



## Government of Yukon

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## NEWS release

FOR RELEASE #11-055  
May 5, 2011

### Yukon highlights Emergency Preparedness Week with Operation Wildfire

WHITEHORSE—Yukon Emergency Measures Organization and the community of Haines Junction will hold a joint tabletop emergency exercise to recognize Emergency Preparedness Week.

"Emergency Preparedness Week provides a great opportunity to practice our emergency plans to ensure we are ready to respond," Community Services Minister Archie Lang said. "Operation Wildfire will test the Emergency Measures Organization's emergency plans along with those of the community of Haines Junction."

Operation Wildfire simulates a mock forest fire situation near Haines Junction. The table top exercise is taking place in the community on May 5, and includes the Emergency Measures Organization, the Village of Haines Junction, Champagne and Aishihik First Nations and emergency first response organizations in Haines Junction.

While emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility among all levels of governments, Yukoners are also urged to take action to prepare themselves.

"Emergency Preparedness Week is an annual reminder for all Yukoners to be prepared and to be ready for potential emergency events," Lang added. "It is also a time to consider and plan for potential hazards in our communities, be it flood, fire, power failure, earthquake or other events."

Yukoners are asked to take three simple steps to prepare themselves and their families for emergency events: 1) know the risks; 2) make a plan; and 3) assemble an emergency kit to sustain them, their family and their pets for at least 72 hours without access to power or tap water. This allows emergency responders to focus on those in urgent need.

The Government of Yukon also works with communities to develop local emergency plans and conduct training exercises to test their plans and practice emergency management skills.

Emergency Preparedness Week is taking place across Canada from May 1 to 7.

Visit [http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/emo/ep\\_week2011.html](http://www.community.gov.yk.ca/emo/ep_week2011.html) and follow Emergency Preparedness Week 2011 on Twitter (text 21212 "follow get\_prepared") and Yukon Protective Services on Twitter (text 21212 "follow yukonflood\_fire").

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