



Emergency Preparedness Report Summary

Prepared by: Siksika Nation Emergency Management
Submitted to: Line 3 Indigenous Advisory and Monitoring Committee

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“We can, and must, do better in the field of Indigenous emergency management.” Indigenous communities “need to have care and control of emergency management regimes that are community reflective and culturally appropriate, and not have them prescribed.”

Tahawennon:tie David A. Diabo

Indigenous communities across Canada continue to be disproportionately impacted by emergency and disaster incidents due to availability of resources, remoteness, diminished access to emergency services and proximity to areas prone to wildfire, flooding and other extreme weather events.

The Siksika Nation Emergency Management team, with support from ATCO Frontec Disaster & Emergency Management, investigated the state of emergency preparedness in the 98 Indigenous communities determined to be in the potential impact zone of Enbridge’s Line 3 Replacement Program (L3RP). The aim is to identify current emergency management opportunities and challenges facing these communities, as well as identify available resources, tools, and initiatives that can be accessed and used to increase emergency management capacity.

Although the primary research for this project focuses on communities affected by the L3RP, the findings are applicable for Indigenous communities across Canada.

No one better understands the needs of a community better than the community members themselves.



KEY FINDINGS

Due to limited resources and capacity challenges, many communities do not have full-time emergency management specialists or teams with community members filling the roles.

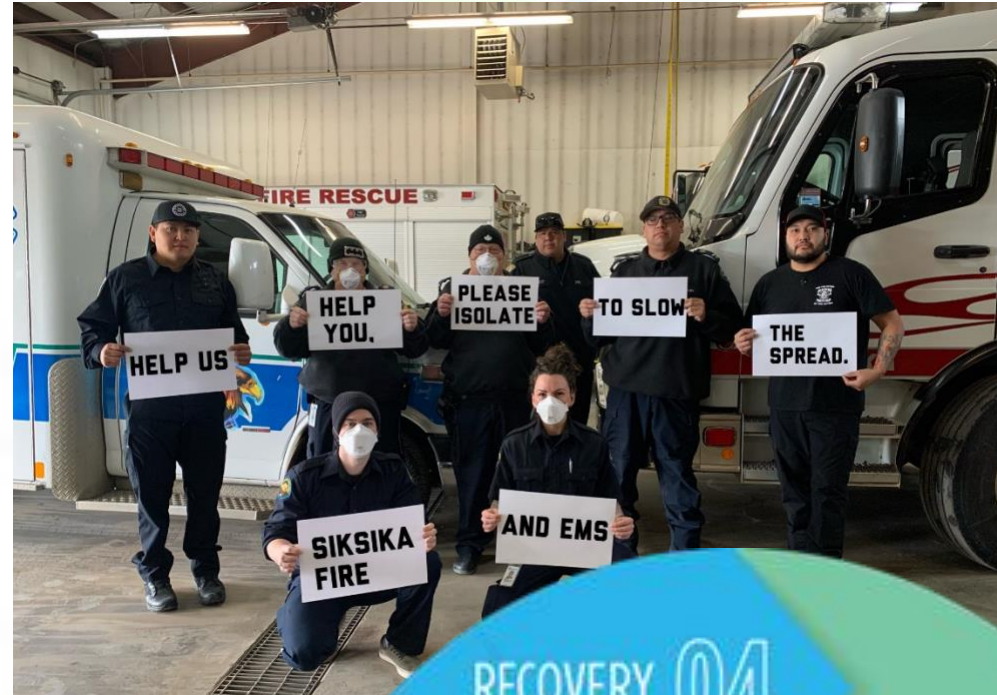
Emergency Management is the organization and management of resources and is responsible for dealing with all humanitarian aspects of emergencies (prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery). The aim is to reduce the harmful effects of all hazards, including disasters.

Emergency Services and First Responders provide immediate assistance to a disaster. Roles such as police, firefighting and emergency medical services are **reactive** in scope.

On the other hand, emergency management resources are **proactive** in scope. Such resources look at how a community may **prepare** for a disaster. And when disaster strikes, the emergency management structure organizes different entities and both communicates and collaborates with community leadership, external entities and the general public.

Our research has found:

- Three of five responding communities (60%) have a Director of Emergency Management or incident management team but on a **part-time** or **volunteer** basis only.
- Of the 98 Indigenous communities potentially impacted by the L3RP, approximately one in five (18%) have an emergency management plan in place. Many Nations do not the resources or support to develop an emergency management plan or update plans in place.



Communication continues to be a challenge for Indigenous communities to arrange adequate emergency management resources that best serve their communities.

For a variety of reasons, the federal resources designed to help Indigenous communities build emergency management capacity are underutilized. Our research suggests:

- Limited communication between external emergency management entities and acting emergency management staff within an Indigenous community;
- Limited awareness of the resources available including funding and training for a community to build capacity; and
- Limited administrative capacity to assist Indigenous communities to complete proposal and grant applications to support building capacity for emergency management.

The communities from which we heard not only want to be involved: **they want to be heard.**

- Part of the information sharing between Indigenous and non-Indigenous partners should include traditional land use and traditional and cultural practices.
- Cultural sensitivities need to be both acknowledged and respected.
- Indigenous communities desire to be self-reliant and autonomous when it comes to emergency management, and protecting their citizens/ members, land and infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Support the desire of Indigenous communities to both develop and deliver an emergency management program that is tailored to their specific needs.

- Staff emergency management roles with community members to foster collaboration and increase awareness of disaster risks.
- Deliver ICS and incident management team training programs to increase emergency management expertise within communities.
- Support communities to designate a full-time Director of Emergency Management so that the roles of emergency management and emergency services are distinct. The Director of Emergency Management should be equipped with appropriate resources to carry out the role successfully.



Work with Indigenous Services Canada and/or industry to develop training and partnerships that build internal administrative capacity to plan, develop and apply for future emergency management projects and initiatives on an ongoing basis.

- Indigenous communities want to be part of the solution, not to have solutions thrust upon them. They want whatever solutions are developed to be the product of open and transparent collaboration that prioritizes their traditional knowledge and values.



Work with Indigenous Services Canada to increase communications aimed at increasing funding access.

- Increase communications and accessibility around available funding for Indigenous communities because they are not accessing funding at a level that would support internal emergency management capacities.
- Develop an information sharing network for Indigenous communities so they may take advantage of funding opportunities, resources and tools – especially for activities relating to mitigation & prevention and preparedness.

Develop a designated platform that highlights beneficial training and minimum qualifications.

- Adopt the ICS Canada Standard and set a minimum training expectation for the Director of Emergency Management, Chief and Council, and the incident management team.
- Support community-based training programs (CERT), that can bridge the gap in emergency management scenarios. Community-based teams can be effective to integrate citizens/ members into all pillars of emergency management.



For more information, including a copy of the full report, please contact:

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