

Partners in Resiliency – Communities Supporting Communities

Hosting evacuees is a major component to the annual coordination of a flood and wildland fire season response. Communities work with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) to coordinate space, staff, and resources to support evacuees in their time away from their communities. Contact your Field Officer for more information on how to become a host community.

Evacuations at a glance

- In 2021, Ontario saw 1200 fires which burned 793,325 hectares of land – more space than Algonquin Park (763,459 hectares). 2021 set a record for area burned in the province since 1960.
- That same year, more than 3700 First Nations community members from six communities were evacuated, the third highest number in the last 10 years. These members were welcomed into 11 host municipalities and four Nation-to-Nation hosting arrangements.

Thank you to all those who supported us and helped us feel welcome and comfortable during our time away from the fires threatening our community.

– Cat Lake Chief Russel Wesley

Why host?

- Occasions to deepen connections with key partners during the planning phase. Partners include Indigenous communities; Tribal Councils and provincial/territorial organizations; federal partners such as Indigenous Services Canada (ISC); provincial partners such as Indigenous Affairs Ontario, EMO, Ministry of Health and others; and NGO partners who can support or facilitate the hosting process on a contractual basis.
- EMO provides municipalities with training, professional development, and collaboration with partners in the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC).
- EMO can facilitate introductions with ISC to discuss benefits of hosting agreements, which include financial incentives and reimbursements for costs incurred.
- Opportunities to maintain currency, enhance preparedness, and test response capabilities.
- Opportunities to maintain/update planning for own emergencies including the need to evacuate/host members of own municipality, if required.

Learn more



Nishnawbe Aski Nation
– Joint Emergency
Management Standards



Emergency
Management Ontario
website

Host site planning checklist

Step 1: Learn about hosting

- Access hosting resources and learn about hosting models
- Connect with:
 - experienced host communities to hear best practices and lessons learned
 - Indigenous communities and/or organizations around support in evacuations
 - other government partners, such as Indigenous Services Canada
- Attend the First Nations Emergency Response Association (FNERA) annual flood and wildland fire season planning event

EMO can facilitate connections with experienced host communities, government partners, Indigenous partners, and others. Contact your Field Officer for more information.

Step 3: Conduct preliminary planning

- Determine hosting model, planning lead, and on-site coordination
- Connect with Indigenous emergency management organizations
- Engage surrounding communities and service providers
- Identify potential providers of wrap-around services to involve in planning, for example:
 - health, local Indigenous groups, childcare, food services, recreation, facilities, etc.

EMO can answer questions about hosting models and availability of service providers for on-site coordination or planning support.

Step 2: Identify host site(s)

- Develop criteria to assess site (for example, number of rooms, accessibility, feeding facilities, etc.)
- Seek advice from partners on site suitability (including fire code and capacity)
- Coordinate/conduct site assessment
- Confirm suitability of site, based on site assessment

EMO can assist with coordinating site assessments (i.e. site assessment checklist) and facilitating connections with Indigenous partners, provincial ministries, and others for advice.

Step 4: Conduct detailed planning

- Incorporate First Nations councils in planning process
- Coordinate planning discussions with local stakeholders:
 - determine roles and responsibilities for site operations
 - identify the availability of wrap-around service provision
- Draft hosting plan
- Engage ISC to establish a funding agreement
- Confirm hosting availability with PEOC through your Field Officer

EMO can provide resources to support the planning process, as well as bring together partners and facilitate planning meetings.

Step 5: Final hosting plan