Updated May 2021)**

#### **Policy:**

It is understood that the Yarmouth County Regional Management Organization (REMO) will be the lead agency responsible for coordination of a large-scale evacuation such as might be required during a community wide flooding incident, large fire situation, or any time a Local State of Emergency has been declared for the purpose of an evacuation.

The Plan relies on REMO being notified of a need to evacuate by the Incident Commander on site of an emergency as designated by the first responders such as Fire Departments, RCMP, Lands and Forest, etc. REMO will work with first responders and emergency support partners to coordinate the evacuation based on the situation assessment indicating the need to do so.

It is also recognized that evacuations may be required on a smaller scale (10 units or 25 people or less) due to first responder operations. For these smaller scale emergencies, REMO is not expected to play a role unless specifically requested by an Incident Commander and first responders will follow general operating procedures that may include mutual aid partners such as the Canadian Red Cross.

In order to prevent situations from escalating, REMO requests the following policies be adopted by all responders and emergency support partners:

1. Any time a barricade or road closure is required, residents within the closure area will be informed of the situation by the lead agency/department in charge and provided with alternative routes of egress and access.
2. If time permits in advance of a road closure, and it is apparent that alternative routes will not be available or emergency response agencies will be unable to reach residents, the affected residents will be asked by the lead agency/department in charge to evacuate until access and egress can be assured. If advance warning is not available due to imminent danger, residents will be notified by whatever means possible and requested to remain in their homes, if there is no immediate threat, until access and egress can be re-established.

3. If any small-scale evacuation where a Local State of Emergency has not been declared and residents are ordered to evacuate, either the Fire Department or RCMP becomes the lead agency for the evacuation portion of the response. The lead agency shall be determined by the Incident Commander.
4. In situations where local area fire departments are required by the lead agency/department in charge to assist with an evacuation, the department shall be notified via the Fire emergency 911 procedure.
5. Residents with concerns regarding the safety of sheltering in place or considering evacuating shall be directed to the lead agency/department in charge. In situations where no lead agency/department in charge has been appointed, resident queries shall be directed to the RCMP.

## **PROCEDURES:**

The following provides an outline on how REMO intends to evacuate areas of the County in an all-hazard approach.

### **IMPACT SUMMARY:**

REMO may be required to coordinate the evacuation and housing of members of the public if an area is deemed unsafe for public occupation. This will require:

- adequate notification
- transportation to an appropriate facility of people and animals
- regular information sessions/public updating on the situation
- security of the evacuated area
- adequate supplies of meals, shelter, and basic needs
- tracking of individuals and reunification of displaced family members
- psychological support during the evacuation and
- appropriate return to the evacuation area when appropriate

### **NOTIFICATION:**

It is likely that requests for rapid evacuations will be initiated by either Fire or Police services due to an imminent or potential concern for public safety. Such situations might include but not limited to fires and hazardous materials incidents. Requests for staged evacuations may be initiated as above but due to impending weather conditions through data received from Environment Canada and EMO NS.

### **AREA OF IMPACT:**

Because of the all-hazard nature of the evacuation plan, any area within the County of Yarmouth may be considered an area of impact.

**VULNERABLE POPULATION:**

- Persons in evacuation area with mobility issues
- Persons with medical needs/drug dependencies
- Seniors
- Pet-owners in evacuation area

**VUNERABLE INFRASTRUCTURE:**

- Schools
- Hospital/medical clinics
- Emergency services facilities (EHS, Fire Halls, Public Works)
- Municipal and Town office buildings
- Water/sewage treatment facilities
- Long-term/extended care facilities
- Day-cares
- Hotels/motels/bed and breakfast facilities
- Kennels/pet shelters
- Farms
- Funeral Homes
- Others may emerge due to the nature of the hazard

**LEAD AGENCIES:**

- REMO
- Police
- Fire services
- Ground Search and Rescue
- Community Services/Red Cross
- EMO NS
- Others may emerge due to the nature of the hazard

**PROCESS and ASSUMPTIONS:**

1. Emergency services partners will notify REMO if their first response activities or initial size-up indicate the need for immediate or potential evacuation or residents within a certain area of the County. The REMO Coordinator will then alert CAO(s) of the impact area.
2. The ECC will be established if evacuation or an area is imminent or anticipated.
3. Decisions to evacuated areas will be made by the designated Incident Commander of the incident in consultation with other agencies involved in the incident and coordinated through REMO.
4. Designated elected officials for the area of impact may declare a State of Local Emergency if a mandatory evacuation is required under the advice provided by all involved agencies as coordinated through REMO.
5. Notification to the public within an area requiring evacuation will be the responsibility of REMO and will be coordinated through emergency services partners and media contacts.
6. Evacuations will occur in a staged manner whenever possible ensuring vulnerable populations and infrastructure areas are evacuated as a priority.
7. Facilities for shelter and evacuated residents will be outside the evacuation zone.
8. RCMP will coordinate the safe and efficient evacuation of persons as requested by REMO.
9. Community Services/Red Cross will coordinate the set up and management of reception/evacuation centers as requested by REMO in the facilities designated by REMO.
10. REMO will coordinate the transportation of, set up and management of pet evacuation centres where possible and required.
11. REMO will coordinate regular public information sessions at the reception/evacuation centres.
12. REMO through their Public Information Officer (PIO) will coordinate regular media sessions at designated media locations.

## **GENERAL APPROACH:**

**REMO will focus on the following nine objectives during an evacuation:**

1. Provide community warnings, alerts, and messaging
2. Coordinate rapid evacuation with emergency services providers
3. Coordinate mode of transportation
4. Coordinate stages of evacuation with emergency services partners
5. Identify evacuation facilities
6. Coordinate reception/evacuation centres with the Canadian Red Cross partners
7. Coordinate evacuation and housing of pets and livestock
8. Coordinate evacuee information sessions (public and media) during the length of the evacuation
9. Support emergency response agencies as required.

## **SUMMARY OF REMO DECISIONS**

- When to initiate alerts/warnings
- When/where to hold media conferences and generate messaging
- ECC activation and de-activation
- Identification of vulnerable populations and infrastructure during stages of evacuation
- Reception/evacuation centre locations
- Pet/livestock evacuation centre locations
- Requirement of Declaration of Local State of Emergency
- Declare safe return
- Support safe return of evacuees.

## **AGENCY DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **RCMP:**

Local police may be called upon to inform the public of the decision or recommendation to evacuate. They will then, in accordance with the emergency evacuation plan, lead the evacuation process by directing traffic and monitoring and securing the stricken area. They will subsequently inform REMO about the outcome of events and the evacuation procedure implemented.

They will:

- Advise REMO of their police resources
- Provide notification of evacuation to the public
- Ensure that outer perimeters are established
- Ensure a system of traffic control is in place to facilitate the movement of emergency vehicles to and from the out perimeters
- Provide post-evacuation security
- Maintain a record of action taken

#### **FIRE SERVICES:**

If the event causing the evacuation is not fire related, the fire departments may be called upon to assist the RCMP to inform the public of the decision or recommendation to evacuate.

They will:

- Identify human, time, and material resources available
- Activate their mutual aid system when required
- Ensure dangerous goods support services are contacted when required
- Direct and coordinate all fire fighting when necessary
- Maintain a record of action taken

#### **GROUND SEARCH AND RESCUE:**

The local GSR team may be activated through the RCMP to support the evacuation of residents from the area of impact.

They will:

- Report to the Incident Commander on site
- Identify human, time, and material resources available to support the evacuation
- Maintain a record of action taken

#### **AMBULANCE SERVICES (EHS):**

EHS will be responsible for transporting casualties for the area. They will establish the best operational scenario for transporting people by ambulance. They will brief the Incident Commander on the state of ambulance movements in the area of impact.

They will:

- Identify human, time, and material resources available to support the evacuation if necessary
- Maintain a record of all action taken



### **EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES (Department of Community Services):**

Emergency Social Services will provide emergency feeding, lodging, clothing, registration, and inquiry as well as personal services. The Red Cross and local Community Services personnel make up the Emergency Social Services group.

Community Services will:

- Activate their department's emergency call out
- Maintain a presence at the ECC if necessary
- Provide updates at situational awareness meetings at ECC on the role of the Red Cross
- Maintain a record of all action taken

Canadian Red Cross:

- Activate their local Disaster teams
- Staff reception/evacuation centres as designated by REMO
- Provide for the six emergency social services at reception/evacuation centres

### **TRANSPORTATION:**

The Department of Transportation of Infrastructure and Renewal responds through assistance with traffic control. Coordination of transportation of evacuees is handled by REMO and supported by emergency services.

MOUs in place with local school boards for the purpose of transportation with school buses of evacuees during an evacuation.