REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
DANGEROUS GOODS /HAZARDOUS MATERIALS
RESPONSE CONTINGENCY PLAN

June 2024

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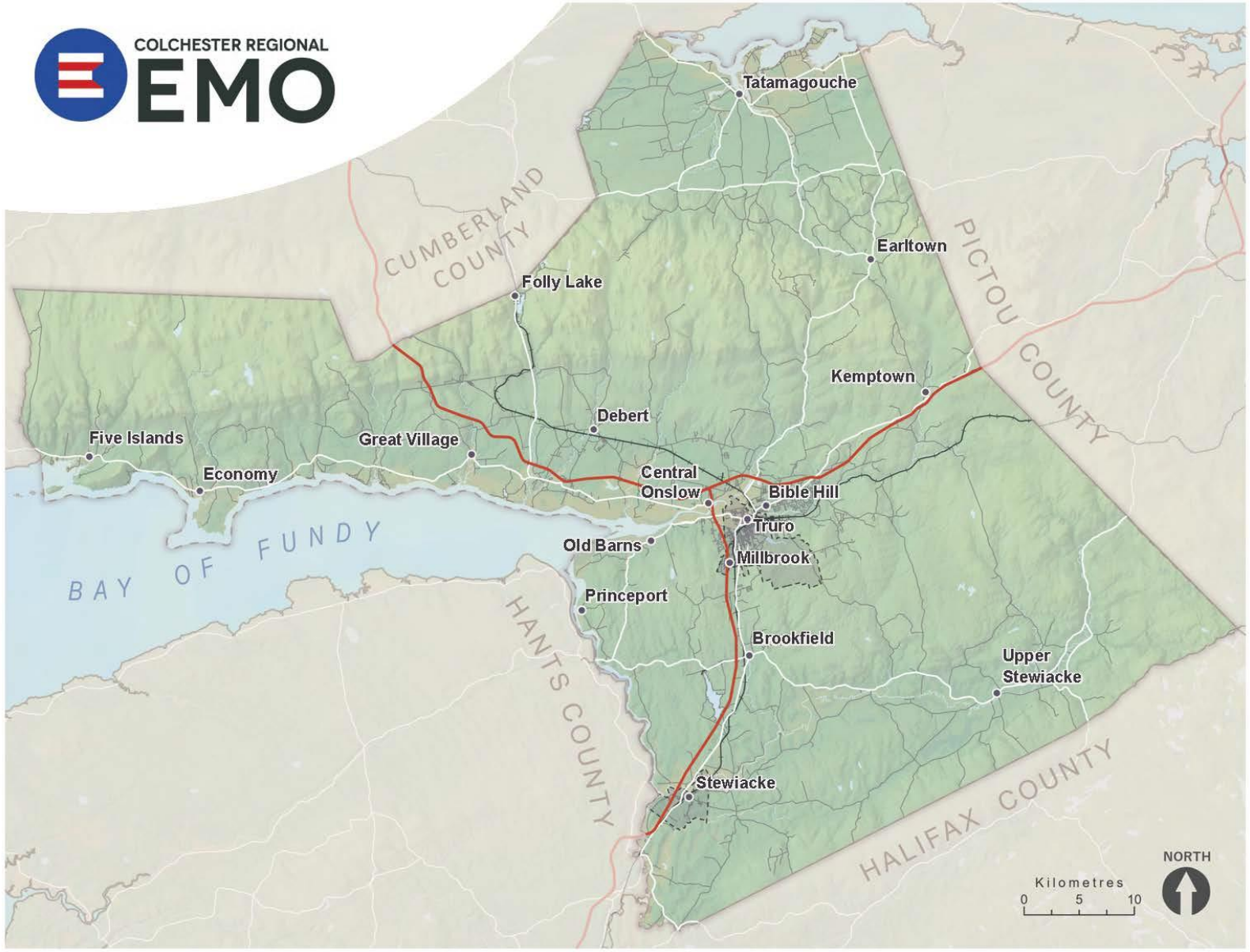
COLCHESTER REGIONAL
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Tatamagouche
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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Colchester County is located centrally within the province and this key geographical location has made our region a hub in transportation networks and the growth of industry is directly tied to our physical location.

The region's population and industry growth were primarily built on the railroad, and it was this mode of transportation that saw the Dominion Atlantic and the Intercontinental Railroads move people and products to and from every corner of our county. The construction of the road networks fostered more progress and now that every 100 series highway is Nova Scotia is either located or directly connected to one of the two major highway arteries that transverse our county.

With the frequency of goods and materials that are passing through or located in our county, the possibly of an incident involving a dangerous good or hazardous material is always present.

This Regional Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Preparedness and Response Plan is only one component of preparedness efforts that include training, exercises, and the debriefing of actual events. As our region evolves, so should the Plan, which will be regularly reviewed and adapted. Due to the nature of major emergencies, there may be a need to adapt the plan during a hazardous materials event. Therefore, the following plan should not be seen as a final, rigid solution, but rather the foundation for continuous planning efforts.

1.2 Authorities

The authority for an evacuation is afforded by the Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act and the Emergency Management Act.

The legal authority for local authorities to order an evacuation rest within the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act (1990) Section 14(f) – Protection of property and health or safety.

Protection of property and health or safety – Section 14

Upon a state of local emergency being declared in respect to a municipality or an area thereof, the mayor may, during the state of local emergency, in respect of such municipality or an area thereof, do everything necessary for the protection of property and the health and safety of persons therein may:

a) Cause an emergency management plan or any part thereof to be implemented;
b) Acquire or utilize or cause the acquisition or utilization of personal property by confiscation or any means considered necessary;
c) Authorize or require a qualified person to render aid of such type as that person may be qualified to provide;
d) Control or prohibit travel to or on a road, street or highway;

e) Provide for the maintenance and restoration of essential facilities, the distribution of essential supplies and the maintenance and coordination of emergency medical, social and other essential services;
f) Cause or order the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock and personal property threatened by an emergency and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection thereof;
g) Authorize the entry by a person into any building or upon land without warrant;
h) Cause or order the demolition or removal of any thing where the demolition or removal is necessary or advisable for the purpose of reaching the scene of an emergency, or attempting to forestall its occurrence or of combating its progress;
i) Order the assistance of persons needed to carry out provisions mentioned in this Section;
j) Regulate the distribution and availability of essential goods, services and resources;
k) Authorize and make emergency payments;
l) Assess damage to any works, property or undertaking and the costs to repair, replace or restore the same;
m) Assess damage to the environment and the costs and methods to eliminate or alleviate the damage.

1.3 Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to outline the procedures that will be used in a hazardous material release that necessitates the need for an evacuation within Colchester County. The physical evacuation component of this Emergency Management Support Plan will be implemented either following the declaration of a state of local emergency (SOLE) or under the authority of the local Fire Service as part of a hazardous materials event. The monitoring and preparation phases will be coordinated by Colchester REMO in preparation to assist and liaison with emergency and essential services.

This Plan should be activated as soon as it becomes evident that, due to an emergency of such significance as to warrant its activation, evacuation and relocation of people is necessary.

1.4 Objective and Scope

The primary goal of this Plan is to provide a planning framework that identifies the role emergency responders and the Municipalities of Colchester County. Together these agencies represent the first line of defence in responding to a hazardous material event within the Colchester County region.

This objective is supported by primary goals of enhancing public and emergency responder education, emergency preparedness and emergency response guidelines. Together these are intended to prevent or reduce loss of life or severe injury and/or damage to property and infrastructure during a hazardous materials event within the Colchester County region.

If the need to evacuate and relocate residents of the affected area(s) is evident, the conditions of the Regional Emergency Evacuation Plan (REEP) shall be put into effect. In such events, the Municipality shall discuss the need to declare a State of Local Emergency (SOLE), **Annex A**, if a mandatory evacuation is needed. If there is a fire or the possibility of fire, the local Fire Chief or designate has the authority to declare the mandatory evacuation at the current time there is no advantage to declaring a SOLE.

2.0 THEORY OF OPERATION

2.1 Presumptions

The Regional Emergency Management Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Response Contingency Plan must make some presumptions to be true for the plan's enactment.

- Fire services in cooperation with local hazardous materials teams and possibly along with the NS Department of the Environment will be the lead agencies when responding to a hazardous materials event.
- Colchester REMO and the Emergency Coordination Centre staff will have the primary responsibility for mitigation, prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery in hazardous materials emergency/disaster situations.
- It is highly probable that with the dangerous goods that are transported or stored within, Colchester County could experience a major hazardous materials event to some degree in the future.
- The Colchester region and partner agencies will follow the response activities set out in the Colchester REMO Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP) and the Regional Emergency Evacuation Plan (REEP).
- Commercial and transportation companies that operate within the Colchester County region will take active measures to protect human lives and the environment.

2.2 Plan Limitations

- The Municipalities of Colchester County do not currently have a formal document for the protection of private property during a hazardous materials event. While efforts will be made to aid residents in the protection of their property during these emergencies, the protection of critical municipal infrastructure must be the priority to ensure continuity of municipal services to the community.
- There may be factors that will negatively affect the Municipalities of Colchester County's ability to respond to a hazardous materials emergency. Response may be delayed if roads become impassable, normal channels of communications may be disrupted and utilities may be unavailable for extended periods of time.

2.3 Plan Activation

This plan may be activated in whole or in part, as required, by the Colchester REMO Emergency Coordination Centre staff, with or without the formal declaration of a state of local emergency.

Upon activation, all participating agencies should respond in accordance with the procedures described within this plan and in accordance with their agency operating procedures.

2.4 Identified Highest Risks

2.4.1 Road Network

Colchester County is geographically situated in the centre of the province. Our region's unique location has the two most travelled highways in Nova Scotia. The only intersection with the Trans Canada Highway (104) which is the primary route from New Brunswick to Newfoundland and the Veterans Memorial

Highway (102) which is the most travelled route to Halifax and all other points in province. Tens of thousands of vehicles each day will pass through our highway corridors each day.

To compliment the 100 Series highways that bring thousands of truck traffic through our region, there are also trunk highways and major arterial collector routes that crisscross the entire region. These all lend to themselves to allowing industry and manufacturing to develop and become sustainable in our region. Colchester County has 197 roads that have been approved to permit B-Train truck traffic which is the largest number of roadways when compared to the other counties. The routes can be viewed on the Department of Public Works' interactive provincial road map.

The table below outlines the number of kilometres of 100 series highways, trunk highways and major routes that span our region. These roads lend themselves to see increased transport truck traffic and with increased volumes, the potential for accidents involving dangerous goods grows.

Highway, Trunk, or Route	Distance (Kms)
Highway 104	128.5
Highway 102	67.5
Trunk 2	94.5
Trunk 4	46.4
Trunk 6	23.5
Route 224	10.4
Route 236	20.4
Route 246	19.3
Route 256	22.5
Route 277	0.1
Route 289	63.6
Route 311	51.4
Route 326	19.6
Route 336	12.5

2.4.2 Railways

To compliment the vast road network, our region has two active railways that move products through our municipalities. The largest operator is Canadian National (CN) that owns and operates the corridor from Halifax's seaport north to the New Brunswick border and beyond. The second company is a privately owned group known as the Cape Breton Nova Scotia Railway which operates in a corridor that begins in the rail siding in Salmon River and unto varies locations in Cape Breton.

Railways have the ability of moving large quantities of materials at one time and like transport trucks have associated risks. Currently in our region, there are 36 level railway crossings, 2 overhead railway crossings and 5 bridges that cross over railway tracks. In addition to all those road crossings, there are countless metres of rail beds that travel alongside or over watercourses. In 2014, the level crossing in Brookfield was ranked as high of 43 of one of the highest risk crossings in Canada.

Our region has had train derailments in the past and in 2001, a VIA passenger train derailed in the Town of Stewiacke. The derailment was due to tampering and it caused catastrophic damage to the train and to some nearby structures. Luckily no one was killed during this event and even though the wreckage was devastating, if the train was hauling freight, the impact would have been even more destructive.

Colchester County has drawn interest from a group that is seeking opportunities to develop an intermodal park north of Truro alongside the CN railway and north of Trans Canada Highway. This venture is known as ScotiaPort which will ideally focus on rail-centric carloads including agribusiness, wood and paper products, and transloading with the aim of reducing truck traffic.

2.4.3 Natural Gas Pipelines

Our region has two natural gas pipelines that transverse across the northern and southeast corner of our county. Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline (M&NP) is a 1,100-kilometre mainline transmission pipeline originally built to transport natural gas from developments offshore Nova Scotia to markets in Atlantic Canada and the northeastern United States. The main pipeline is a 30" pipe that is in the northern part of Colchester County just south of Tatamagouche. The other is the Halifax lateral which is 12" pipeline that is located primarily in the southeast corner of the county. The company operates these pipelines 24hr a day and has in depth emergency response plans. M&NP works with local emergency response agencies and has implemented Emergency Protection Zones (EPZ) around the main line and the lateral. At present, there is an 800m EPZ on the main line and a 400m EPZ around the lateral. M&NP works with the Municipality of Colchester to monitor and identify development in or in proximity of the EPZs.

Each of the pipelines has a valve in Colchester County that can be utilized to shut down the gas flow in sections of the pipeline in case of an emergency.

2.4.4 Industry and Manufacturing

As previous started, the County of Colchester's geographical location offers opportunities for industry and manufacturing to be centrally situated to have ideal access to transportation. These industrial areas can be found scattered throughout and they all bring a potential for the release of either a stored chemical or fuel source.

Agricultural support industries like feed mills, and fertilizer and pesticide/herbicide bulk suppliers may offer some unique challenges if an event occurs at their locations.

It is easy to just view an industrial park or factory as sites that would have the highest risk but that is not always the case. Each venue can bring events that could easily be compounded by lesser variables, and it is often an interaction of two or more minor occurrences that are transformed into a complex event. Each location that has materials that could impact human life, property or the environment in varying identified risks and will have comprehensive emergency response plans.

2.4.5 Institutional

As our region develops and growths so does the demand for municipal services. At present there are four water utilities that utilize a variety of chemicals to treat surface or well water for human consumption. Recreational venues that house swimming pools or ice plants may also have chemicals on location that are required for operations. These types of locations are often never viewed as locales that would have chemicals that could be hazardous by the public.

Higher learning facilities like universities or high schools have use chemicals and compounds as part of the educational experience. Dalhousie University Agricultural Campus is situated in the Village of Bible Hill and is has been at the forefront of agricultural research for decades by developing new best practices in the field or laboratory. These opportunities may use chemicals or even radiation to forward along new technologies and applications. Health care facilities also may have laboratories, diagnostic imaging, and cancer treatment services as well as stores of pure oxygen and fuel on site.

2.4.6 Airfields

Colchester has several airfields that are utilized as a heliport, public airport and two private runways. The heliport is in Shubenacadie and is operated by the Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources. This location is the home operations of its fleet of helicopters. The Debert Airport is the public airfield and home to the Truro Flying Club and most recently the Air Show Atlantic. This three-runway aerodrome was established in 1941 as Royal Air Force (RAF) Station Debert and was used during World War II as RAF No. 31 Operational Training Unit in support of RAF Ferry Command. The two private runways are in Valley and the other is situated at the Tim Horton's Camp in Bayhead. Aircraft and their support services like aviation fuel storage do present unique challenges and some inherited risks.

2.5 Potential Adverse Effects Caused by a Hazardous Materials Release

2.5.1 Public Health

Hazardous materials are terrifying to the public if a chemical is released or smoke is generated due to an explosion and resulting fire. Aside from the physical damage that a release will cause, the emotional trauma of possible exposure to chemicals or their by-products can have lasting consequences as the immediate effects may not be known until a significant time has passed. Exposure to hazardous substances will impact the respiratory systems of those exposed or if direct exposure to a chemical may cause physical damage to the skin.

Residents may be asked to evacuate their homes as a safety precaution during the most extreme events, however being asked to shelter in place may be difficult for most as there are more unknowns.

2.5.2 Property

If a release of chemical does occur, it may have a destructive effect in the immediate area. A propane release from a stationary tank location or during transport by truck or rail could have an explosive effect that could level neighbourhoods if the explosive level thresholds are achieved. If a release results in a precautionary evacuation, it could span from 100m (330ft) to 1600m (1 mile) in all directions depending on the size of the vessel. Each isolation distance will vary from chemical to chemical, but the effects of a release and the explosive potential is always factored in every release.

2.5.3 Environmental

If a dangerous good is released into the environment, the effects can be felt for a significant time and the remediation of the event could take days or years depending on the natural of the materials involved and their toxic properties to the ecosystem.

The loss of biodiversity can be impacted by a fire that clears off vegetation impacting animals, birds, reptiles, and insects. Some creatures may die as a direct impact of the release or die due to starvation or stress. The immediate event can cause levels of contamination to water and the surrounding air in addition to the soils.

In June of 2011, a traffic accident involving a diesel fuel tanker on Highway 103 between Shelburne and Yarmouth near the Bowers Meadows Wilderness Area sparked a fire that sent plumes of dark smoke into the air for hours. The contamination from the event leached into a nearby wetland and within 375m of the wilderness area. It took weeks to understand the potential impact to the area.

2.5.4 Effect on the Economy

In 2014, a 122-car train travelling through Plaster Rock, New Brunswick was involved in a derailment that saw 19 cars and the locomotive leave the tracks and spill diesel and oil and caused a fire that lasted for days. A propane tanker was detonated in a controlled matter as it posed a danger. Over a 150 people were relocated from their homes and businesses for four days. More than 50 wells were believed to be contaminated and the owners were advised not to use their water.

This event prevented the movement of goods from and to the area of Plaster Rock and other locales serviced by the railway. The closure of businesses and the relocation of people impacted the economics of the region.

The Cobequid Pass was closed for over 25 hours in February of 2023 due to a traffic accident involving a propane tanker carrying more than 51,000L. An event of this size impacted that movement of goods into the province as all traffic was rerouted through secondary routes and some transfer trucks were unable

to be rerouted due to their size. An incident does not require a large vessel to cause an economic disruption, in June of 2020, thousands of 20lb propane tanks caught fire on a transport truck that damaged a section of the Plains Road blocking easy access to the Debert Industrial Park and damaged communication and power infrastructure. A hazardous materials release at private business on MacElmon Road in September 2016, caused a shelter in place to some of the largest employers in the Debert area. This event lasted over 14 hours and caused a temporary shutdown to the Debert Airport.

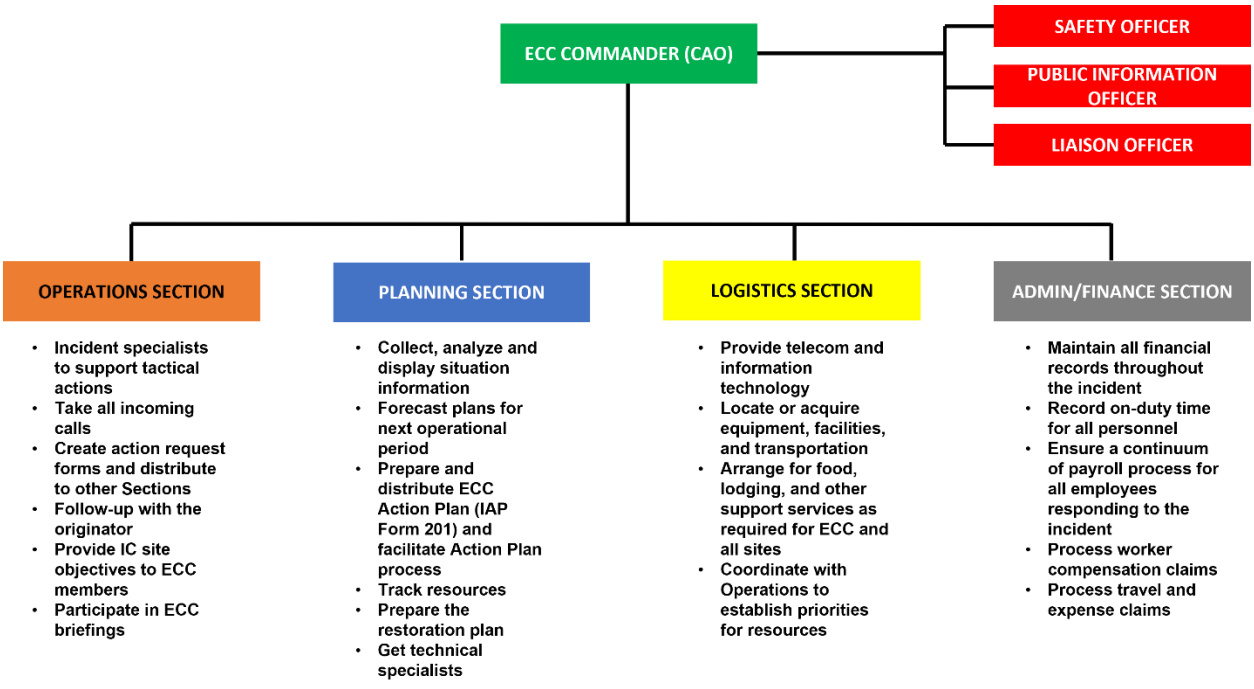
2.6 Hazardous Materials Release Emergency Management Priorities

During a hazardous materials situation, Colchester REMO and its partner agencies will focus their efforts on achieving the
following objectives:

- Preservation of life and safety of emergency responders, residents, and visitors.
- Support for stranded and evacuated persons.
- Protection of the water supply system, sewage treatment and other critical infrastructure of the Municipalities of Colchester County.
- Protection of the environment, watercourses, and potable water supplies.
- Reducing the economic and social suffering and losses to the residents where possible.
- Returning communities to normal through a coordinated recovery process that includes re-entry of displaced persons.
- Reducing the impact to private property where possible and appropriate.

2.7 Hazardous Materials Release Organizational Structure

To support a hazardous materials incident within our region, the Colchester REMO Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) is structured under the Incident Command System.



2.8 Municipal Public Warnings

As there are no audible warning systems within the Municipalities of Colchester County, the public should be alerted to a hazardous materials event through local media (radio, television, newspaper) and municipal social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter). Warnings should also be posted on all Municipal websites and distributed through the emergency mass notification software, Alert Ready. In extreme circumstances, public warning may also be done through vehicle public address systems and/or door-to-door contact by municipal services and/or volunteers.

2.9 Recovery

The ability to recover from the physical damage, injury, economic impairment, and human suffering resulting from a disaster is a critical element of any emergency program. It is essential to recognize that successful recovery planning and activities depend on the rapid start-up of a recovery plan and must begin during the emergency response phase.

Through the implementation of a municipal disaster recovery strategy, Colchester's Municipalities will work with their departments, partner agencies, and volunteer resources to restore critical infrastructure (both public and private), systematically clean up affected areas, and return the community to a state of normalcy.

The prioritization of restoration and clean up efforts will be determined by the Colchester REMO ECC Management Team based on several influencing factors, with the primary focus being on the protection of public safety.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

3.1 Federal

There are several federal agencies that will be involved if a dangerous good or hazardous material is spilled or released. The primary agency is Transport Canada whom is the department that oversees and Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Program. This program develops safety standards and regulations, provides risk-based oversight, and gives expert advice on dangerous goods to promote public safety in the transportation of dangerous goods by all modes of transport regulated by Transport Canada. The Program is also responsible for TDG research and data analysis, and international collaboration to ensure a safe and secure transportation of dangerous goods worldwide.

In conjunction with Transport Canada, Environment Canada and Climate Change, Canada Centre of Occupational Health and Safety and the Canada Border Security may all be involved if a dangerous good or hazardous material incident is involved.

3.2 Provincial

Several Nova Scotia government departments and agencies are engaged if a hazardous materials release occurs, including:

3.2.1 Department of Environment

As of July 1, 2015, the inspection, compliance, and enforcement functions from several provincial government departments came together under Nova Scotia Environment.

The Department of Environment has jurisdiction on matters that may impact the environment. They are the agency that will and can provide guidance on contaminated sites, environmental assessments, hazardous materials and waste, pesticide, and petroleum storage as well ensuring that storage of materials will be able to adapt to climate change.

Inspectors from the department will work with emergency responders to ensure that events involving hazardous materials are mitigated appropriately.

3.2.2 Emergency Management Office

EMO NS takes an "all-hazards" approach to emergency management that recognizes that prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery can be used to address the impact of disasters.

EMO regional staff (Emergency Management Planning Officers - EMPO's) work with municipal emergency management coordinators to ensure there are emergency management plans in place for each municipality in Nova Scotia. Municipal planning and local knowledge are represented in the development of emergency management plans.

The MCCAP process requires municipal emergency management coordinators to work with EMPOs in the development of their respective climate change action plans.

3.2.3 Department of Public Works

Public Works is responsible for delivering quality public infrastructure for Nova Scotia and deal with approximately 23,000 km of roads, 4,100 bridges, 7 ferries, and 2,400 buildings. All its infrastructure is designed, constructed, and operated in accordance with nationally and internationally recognized standards.

Public Works consults with communities on infrastructure developments. Often this infrastructure is developed or renewed in partnership with the Federal or municipal governments.

3.2.4 Department of Labour

The department of Labour is the department that is responsible for fuel safety within the province. The Fuel Safety Section ensures that all fuel installations using propane, natural gas, fuel oil, or landfill and digester gas are performed in accordance with nationally accepted safety codes and standards.

In addition, Fuel Safety staff enforce the requirements of the Fuel Safety Regulations and ensure that only properly trained and certified individuals perform work on these systems.

3.3 Municipal and Regional

3.3.1 Prevention and Mitigation

With our region's vast transportation networks in addition to our growing industrial sectors, our risk of experiencing an incident involving a hazardous material is quite possible.

Local fire and emergency services are trained to identify and respond to incidents involving dangerous goods and are supported by a local hazardous materials response team that is based in the County. Each municipality has building and fire inspection officials who are responsible for regular inspections of locations that may use or store hazardous materials and to ensure that these materials do not collect within residential homes, there is a household hazardous waste collection program offered each month by the Municipality of Colchester's Solid Waste Department.

The three municipalities also share in a regional collaboration regarding Emergency Management. This approach allows for emergency planning and the creation of emergency management planning documents and public education resources designed specifically for our residents and region.

3.3.2 Response and Recovery

When hazardous materials event occurs, the initial responsibility for the welfare of residents is at the Municipal level. As with any emergency, the priority is responder and public safety. The second priority is the protection and maintenance of public critical infrastructure to maintain basic services (hydro, water/wastewater, telecommunication systems, etc.).

When hazardous material events occur within Colchester County, Colchester REMO should:

- Activate the Colchester REMO Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Response Contingency Plan.
- Activate the Colchester REMO Regional Emergency Management Plan.
- Convene the Emergency Coordination Centre Management Team.
- Appoint an Emergency Coordinator Centre Commander.
- If warranted, recommend the declaration of a Municipal emergency.
- Direct and control all hazardous materials response operations in Colchester County.
- Coordinate the acquisition of emergency response equipment, personnel and other resources required at the incident site.
- Coordinate assistance to residents displaced by the hazardous materials event.

- Address concerns related to homes in Colchester County that are on private wells or have private surface water intakes.
- Disseminate vital emergency information to staff, the media and citizens using appropriate channels.
- Provide information to the public concerning water supply safety, alternative sources of water, and protective actions to be taken.
- Request assistance from agencies not under Municipal control, as required (i.e. volunteer agencies, Red Cross etc.).
- Request Provincial assistance to perform specific wildfire combat / control tasks as may be required.
- Coordinate community disaster financial assistance (Nova Scotia Disaster Relief Assistance Program) as deemed necessary.
- Facilitate arrangements for the inspection of evacuated premises and provide for their orderly re-occupation as appropriate.
- Assist the Provincial authorities with damage estimation and assessment after the hazardous materials event.
- Provide residents and businesses with information on safe handling of items damaged by water/sewage.
- Explore mitigation and prevention strategies to reduce the impact of future events.

3.3.3 Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC)

Coordinate wildfire specific education materials for distribution to the public within identified water flood damage areas to include:

- The Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Response Contingency Plan.
- Established evacuation routes (minimum of two) from each identified hazardous materials damage centre, including locations of a primary and secondary Evacuation Centre / Emergency Shelter.
- Emergency preparedness and response education information for the public including pre-event, during an event, and post event.
- Ensuring up to date contact information for emergency facilities, personnel, and additional resources.

3.3.4 Site Operations (Incident Commander)

The Incident Commander (IC) assumes responsibility for the overall coordination of all operations at the emergency site and is the point of contact between the ECC Management Team and site operations.
The Incident Commander is responsible for:

- Identifying the hazardous materials release risk areas.
- Prioritizing response activities.
- Evaluating and identifying equipment and resources needed.

3.3.5 Fire Services

- Conduct rescue, as required.
- Rescue/evacuate any persons in danger with minimum delay and provide medical first response (MFR) service as necessary.
- Coordinate with hazardous materials (HAZMAT) teams.
- Assist Police Services with evacuations in the affected areas as required.
- Fire suppression, mitigate released chemicals and other hazards.

3.3.6 Colchester RCMP/Truro Police Service

- Evacuate the affected areas as required.
- Perform traffic and crowd control operations.
- Disperse people not directly connected with the operations who, by their presence, are in danger, or whose presence hinders in any way the efficient functioning of the hazardous materials control operation.
- Secure the affected areas (based on need and availability of staff).
- Provide community security to prevent against looting and other unruly activities.
- Identify and establish detour routes due to a hazardous materials release and maintain proper traffic flow patterns as deemed appropriate.

3.3.7 Infrastructure Services - Water/Wastewater

- Implement actions to protect water and sewer systems and identify threats to drinking water.
- Work with ECC Information Officer to advise the public of protective actions that may be required in the event of damage or concerns related to the sewer systems and/or drinking water sources.
- Request the disconnection or discontinuance of any service that may constitute a public hazard.
- In the event a wildfire emergency results in the release of untreated or partially treated sewage into lakes and rivers, implement internal procedures and notify the Ministry of the Environment, and the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

3.3.8 Transportation

- Organize transportation as required for residents and emergency responders.
- Coordinate private companies and local Centres of Education transportation resources to address the transportation needs.

3.3.9 Social Services

- Aid residents displaced by a hazardous materials release as required.
- Coordinate emergency facilities (i.e. emergency shelter operations, evacuation centres).

3.3.10 Utilities

- Perform disconnect operations where this is considered necessary and in the interest of public safety.
- Secure services and equipment to ensure continuity of supply.

- Coordinate the priority restoration of affected services as dictated by emergency needs of municipal services and other essential users.
- Assist with clean up and restoration of services.
- Assess ability to resume normal operations.

4.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS OF EVACUATIONS

Since public awareness of preparedness and response will contribute to an effective evacuation process, ongoing public awareness and education shall be an essential component of this plan. To this end, this document, as part of the Regional Emergency Management Plan, shall be posted on the municipal websites.

4.1 Evacuation Warnings

To be effective, Evacuation Warnings/Announcements should have the following characteristics:

Authority—Warnings are more credible and more likely to promote appropriate public actions if they are issued by a recognized authority.

Consistency—To avoid confusion and uncertainty, it is important that consistency be maintained when multiple warnings are issued to the public.

Accuracy—Accuracy and currency of information contained in the warning also affect understanding and belief. Errors can cause people to doubt subsequent warnings.

Clarity—An unclear warning can cause people to misunderstand or ignore it. Warnings should be in simple language, without the use of jargon.

Level of Certainty—Certainty determines the level of belief in a warning and affects decision making by those to whom the warning is given**.**

Level of Detail—Insufficient information creates confusion, uncertainty, and anxiety, and public imagination will tend to fill the information void. This can promote rumours, uninformed misconceptions, or fears.

Clear Guidance— Messages containing clear guidance about protective actions people should take and the time available for doing so are more effective than those which provide no specific instructions.

Repetition of Warnings—Where time permits, warnings should be repeated preferably using more than one delivery method. This provides confirmation of the warning message, helps increase persuasiveness and overcomes the problem of people not responding after hearing a warning only once.

Impact Areas—Warning information that clearly states the areas actually or likely to be affected by the event is most effective.

Methods of Information Broadcasting—Warnings are more effective if a range of methods is used rather than a single method, thereby reaching as many people as possible in the shortest time. Methods need to be chosen to fit the time-frame available and should recognize that some modes are appropriate in reaching many people but with only relatively simple or generalized information (i.e. media) whereas others can provide more specific information to targeted individuals (i.e. telephone, two-way radio, door-knocking or use of community leaders). Use of mass notification software "Alert Ready" can enhance the effectiveness of electronic media warnings by alerting listeners for an urgent safety message to follow.

Information Broadcasting for Special Needs Groups—Consideration must be given to the specific problems of special needs groups. Distribution to, and receipt of information by, many of these groups will pose different challenges, for example, language. Neighbours can also help by checking on special-needs people in their proximity.

4.2 Evacuee Alerting and Sheltering

Reference: Colchester Region Emergency Management Evacuation Plan

The decision to evacuate any specific area has two levels:

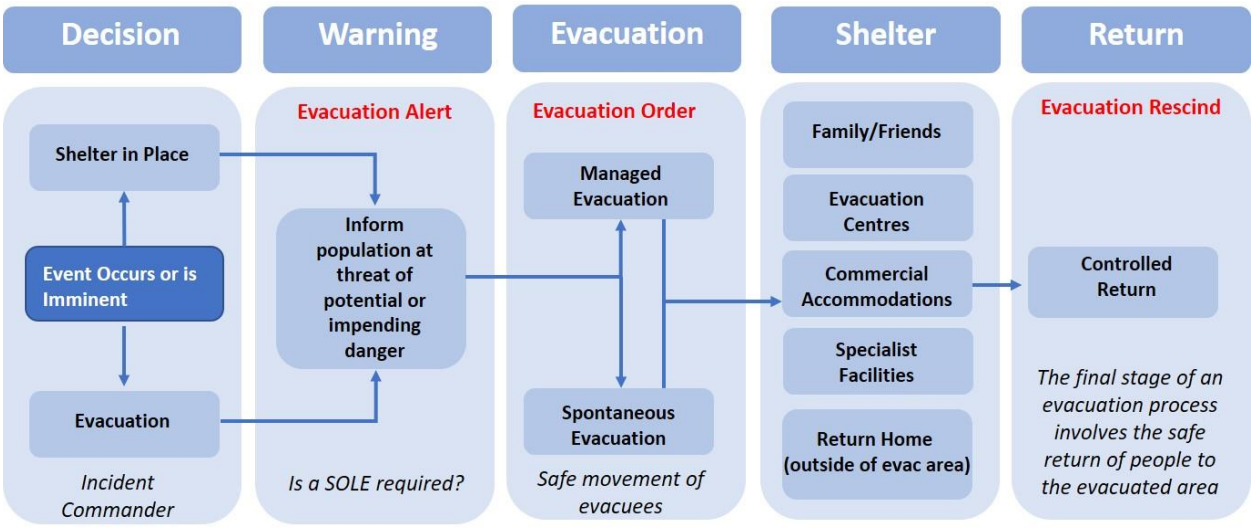
Immediate Evacuation: An immediate and sudden leak, spill, or fire at a fixed facility or mobile transport vehicle that requires identification of impacted areas to be evacuated followed by an immediate evacuation. This is the responsibility of the Incident Commander (IC) with support from the REMC to coordinate the moving of people and the opening of shelters to receive and house evacuees.
Alerting: Evacuees shall be notified to evacuate within the areas identified by the IC. Alerting shall be a door-to-door campaign by police with assistance from other agencies as required and available.

Time Critical Evacuation: An event that unfolds over several days, such as hurricanes that require an evacuation. In these cases, the evacuation will be managed by the ECC prior to the arrival of the severe weather event. The ECC will provide notifications and alerting, transport, and sheltering.
Alerting: Evacuees shall be notified to evacuate within the areas identified by the ECC Commander. Alerting shall be a police door to door campaign notifying citizens to evacuate as well as providing each family so advised of the location of their nearest shelter either within Colchester County or neighbouring Counties. Police may accept assistance from other agencies as required and available. Additional alerting shall be through local media (radio), social media and mass notification software. Evacuations will be supported by the ECC opening shelters to house displaced people and provide them with the necessities of life.

4.3 Evacuation Process

Reference: Colchester Region Emergency Management Evacuation Plan

Evacuation takes place within a process that begins with preparing for the possible need to evacuate populations at high risk from imminent or actual disaster. It involves ongoing risk monitoring and management as the situation and needs of evacuees evolve over time, and only ends with their safe, voluntary, and sustainable reintegration back home or in alternate locations.



5.0 PLAN EVALUATION, REVIEW & MAINTENACE

5.1 Plan Evaluation and Responsibilities

The Colchester Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) is responsible for coordinating the exercising of the Regional Emergency Management Wildfire Response Contingency Plan. This Plan will be evaluated and compiled biennially.

5.2 Plan Maintenance and Responsibilities

The Colchester Regional Emergency Management Wildfire Response Contingency Plan will be maintained by the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) and the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC).

The Plan will be reviewed biennially and, where necessary, revised by a meeting(s) of the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC) and the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (REMAC). The Regional Emergency Management Flood Response Contingency shall be revised subject to the approval of Municipal Councils.

6.0 PLAN DISTRIBUTION

Distributed electronically:

Municipal Units

- Municipality of Colchester
- Town of Truro
- Town of Stewiacke
- Village of Bible Hill
- Village of Tatamagouche

Fire and Emergency Services

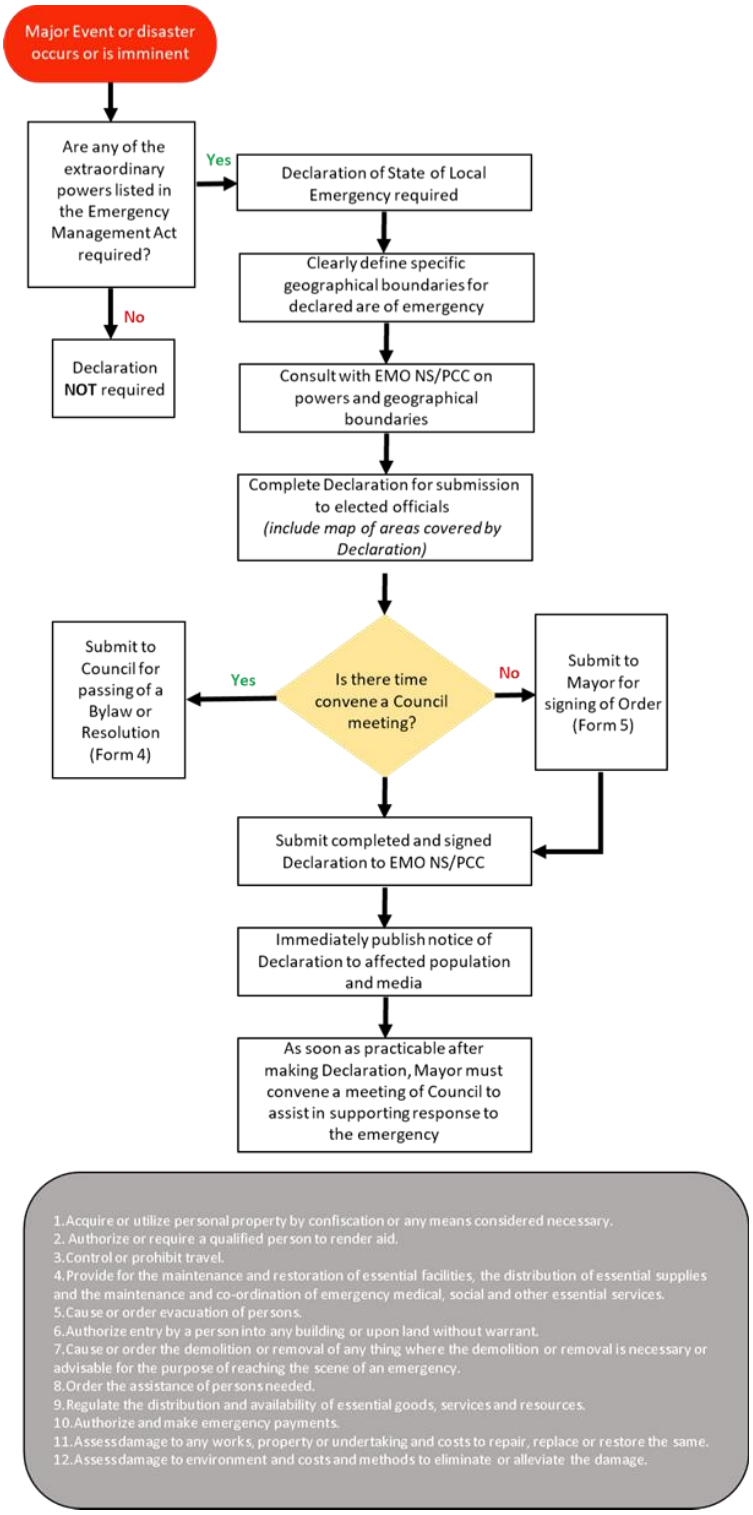
- Colchester County Fire Services and Special Hazards Response Unit (SHRU)
- Truro Fire Service
- Stewiacke Fire Department
- Truro Police Service
- Colchester RCMP
- Colchester Ground Search and Rescue

Colchester Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee members
Colchester Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee members

ANNEXES

Annex A – Declaring a State of Local Emergency (SOLE)

(Reference: Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act)



Annex B – State of Local Emergency Forms (SOLE)

FORM 4

DECLARATION A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Municipality: _____

Section 12(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, S.N.S 1990, c.8

WHEREAS the area herein described is or may soon be encountering an emergency that requires prompt action to protect property or health, safety or welfare of persons therein:

Emergency Area:
The area generally described as
_____

Province of Nova Scotia (hereafter referred to as the "Designated Area(s)") Yes ( ) No ( )

Nature of the Emergency
_____
_____
_____

AND WHEREAS the undersigned is satisfied that an emergency as defined in Section 2(b) of Chapter 8 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*, exists or may exist in the Designated Area(s) noted above;

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY DECLARES pursuant to Section 12(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, a State of Local Emergency in the Municipality noted above as of and from _____o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of _____, 20____ .

THIS DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY shall exist until o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of_____ , 20___ , or for a maximum of 7 days from the date and time specified above unless the Declaration is renewed or terminated as provided in Section 20 of the *Emergency Management Act*.

DATED at_____, in the Municipality of _____, Province of Nova Scotia, this day of _____, 20____ .

Council, Municipality_____
Name _____
Positions _____
[Authorized by Resolution No. _____
dated the Day of _____, 20_____]

FORM 5

DECLARATION A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Municipality: _____

Section 12(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, S.N.S 1990, c.8

WHEREAS the area herein described is or may soon be encountering an emergency that requires prompt action to protect property or health, safety or welfare of persons therein:

Emergency Area:
The area generally described as
_____

Province of Nova Scotia (hereafter referred to as the "Designated Area(s)") Yes ( ) No ( )

Nature of the Emergency
_____
_____
_____

AND WHEREAS the undersigned is satisfied that an emergency as defined in Section 2(b) of Chapter 8 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*, exists or may exist in the Designated Area(s) noted above;

AND WHEREAS the Council of the Municipality is unable to act;

AND WHEREAS the undersigned has (check appropriate box)

a) Consulted with a majority of members of the Municipal Emergency Management Committee Yes ( ) No ( )

b) Found it impractical to consult with the majority of the Municipal Emergency Management Committee Yes ( ) No ( )

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY DECLARES pursuant to Section 12(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, a State of Local Emergency in the Municipality noted above as of and from _____o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of _____, 20____ .

THIS DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY shall exist until o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of_____ , 20___ , or for a maximum of 7 days from the date and time specified above unless the Declaration is renewed or terminated as provided in Section 20 of the *Emergency Management Act*.

DATED at_____, in the Municipality of _____, Province of Nova Scotia, this day of _____, 20____ .

Mayor Signature_____
Municipality_____

FORM 6

RENEWAL OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Municipality: _____

Section 20 (2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, S.N.S 1990, c.8

WHEREAS the area herein described is or may soon be encountering an emergency that requires prompt action to protect property or health, safety or welfare of persons therein:

Emergency Area:
The area generally described as
_____

Province of Nova Scotia (hereafter referred to as the "Designated Area(s)") Yes ( ) No ( )

Nature of the Emergency
_____
_____
_____

AND WHEREAS the declaration of a state of Local Emergency was signed on the _____day of _____, 20___;

AND WHEREAS the undersigned is satisfied that an emergency as defined in Section 2(b) of Chapter 8 of the statutes of Nova Scotia, 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*, exists or may exist in the Designated Area(s) noted above;

THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY DECLARES pursuant to Section 20(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, a State of Local Emergency in the Municipality noted above is renewed as of and from _____o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of _____, 20____ .

THE RENEWAL OF A DECLARATION OF STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY shall exist until o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of_____ , 20___ , or for a maximum of 7 days from the date and time specified above unless the Declaration is renewed or terminated as provided in Section 20 of the *Emergency Management Act*.

DATED at_____, in the Municipality of _____, Province of Nova Scotia, this day of _____, 20____ .

Council, Municipality_____
Name _____
Positions _____
[Authorized by Resolution No. _____
dated the Day of _____, 20_____]

In the event the Council is unable to act:

Mayor _____

FORM 7

TEMINATION OF A STATE OF LOCAL EMERGENCY

Municipality: _____

Section 18(2) of the *Emergency Management Act*, S.N.S 1990, c.8

WHEREAS by Declaration of a State of Local Emergency date the _____ day of _____ , 20____, as renewed on the _____day of _____, 20_____, a State of Local Emergency was declared for the following area:

Emergency Area:
The area generally described as
_____

Province of Nova Scotia (hereafter referred to as the "Designated Area(s)") Yes ( ) No ( )

Nature of the Emergency
_____
_____
_____

AND WHEREAS the undersigned is of the opinion that the emergency no longer exists in the Designated Area(s).

THE UNDERSIGNED pursuant to Section 18(2) of Chapter 8 of the Statutes of Nova Scotia, 1990, the *Emergency Management Act*, hereby terminates the State of Local Emergency effective as of and from _____o'clock in the forenoon ( ) or afternoon ( ) of the day of _____, 20____.

DATED at_____, in the Municipality of _____, Province of Nova Scotia, this day of _____, 20____ .

Council of Municipality_____
Name _____
Positions _____
[Authorized by Resolution No. _____
dated the Day of _____, 20_____]

Annex C – Hazardous Materials Event Checklist

Pre-Incident Phase

- ☐ Arrange for personnel to participate in necessary training and develop exercises relevant to hazardous materials events in our region.
- ☐ Coordinate the region's preparedness activities, seeking understanding of interactions with participating agencies in hazardous materials scenarios.
- ☐ Ensure that emergency contact lists are updated.
- ☐ Contact supporting emergency response agencies to determine whether major developments have arisen that could adversely affect response operations (e.g., personnel shortages, loss of equipment, etc.).
- ☐ Review and update the Colchester REMO Regional Emergency Management Plan and Emergency Management Support Plans.
- ☐ Familiarize staff with requirements for requesting a State of Local Emergency (SOLE).
- ☐ Ensure that supplies, such as communications devices are prepared and ready for use. This includes primary and alternate communications and mass notification systems.
- ☐ Identify and review local contractor lists to see who may provide support specific to a hazardous materials response.
- ☐ Review, revise, and, where necessary, establish agreements with local agencies relevant to response to severe storms.

Response Phase

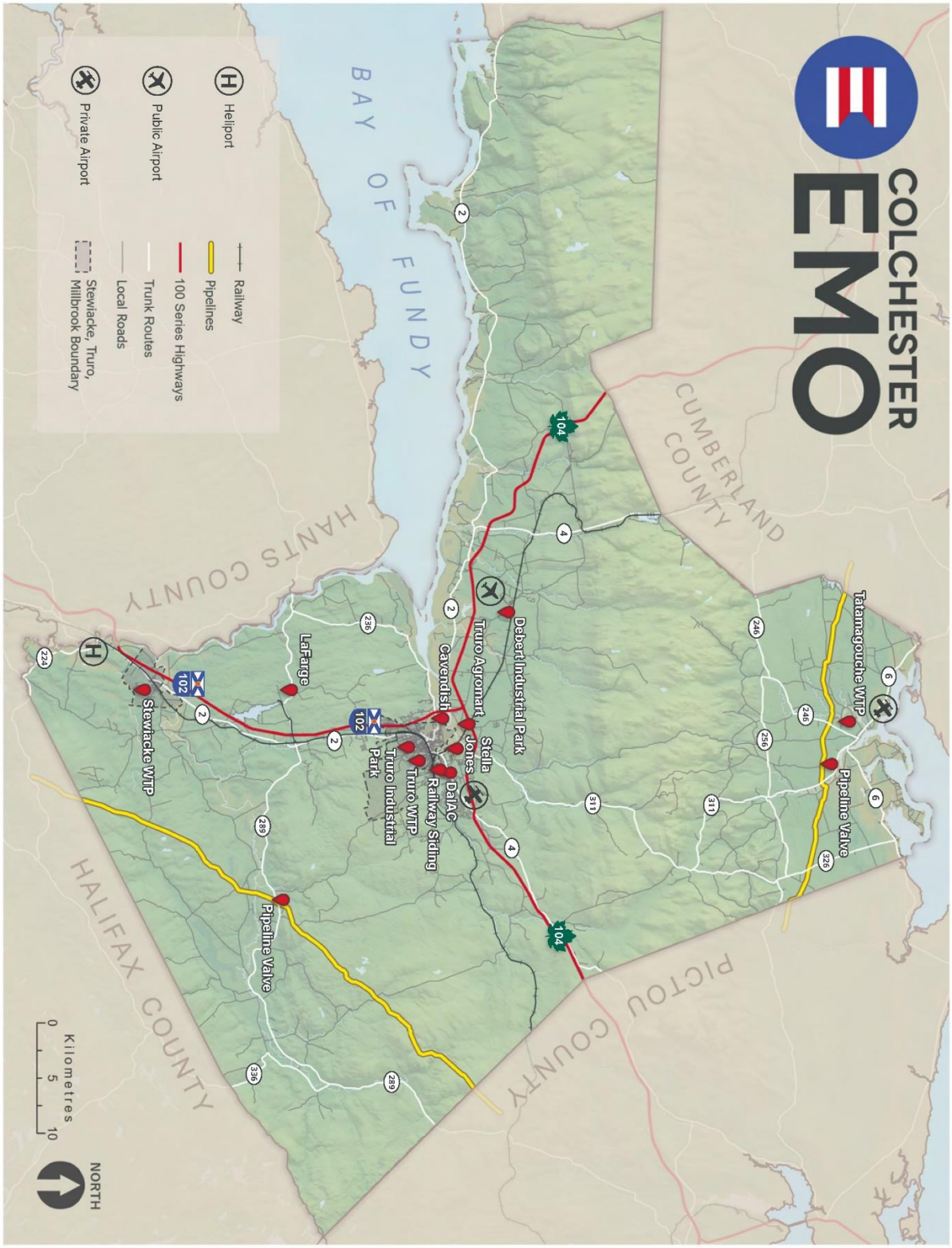
- ☐ Activate the Colchester REMO Emergency Coordination Centre (ECC) and implement appropriate staffing plans. Contact supporting agencies to assign liaisons to the ECC for coordination of specific response activities.
- ☐ Activate agreements with outside stakeholders if required.
- ☐ Estimate emergency staffing levels and request personnel support.
- ☐ Develop and initiate shift rotation plans, including briefing of replacements during shift changes (set the operational period briefing cycle).
- ☐ Submit request for State of Local Emergency (SOLE), if applicable.
- ☐ Coordinate the evacuation of affected area, if necessary. Assign appropriate agency liaisons to the ECC, as the situation requires.
- ☐ Support Search and Rescue operations by coordinating resource requests outside of the jurisdiction.
- ☐ Evaluate the need for the activation of emergency venues. Coordinate comfort centre activation and arrange for registration centres if evacuations are required. If shelters are required, contact the Canadian Red Cross.
- ☐ Develop emergency public information messages and media response using "one voice, one message" concept.
- ☐ Record all ECC activities, completion of personnel tasks, incoming and outgoing messages, and the names of those sending and receiving them. These should be recorded in ECC documentation.
- ☐ Begin damage assessments in coordination with the appropriate stakeholders.
- ☐ Contact local contractors for support, if necessary. Establish contact with private sector partners.

- Coordinate with law enforcement agency (Truro Police and/or Colchester RCMP) to provide law enforcement to affected areas (road closures, security, etc.).
- Collect and chronologically file records and bills generated during the incident to ensure timely submittal of documents for reimbursement (Finance/Administration Section).

Recovery Phase

- Monitor secondary hazards associated with hazardous materials (health concerns, damage to bridges/roads, impacts to utility lines/facilities) and maintain on-call personnel to support potential response to these types of hazards.
- Deactivate/demobilize the ECC. Deactivate external resources as soon as possible.
- Activate and implement applicable mitigation plans, community recovery procedures, and continuity of operations/governments plans until normal daily operations can be completely restored.
- Implement revisions to the Colchester REMO Regional Emergency Management Plan (REMP) and Supporting Plans based on lessons learned and best practices adopted during response.
- Participate in After Action Reports and critiques.
- Submit valuable success stories and/or lessons learned to NS EMO.

Annex D – Potential Risk Areas



Annex E – Glossary

BLEVE — Boiling Liquid Expanding Vapour Explosion. A container failure with a release of energy, often rapidly and violently, which is accompanied by a release of gas to the atmosphere and propulsion of the container or container pieces due to an overpressure rupture.

CANUTEC — Canadian Transport Emergency Centre operated by Transport Canada. It is a 24-hour 365-day government-sponsored hotline to chemical emergencies. It can be contacted at 1-888-CANUTEC (226-8832) or *666 on a cellular phone.

Carcinogen — A substance or mixture which induces cancer or increases its incidence.

CBRN — Chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear agent.

Classes of Dangerous Goods — A Schedule to the TDG Act identifies nine classes of dangerous goods.

- Class 1 - Explosives, including explosives within the meaning of the Explosives Act.
- Class 2 - Gases; compressed, deeply refrigerated, liquefied, or dissolved under pressure.
- Class 3 - Flammable and combustible liquids.
- Class 4 - Flammable solids; substances liable to spontaneous combustion; substances that on contact with water emit flammable gases.
- Class 5 - Oxidizing substances; organic peroxides.
- Class 6 - Poisonous (toxic) and infectious substances.
- Class 7 - Radioactive materials and radioactive prescribed substances within the meaning of the Atomic Energy Control Act.
- Class 8 - Corrosives.
- Class 9 - Miscellaneous products, substances or organisms considered by the Governor-in-Council to be dangerous to life, health, property, or the environment when handled, offered for transport or transported and prescribed to be included in this class.

Control Zones — Designated areas at hazardous materials / dangerous goods incidents based on safety and the degree of hazard.

Cold Zone – An area where the command post and support functions that are necessary to control the incident are located.

	Warm Zone – Area between hot and cold zones where personnel and equipment decontamination and hot zone support takes place. It includes control points for the access corridor and thus assists in reducing the spread of contamination. Hot Zone - Area immediately surrounding a hazardous materials / dangerous goods incident which extends far enough to prevent adverse effects from the released product to personnel outside the zone.
Dangerous Goods	The Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Act, 1992, defines the term "dangerous goods" as a product, substance or organism included by its nature or by the regulations in any of the classes listed in the schedule.
Decontamination	The removal of hazardous materials / dangerous goods from personnel and equipment to the extent necessary to prevent potential adverse health effects.
Edema	The accumulation of an excessive amount of watery fluid in cells and tissues. Pulmonary edema is an excessive buildup of water in the lungs.
ERAP	Emergency Response Assistance Plan. This is an approved plan that describes what is to be done in the event of a transportation accident involving certain higher risk dangerous goods.
ERG	Emergency Response Guidebook that is intended for use by first responders during the initial phase of a transportation incident involving hazardous materials / dangerous goods.
Hazardous Materials	Are substances or chemicals that pose a health hazard, a physical hazard, or harm to the environment.
Large Spill	A spill that involves quantities that are greater than 208 litres. This usually involves a spill from a large package or multiple spills from man small packages.
Non-polar	Refers to a material that does not mix readily with water. Also referred to as immiscible.
pH	pH is a value that represents acidity or alkalinity of a water solution. A pH value below 7 indicates an acid solution (pH of 1 is extremely acidic) and a pH value above 7 an alkaline solution (pH of 14 is extremely alkaline). Pure water has a pH of 7.
Polar	A material that mixes readily with water. Also referred to as miscible.

Protective Clothing	Includes both respiratory and physical protection. One cannot assign a level of protection of clothing or respiratory devices separately. Level A – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) plus totally encapsulating chemical resistant clothing. Level B – Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) plus hooded chemical resistant clothing (splash suit). Level C – Full or half face respirator plus hooded chemical resistant clothing (splash suit). Level D – Coverall, including structural firefighter's protective clothing with no respirator protection.
Radioactivity	The property of some substances to emit invisible and potentially harmful radiation. Alpha Particles – Largest of the common radioactive particles, alpha particles have extremely limited penetrating power. They travel only 7 to 10 centimetres in air and can be stopped by a piece of paper or a layer of human skin. Beta Particles – Particle which is the same size as an electron and can penetrate materials further than a larger alpha particle. Depending on the source, beta particles can travel several metres in the air and can penetrate paper and human skin but cannot penetrate internal organs. Gamma Waves – Are the most dangerous for of radiation because of the speed at which it moves, and it can travel great distances. It has the ability to pass through human tissues and it penetrates most materials very well and it is considered a whole-body hazard as internal organs can be penetrated and damaged. The range of the gamma waves depends on the energy of the source material.
Shelter in Place	People are asked to seek shelter inside a building and remain inside until the danger passes. Sheltering in place is used when evacuating the public would cause greater risk than staying where they are or when an evacuation cannot be performed.
Small Spill	A spill that involves quantities that are 208 litres or less. These types of spills typically are from a small package, cylinder, or a small leak from a large package.

Annex F – Important Numbers

NSP Power Outage
1-877-428-6004

Bell Aliant Outage
611 or 1-800-663-2600

Eastlink Outage
1-888-345-1111

Drinking Water Safety
1-877-252-8476

Emergency Management Office (NS)
1-866-424-5620

Department of Environment
Truro Office **902-893-5880**

Forest Fires/Poaching/Wildlife Emergencies
1-800-565-2224

Public Works (Provincial)
1-844-696-7737

Environmental Emergencies (oil spills and gas leaks)
1-800-565-1633

Food Safety
1-877-252-3663

Maritime Northeast Pipeline Emergency
1-888-444-6677

Department of Natural Resources
Bible Hill Office **902-893-5620**

EMO (NS) Region 2 EMPO		
Region 2 (Cumberland, Colchester, East Hants, Pictou, Antigonish, Guysborough)	**Dominic Fewer**	902-897-8152 dominic.fewer@novascotia.ca

Town of Truro Office
902-895-4484
After Hours
902-895-5351

Town of Stewiacke Office
902-639-2231
After Hours
902-897-7823

Municipality of Colchester
902-897-3150
After Hours
902-897-3160

911 - This is for emergencies only. If someone's health, safety, and/or property are threatened, and help is needed right away.

811 - For health information and advice when you have a health concern or question.

511 - For information about Provincial roads in Nova Scotia.

211 - For community and social services.