



Kings County, NS Debris Management Plan (DMP)

September 2025

Original



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FOREWORD

In the aftermath of a debris generating emergency event, it is not uncommon for there to be a large volume of debris, which needs to be managed in a timely manner. The development of a Kings County Regional Debris Management Plan (DMP) is paramount to public safety in the case of man-made disasters and natural disaster threats. The Kings County Regional Debris Management Plan was prepared in consultation with County and Municipal stakeholders responsible for everyday management throughout Kings County.

Kings REMO strives for strong leadership within the emergency management community and is dedicated to continuous improvements and enhancements to this plan, training and exercising throughout the Kings County region. Therefore, this plan is a living document that will be amended as necessary through a planning process that is managed by the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) in consultation with emergency management partners throughout the County.



Robbie Hiltz

Chair

Kings REMO

Regional Emergency Management Advisory
Committee (REMAC)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose

This Debris Management Plan (DMP) outlines a coordinated strategy to manage debris resulting from a severe weather event within the Kings County Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) jurisdiction. It supports the timely removal, collection, segregation, recycling, and disposal of debris to restore public safety, mobility, and critical services.

1.2 References

- a. [Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act](#)¹
- b. [Nova Scotia Emergency Preparedness and Nova Scotia Guard Act](#)²
- c. [Valley Waste Resource Management](#)³
- d. [Haulers List and Construction & Demolition Sites](#)⁴

1.3 Guiding Principles

1. Expedite the restoration of public services and ensure the health and safety of personnel and the public
2. Allocate human, technical and financial resources for disaster debris management.
3. Collaborate between all levels of government (local, regional, provincial, federal, and first nations) and supportive legislative and regulatory provisions.
4. Initiate proactive, consistent and strategic public communications that is timely, accurate, objective, easily understood, accessible, and balanced.
5. Effective debris management, which could include, push and shove, removal, collection, sorting; and storage for reuse, recycling, and disposal operations preferably within the region while continuing to provide regular municipal solid waste service.
6. Incorporate on-site and/or off-site separation of debris where practical to reduce health risks, handle hazardous material requirements and promote material reuse and recycling.
7. Follow best management practices and prepared plans/approvals/agreements for any disposal of debris.
8. Minimize any interim and long-term impacts to the natural environment from debris management operations.
9. Train staff and volunteers with a commitment to the appropriate level of support and on-going improvement.



¹ <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/emergency%20management.pdf>

² <https://nslegislature.ca/sites/default/files/legc/statutes/emergency%20preparedness%20and%20nova%20scotia%20guard.pdf>

³ <https://www.vwrm.com/>

⁴ <https://www.vwrm.com/services/haulers-list-and-cd-sites/>

10. Balance environmental, economic, social and recovery objectives in the region with debris management.

1.4 Scope

This plan applies to all municipal units within Kings County, including:

- Municipality of the County of Kings
- Town of Kentville
- Town of Wolfville
- Town of Berwick

It addresses natural disaster-related debris including vegetative debris, construction and demolition (C&D) materials, hazardous waste, electronic waste, white goods including units containing CFC's, spoiled packaged food, and household hazardous waste.



1.5 Definitions

Construction &

Demolition Debris

“construction and demolition debris” means materials which are normally used in the construction of buildings, structures, roadways, walls and other landscaping material, and includes, but is not limited to, soil, asphalt, brick, mortar, drywall, plaster, cellulose, fibreglass fibres, gyproc, lumber, wood, asphalt shingles and metals (hereafter referred to as “C&D Debris”).

Debris Estimation

a post-emergency event activity which estimates the physical amount of disaster debris caused by a specific emergency.

Debris Clearing

the act of clearing debris for the purposes of access and egress as prioritized by the Kings REMO ECC to meet Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management goals.

Debris Hauling

the act of moving debris from one location to another

Debris Classification

the act of classifying debris for the purposes of debris hauling and identification of temporary waste handling facilities.

Debris Collection

the act of gathering debris from the impacted area.

Debris Processing

the act of sorting, reducing and disposing of debris using permanent and/ or temporary waste handling facilities (neighbourhood drop-off points, collection centres, temporary transfer stations and debris management sites).

Final Disposal	the final destination of processed debris that is not recyclable or re-usable, e.g. landfill.
Landfill	means a facility for the disposal of municipal solid waste by placing it in or on land.
Municipal Solid Waste	“municipal solid waste” means garbage, refuse, sludge, rubbish, tailings, debris, litter and other discarded materials resulting from residential, commercial, institutional and industrial activities which are commonly accepted at a municipal solid waste management facility, but excludes industrial waste from an industrial activity regulated by an approval issued under the Environment Act, S.N.S. 1994-95, c.1.Act (hereafter referred to as “MSW”).
Yard Waste	means vegetative matter resulting from gardening, horticulture, landscaping or land clearing operations, including materials such as tree and shrub trimmings, plant remains, grass clippings, leaves, trees and stumps, but excludes construction and demolition debris or contaminated organic matter.

2.0 CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS (CONOPS)

2.1 Planning Assumptions

The Kings County Debris Management Plan (DMP) assumes the following:

Category (Alphabetical)	Planning Assumptions
Contracting	• Standing offers or pre-identified emergency contracts will be required to ensure timely access to specialized debris services (e.g., tree removal, hazardous material cleanup, demolition). • Contractors may be in high demand across the region during widespread events.
Debris Volume & Type	• Debris quantities may exceed the routine handling capacity of local solid waste management systems. • The type and volume of debris will vary depending on the event, location, and time of year (e.g., ice-laden tree debris in winter; vegetative and C&D debris post-hurricane).
Environmental Regulations	• All debris operations will comply with applicable provincial and federal environmental regulations, including hazardous waste handling, burning restrictions, and landfill tipping rules. • Special handling will be required for asbestos-containing materials, HHW, and contaminated soils.
Equity & Accessibility	• Vulnerable populations, including seniors and persons with disabilities, may require assistance or access to disposal services.
Hazard Profile	• Kings County is vulnerable to hurricanes, post-tropical storms, nor'easters, flooding, winter storms, wildfires, and other hazards. • These events may generate large volumes and mixed types of debris across multiple communities.
Jurisdictional Scope	• The DMP will be applicable across all municipalities within Kings County (Towns, Villages, and the Municipality of the County of Kings). • Debris may impact public and private property, requiring coordination across municipal, provincial, and federal jurisdictions.
Operational Capacity	• Valley Waste Regional Management (VWRM) will require external support (contractors or provincial assistance) for major debris events. • Municipal public works and contracted services may initially focus on life-safety and road clearance, delaying secondary debris operations.

Provincial and Federal Support	- During large-scale events, the Kings REMO ECC may submit Requests for Assistance (RFAs) to the Nova Scotia REOC. - Provincial and federal financial assistance (e.g., Disaster Financial Assistance Programs) may take time to activate and require detailed documentation.
Public Participation	- Residents will play a role in sorting and debris separation. - Public education and communication will be critical to support effective debris collection.
Recovery Timeline	- Debris management and site remediation will be a long-term effort, potentially lasting weeks or months after the initial emergency response phase. - Recovery priorities will evolve over time, requiring adaptive coordination with stakeholders.
Temporary Debris Sites	- Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Sites (TDSS) may be required in one or more strategic locations. - Not all potential TDSS will be pre-approved by Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change (NSECC), and approval processes may cause delays.
Transportation Network	- Debris from natural disasters (e.g., hurricanes, floods, or winter storms) may block or partially obstruct critical transportation networks, including provincial highways (e.g., Highway 101, Highway 1), municipal roads, and key access routes to emergency facilities (e.g., hospitals, fire stations). These blockages could delay emergency response, evacuation, and debris removal operations. - Damage to transportation networks, such as washouts of bridges, culverts, or secondary roads, may isolate communities (e.g., Port Williams, Canning) and disrupt supply chains, requiring adaptive debris management strategies like temporary staging areas or alternate hauling routes.

2.2 Types of Debris

Type (alphabetical)	Examples
Construction & Demolition (C&D)	Shingles, drywall, wood, insulation
Electronic Waste	TVs, computers, appliances
Hazardous Flood Debris	Debris contaminated with sewage, mold, or hazardous substances
Household Hazardous Waste (HHW)	Paint, propane tanks, batteries, oils
Household Medical Waste (HMW)	At-home medical waste (e.g., syringes, dialysis supplies, contaminated bandages)
Mixed Municipal Solid Waste (MSW)	Non-recyclable household debris
Vegetative	Trees, branches, leaves, stumps
White Goods	Fridges, stoves, washers, freezers

2.3 Debris Management Phases

1. Preparedness Phase (Pre-Event):

- Ensure readiness of municipal, regional, and partner resources for debris management

2. Response Phase (Immediate Post-Event):

- Ensure public safety, clear critical access routes, and begin assessment of debris impact.

3. Recovery Phase (Ongoing Debris Collection & Processing)

- Efficiently remove, process, and dispose of debris to restore community function.

4. Demobilization Phase

- Stand down debris operations, restore sites, and finalize financial and operational reporting

Annex B outlines actions required during each phase of the Kings REMO Debris Management Plan.

2.4 Debris Clearing Prioritization

Because transportation routes enable both response and recovery operations, prioritization of effort must be considered. The following are guidelines, which should be used and referenced, when completing this activity:

1. Lifelines: Routes essential to life safety transportation, e.g. evacuation routes.
2. Critical Infrastructure, e.g. hospitals, ambulance halls, police stations, EOCs, telecommunication sites, water sanitation sites, power generation and transmission sites.
3. Clear major freeways and arterial routes.
4. Clear areas necessary for movement of goods and services and/ or economic restoration.
5. Clear minor arterial routes.
6. Clear local routes.

When determining debris clearing priorities prior to a disaster, Local Authorities may choose to use their snow removal routes as a base, noting that other sources of information may include:

- evacuation routes;
- disaster response routes\transportation;
- pre-identified location of comfort/reception centres; and
- pre-identified location of staging areas.

These pre-identified priorities will need to be reviewed during an activation of the Plan, amended where necessary and communicated to the relevant sections within the EOC, and should be captured in the Incident Actions Plans (IAP).

2.5 Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Sites (TDSS)

Kings REMO, in partnership with VWRM and municipalities, will pre-identify suitable locations for:

- **Debris Sorting & Chipping**
- **Staging for Hauling to Disposal Sites**

Potential Sites:

- County Works Yard (Greenwood)
- Kentville Industrial Park Area
- Existing VWRM Transfer Stations
- Public parks (tree debris)

2.6 Requesting a Variance from the Province

A variance allows a municipality or waste authority to temporarily deviate from normal solid waste disposal regulations, such as:

- Using a temporary site not previously approved
- Landfilling materials normally banned (C&D debris is fine in landfill without variance, brush is not)
- Accepting disaster waste at facilities not licensed for that waste type



2.6.1 Steps to Request a Variance

1. Prepare the Variance Request Letter or Form ([Annex C](#)) for emailing to include:

- Type of debris requiring alternate handling
- Justification (e.g. volumes exceed capacity, road access cut off)
- Proposed site location(s) and site map
- Environmental controls to be implemented (e.g., fencing, water runoff management, Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) separation)
- Timeline for use
- Plan for remediation and monitoring

2. Submit to Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change (NSECC)

- Contact local Regional NSECC Office
- Email or submit through the Environmental Monitoring and Compliance Division
- During major events, NSECC may activate an expedited review process through the NS DEM Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC)

3. Consult with Valley Waste Regional Management (VWRM)

- VWRM should co-sign or support the variance, as they manage licensed waste facilities. The Inter-Municipal Services Agreement (IMSA) allows member municipalities of Valley Waste to either do these cleanups themselves or pay Valley Waste to do it.

- Ensure alignment with the regional waste strategy.

4. Receive Approval

- NSECC will review and issue a written approval or conditions
- May include restrictions on what can be accepted, hours of operation, or monitoring requirements

5. Monitor and Document

- Maintain detailed logs of what is accepted, where it's moved, and any environmental measures taken
- Submit reports if required by NSECC as part of the variance conditions

2.6.2 Example Situations Requiring a Variance

Situation	Type of Variance Required
Temporary use of a vacant field as a TDSS	Site approval variance
Burning brush onsite	Open burning permit from SNR, plus variance from NSECC
Landfilling wood waste or shingles	Ban exemption from solid waste landfill regulations
Transport of mixed debris without processing	Transportation and disposal variance

2.7 Safety and Environmental Considerations

- Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) by all staff and contractors
- Dust suppression at TDSS
- Spill response plans for HHW
- Avoidance of debris incineration unless approved
- Establish set-back areas for wood grinding and processing

2.8 Cost Tracking and Financial Recovery

- Time tracking templates for municipal staff
- Load tickets and debris tonnage logs
- Documentation of contractor invoices
- Coordination with Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management (NS DEM) for **Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangement (DFAA)** eligibility

2.9 Expected Debris by Hazard

[Annex D](#) table of expected debris by Hazard for Kings County, can be used to support:

- Pre event staging – Identify likely volumes and pre contract haulers/recyclers for each debris stream.
- Segregation & temporary storage – Plan separate drop off areas (e.g., vegetative, C&D, HHW) at Temporary Debris Storage & Processing Sites (TDSS).
- Volume estimation & cost
- Public information – Tailor curb side sorting instructions to the debris profile expected for the event (e.g., separate white goods after hurricanes; bag ash after wildfires).
- Regulatory coordination – Confirm provincial approvals (e.g., Nova Scotia Environment & Climate Change, Valley Waste Regional Management) for each waste class before the event.



2.10 Critical Infrastructure Impact and Debris Management Considerations

[Annex E](#) identifies key critical infrastructure and areas within Kings County, Nova Scotia, that may impact response priorities or present cleanup challenges during activation of the Debris Management Plan. It also outlines recommended mitigation measures to reduce response delays and support effective coordination with relevant stakeholders.

2.11 Debris Volume Estimates by Area

[Annex F](#) provides estimated debris volumes that may be generated in various communities and zones across Kings County, based on known hazards and historical impacts. These estimates are intended to support planning for debris staging, removal, and contractor resourcing.

2.12 Plan Activation - Authority

Authority	Typical Situation
Kings REMO ECC Manager or Duty Officer	ECC already activated at any level and debris is impeding the response.
Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC)	Immediate operational need before the ECC stands up; may activate the Annex and request ECC activation.
Municipal CAO or Mayor	When a municipal state of local emergency is declared.
Valley Waste Regional Management (VWRM) General Manager	Limited, debris-specific incident that overwhelms routine solid-waste services but does not yet require full ECC activation (e.g., isolated tornado in one community).

2.13 Plan Activation - Criteria

These are the decision-triggers senior staff use to decide whether to switch from “business-as-usual” to the coordinated DMP:

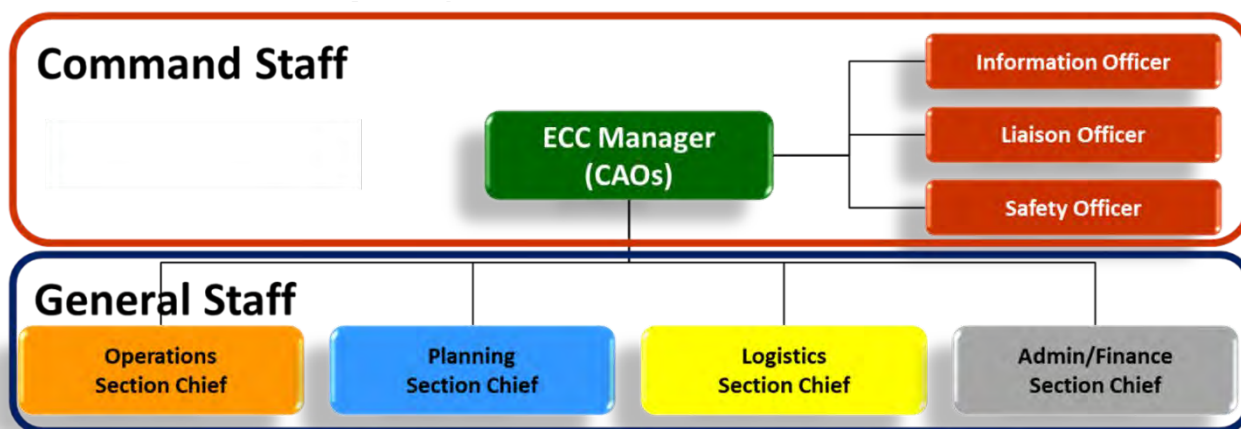
#	Criterion	Why it matters
C-1	Debris volume or composition exceeds routine collection capacity – e.g., projected > 3 days to clear priority roads, or > 1,000 m ³ mixed C&D waste.	Normal curb-side routes can’t keep up; special sites, contractors, or heavy equipment are required.
C-2	Critical transportation routes blocked (any 400-series highway, Hwy 1, 101 ramps, rail lines, or emergency service station access).	Life-safety, suppressing secondary damage.
C-3	Immediate threat to public health or the environment – hazardous household waste, oil tanks, propane cylinders, animal carcasses, or contaminated silt.	Requires specialised collection, segregation, and regulatory oversight.
C-4	Declared Local or Provincial State of Emergency (Kings County or Nova Scotia).	Unlocks extraordinary authorities, mutual-aid, and provincial/federal cost-recovery.
C-5	Request from Incident Commander or first-in municipal work crews documenting that debris is hampering response or recovery tasks.	Front-line trigger when the situation escalates faster than initial forecasts.
C-6	Forecasted event with high debris potential (e.g., wind ≥ 90 km/h, snowfall ≥ 40 cm wet snow, or Category 1+ hurricane landfall probability > 50 %).	Allows <i>pre-emptive</i> staging of monitoring teams, contract equipment, and temporary debris management sites (DMS).

2.14 Readiness Levels & Escalation Logic

ECC Readiness	DMP Status	Typical Actions
Level 3 Monitoring	Stand-by	Situation Report (SITREP) cadence increased, Debris Assessment Team (public works + VWRM) pre-tasked, contractors alerted but not mobilised.
Level 2 Partial Activation	Partial DMP	Open first DMS, issue public separation guidance, deploy damage-assessment app, activate trucking and grinding contracts.
Level 1 Full Activation	Full DMP	Multi-agency Debris Task Force embedded in ECC, cost-tracking and environmental liaisons in place, mutual-aid and provincial/federal reimbursement processes engaged.

2.15 Debris Management Organizational Structure

To support a debris management within Kings County the Kings REMO Emergency Coordination Centre is structured under the Incident Command System:



- Incident specialists to support tactical actions
- Take all incoming calls
- Create Action Request forms and distribute to other Sections
- Follow-up with originator
- Provide IC site objectives to ECC members
- Participate in ECC briefings

- Collect, analyze, and display situation information
- Forecast plans for next operational period
- Prepare and distribute ECC Action Plan (IAP Form 201) and facilitate Action Planning process
- Track resources
- Prepare the restoration plan
- Get technical specialists

- Provide telecomm and information technology
- Locate or acquire equipment, supplies, personnel, facilities, and transportation
- Arrange for food, lodging, and other support services as required for ECC and all sites
- Coordinate with Operations to establish priorities for resources

- Maintain all financial records throughout the incident
- Record on-duty time for all personnel
- Ensure a continuum of the payroll process for all employees responding to the incident
- Process worker compensation claims
- Process travel and expense claims

3.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

Agency/Department	Responsibility
Kings REMO ECC	Coordination of debris management activities, liaison with Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management (NS DEM) and contractors.
Municipal Public Works	Initial road clearance, debris collection coordination.
Valley Waste Resource Management (VWRM)	Oversight of waste stream segregation, transportation, and disposal.
Contracted Debris Removal Services	Execution of large-scale debris removal and transport operations.
NS Environment & Climate Change (ECC)	Regulatory oversight on disposal and environmental protection including potential disposal variances.
Department of Public Works (NS)	Coordination on provincial road clearance and disposal site access.

3.1 Federal

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Develop national guidance (e.g., Public Safety Canada, Environment Canada, Transport Canada) • Support climate resilience research and data sharing (e.g., CMHC flood mapping) • Oversee regulations for hazardous waste, species protection, and navigable waters
Preparedness	• Fund disaster mitigation programs (e.g., DMAF, NDMP) • Provide technical expertise (e.g., Natural Resources Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada) • Maintain mutual aid agreements and federal deployment readiness (e.g., CAF, RCMP, CCG)
Response	• Provide military/CAF aid (e.g., heavy equipment, logistics, air support) • Coordinate federal HAZMAT or environmental response if required) • Support search and rescue or port/channel debris clearance (e.g., Coast Guard)
Recovery	• Administer Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) • Provide guidance on debris cost eligibility and documentation • Assist with long-term environmental remediation if needed

3.2 Provincial

3.2.1 Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management (NS DEM)

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	- Promote municipal EM planning standards and hazard mitigation frameworks - Incorporate lessons learned into provincial hazard risk assessments
Preparedness	- Coordinate provincial REMO and REOC training and exercise programs - Review and provide feedback on municipal and REMO debris management plans - Pre-identify available provincial assets for mutual aid (e.g., EMO-owned generators, mobile command trailers)
Response	- Support Kings REMO through the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC) - Facilitate the activation and deployment of NS Guard to assist with spontaneous volunteer management, debris site operations support, and community outreach - Coordinate Requests for Assistance (RFAs) from municipalities to province/federal - Facilitate provincial declarations of emergency and enable special orders
Recovery	- Lead provincial Disaster Financial Assistance Program (NS-DFA) - Liaise with federal DFAA and provide reimbursement templates for municipalities - Support after-action reviews and promote EM program updates

3.2.2 Nova Scotia Department of Public Works (NS DPW)

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	- Identify critical transportation routes and infrastructure at risk - Implement vegetation management to reduce windfall debris along highways
Preparedness	- Maintain contracts and inventory for heavy equipment and debris handling - Coordinate with municipal public works on continuity planning for shared assets
Response	- Clear debris from 100-series highways and provincial bridges/culverts - Provide equipment and personnel to assist with municipal clearance as needed
Recovery	- Assist in the restoration of damaged transportation infrastructure - Document debris removal work for DFA reimbursement

3.2.3 Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources (NS DNR)

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	- Manage forest fuel loads and conduct wildfire risk assessments - Enforce tree buffer regulations in floodplains and riparian areas
Preparedness	- Train staff and maintain readiness for forest debris clearance - Develop wildfire prevention materials with municipalities
Response	- Provide forestry equipment and crews for debris clearance in wooded areas - Assist with the containment and management of downed trees
Recovery	- Oversee reforestation efforts where large-scale tree loss occurred - Assist in disposal or chipping of woody debris with ecological sensitivity

3.2.4 Nova Scotia Department of Environment and Climate Change (NS ECC)

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Develop and enforce regulations on solid and hazardous waste disposal • Map flood-prone areas and support climate adaptation planning
Preparedness	• Approve temporary Debris Storage & Processing Sites (TDSS) under emergency conditions • Provide environmental oversight guidelines to municipalities
Response	• Approve emergency landfilling or waste diversion activities • Monitor and regulate hazardous materials, contaminated soils, and fuel spills
Recovery	• Review cleanup and environmental compliance reports • Provide technical expertise for long-term site remediation and environmental monitoring

3.2.5 Other Provincial Agencies (e.g. NS Agriculture, NS Health, NS Labour)

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Monitor and advise on debris risks in regulated sectors (e.g., farms, food processing)
Preparedness	• Provide sector-specific guidance (e.g., carcass disposal, biosecurity zones)
Response	• Assist in managing animal carcass debris, biomedical waste, and public health risks
Recovery	• Support regulated site cleanup and restoration (e.g., agricultural operations)

3.2.6 Nova Scotia Power

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Identify and maintain vegetation around power lines to reduce windfall debris risks; share outage risk data with Kings REMO for hazard planning.
Preparedness	• Pre-position repair crews and equipment for rapid response; coordinate with Kings REMO to include power line safety in debris management exercises.
Response	• De-energize downed or dangling power lines to ensure safe debris clearance; provide real-time updates to Kings REMO ECC on outage and repair status.
Recovery	• Restore power infrastructure and remove utility-related debris (e.g., poles, wires); assist in documenting electrical hazards for DFAA reimbursement.

3.3 Regional – Kings REMO

Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Collaborate with Valley Waste and Public Works to identify high-risk areas and routes • Encourage public education on debris-reducing property measures (e.g., tree pruning, yard waste disposal)
Preparedness	• Develop and maintain the Kings County Debris Management Plan • Coordinate training and exercises with municipal departments and Valley Waste • Identify and pre-approve Debris Management Sites (DMS) with stakeholders
Response	• Activate the DMP when criteria are met • Coordinate municipal and regional debris assessment, clearance, and disposal • Liaise with Valley Waste, contractors, and provincial/federal agencies

Recovery	• Lead cost tracking and documentation for DFA/DFAA eligibility • Oversee the deactivation and restoration of DMS • Compile after-action reports and incorporate lessons into future updates
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3.4 Valley Waste Regional Management (VWRM)

Valley Waste Regional Management is a key operational partner in the management of post-disaster debris in Kings County. As the region's solid waste authority, VWRM is responsible for ensuring that waste collection, transport, sorting, disposal, and diversion operations are conducted efficiently, safely, and in compliance with applicable regulations. VWRM's level of involvement increases as the scale of the incident and the ECC activation level escalates.



Phase	Responsibilities
Mitigation	• Identify and document critical waste facilities, routes, and vulnerabilities • Develop and maintain pre-arranged contracts for debris hauling and site equipment • Participate in tabletop exercises and hazard assessments led by REMO
Preparedness	• Contribute to the development and regular review of the Debris Management Plan • Map and maintain list of potential DMS (public and private lands) • Stockpile basic site equipment (e.g., fencing, signage, tarps, containers) • Provide annual staff training on emergency response roles and safety protocols
Response	• Implement debris collection, transport, and disposal strategies per ECC direction • Operate DMS with site control, public access protocols, and environmental safeguards • Document quantities, types, and sources of debris for DFA/DFAA reimbursement • Communicate sorting and drop-off procedures to the public and contractors
Recovery	• Restore and decommission temporary DMS sites in accordance with provincial regulations • Continue curbside recovery of residual debris and special waste (e.g., appliance removal) • Submit final operational and financial reports • Participate in after-action review (AAR) and assist in plan updates based on lessons learned

4.0 PUBLIC EDUCATION & AWARENESS OF DEBRIS MANAGEMENT

4.1 Purpose

The goal of public communication in debris management is to provide timely, clear, and actionable information to residents and businesses regarding **debris sorting, drop-off procedures, safety precautions, and eligibility for financial recovery**. Effective public messaging ensures community compliance, reduces confusion, and speeds up cleanup operations, thereby reducing risk, preventing delays, and promoting community safety and environmental protection.



4.2 Communication Objectives

- **Increase public understanding** of the debris management process during all phases (preparedness, response, recovery).
- **Educate residents** on how to sort, handle, and safely place debris at the curb or designated sites.
- **Promote environmental stewardship** and public health through proper disposal of hazardous materials.
- **Ensure access to clear and timely information** during debris cleanup operations.
- **Support recovery coordination** by managing expectations and increasing compliance with municipal procedures.
- **Clarify roles and responsibilities** of the public, municipalities, and contractors.
- **Promote safety messaging** related to debris handling.
- **Ensure inclusion and accessibility** (plain language, multiple formats/languages if needed).

4.3 Communication Channels

Channel	Example Use
Municipal & REMO Websites	Dedicated debris management page, FAQs, interactive maps.
Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram)	Rapid updates, visual guides, site changes.
Alertable/NS DEM Notification Systems Valley Waste RecycleCoach App	Push notifications on collection timelines or hazards.
Local Radio & Print Media	Emergency notices, debris collection zones and instructions.
Flyers & Door-to-Door Notices	Especially in rural or vulnerable communities.
Municipal Public Info Line	Debris hotline for questions and concerns.

4.4 Key Messages

- a. **Debris sorting matters:** Residents should separate waste into five main streams:
 - Vegetative debris (tree limbs, brush)
 - Construction & Demolition (C&D) (wood, drywall, insulation)
 - White goods (appliances)
 - Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) (paint, fuel, batteries)
 - Electronics (TVs, computers)
- b. **Keep Roads Clear:** Debris must not block roadways, sidewalks, fire hydrants, or storm drains. This is essential for emergency access and public safety.
- c. **TDSS Locations:** Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Sites (TDSS) will be activated following major events. Maps and directions will be posted to KingsREMO.ca and municipal websites.
- d. **Do Not Mix Waste Types:** Mixed debris slows cleanup, increases costs, and may be refused at staging or disposal sites.
- e. **Hazardous Materials:** HHW must not be left at the curb. Drop-off events will be organized with Valley Waste, and locations will be announced post-disaster.
- f. **Stay Informed:** Use the Kings REMO website, municipal websites, Alertable notifications, and local radio (e.g., REWIND 89.3 & AVR/Magic 94.9) for updates.

4.5 Visual Communication Materials

To enhance clarity and reduce language barriers, **graphic-based communication materials** should be used. These can include:

- **Debris Sorting Infographics** (icons for wood, metal, appliances, HHW, etc.)
- **Before & After Curbside Setup Diagrams**
- **Collection Route Maps**
- **Do/Don't Posters** (e.g., mixing debris piles, blocking hydrants)

These visuals should be:

- Included on websites and social media.
- Printed and posted at municipal buildings, grocery stores, and post offices.
- Sent to media outlets and community groups.

4.6 Targeted Communications

- **Nova Scotia Guard:** The NS Guard may be deployed to help residents safely participate in community cleanup efforts and will provide safety orientation and registration support for volunteers.
- **Residents:** Focus on sorting instructions, curbside placement, and what not to do.
- **Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) members:** Customized outreach through direct contact, caregiver coordination, or door-to-door visits where needed.
- **Property Owners & Landlords:** Emphasize responsibilities for rental properties and large debris removal.

- **Businesses:** Guidance on debris from commercial operations and who to contact for disposal instructions.
- **Farmers:** Special messaging regarding agricultural debris, animal mortalities, and chemical storage impacts.
- **Tourists & Visitors:** Temporary signage and social media messaging during peak seasons or ongoing events.

4.7 Two-Way Communications & Feedback

- Public Inquiry Hotline staffed during cleanup phase.
- Email contact form on the REMO site for concerns or missed pickups.
- Post-Event Survey to gather lessons learned and community input.

5.0 MENTAL HEALTH & COMMUNITY STRESS

5.1 Purpose

Disasters that generate large-scale debris—especially events that damage homes and personal belongings—can cause emotional trauma, anxiety, grief, and stress for affected residents. This section outlines how Kings REMO and municipal partners will integrate trauma-informed approaches into debris management communications and ensure mental health support is accessible during all phases of response and recovery.

5.2 Emotional Impact of Debris on Communities

- **Visible reminders** of loss (e.g., piles of household goods, damaged furniture, children’s toys, or family photographs) can intensify emotional distress.
- The **act of discarding personal belongings**, even if necessary, can feel traumatic, especially for seniors, families, or vulnerable populations.
- Prolonged cleanup timelines, **uncertainty**, and **confusion over disposal rules** may further increase stress levels.
- **Social stigma or embarrassment** over debris outside one’s home can lead to withdrawal or reluctance to seek help.

5.3 Trauma-Informed Public Messaging

Kings REMO will use a trauma-informed lens in all public-facing communication related to debris management. This includes:

- **Compassionate tone:** Acknowledge the emotional difficulty of discarding personal items. Use empathetic, non-blaming language.
- **Validation:** Reinforce that emotional reactions are normal and expected after loss or damage.
- **Empowerment:** Provide step-by-step instructions, emphasize available help, and encourage residents to take manageable actions.
- **Choice and Control:** When possible, offer options (e.g., curbside vs. TDSRS drop-off) and clarify that individuals can reach out for assistance.
- **Cultural Sensitivity:** Consider that certain items may carry cultural, spiritual, or generational importance.

Sample Public Message (Trauma-Informed Style)

We understand that placing personal belongings at the curb or sorting through storm-damaged items can be one of the most emotionally difficult steps after a disaster. Please know that you are not alone. If you or someone you know is feeling overwhelmed, help is available. Kings County and our partners are here to support your physical and emotional recovery.”

5.4 Community Recovery and Mental Health Supports

During and after debris cleanup operations, Kings REMO will collaborate with the following partners to ensure mental health and wellness supports are available:

Local & Provincial Support Resources

Service	Description	Contact Information
NS Mental Health & Addictions Intake Line	24/7 access to mental health supports	1-855-922-1122
211 Nova Scotia	Free, confidential information and referral to community programs and crisis services	Dial 2-1-1 or visit ns.211.ca
Canadian Red Cross – Emergency Recovery Services	May provide psychosocial support through caseworkers in disaster zones	Activated during large-scale events
Family Resource Centres	Local hubs offering support to families, seniors, and children	Location in Kings County via Kings County Family Resource Centre
Faith-based and cultural groups	Provide trusted, community-based emotional support and grief counselling	Coordinate through community outreach teams

5.5 Outreach to Vulnerable Populations

- Ensure emotional support resources are communicated to individuals on the Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) during door-to-door wellness checks or shelter operations.
- Use community volunteers and partner organizations to help reduce isolation, especially among seniors and rural residents.
- Share information about debris assistance services for residents who may lack physical ability, transportation, or emotional readiness to manage debris removal on their own.

5.5 Communication Channels

To support mental wellness during the debris phase, public messaging will be disseminated through:

- Kings REMO and municipal social media and websites
- Community centres, libraries, food banks, and places of worship
- Comfort centres and reception sites during active emergencies
- Emergency text alerts (e.g., NS Alert App) where appropriate

5.5 Debrief and Long-Term Recovery

After the immediate debris phase:

- Include mental health supports in After Action Reviews.
- Coordinate with municipal wellness teams and provincial disaster case management programs.
- Document lessons learned to improve future trauma-informed recovery practices.

6.0 AFTER-ACTION REVIEW & IMPROVEMENT PLANNING (AAR/IP)

6.1 Purpose

The purpose of conducting an After-Action Review (AAR) and developing an Improvement Plan (IP) is to assess the effectiveness, coordination, and efficiency of debris management operations in Kings County following an emergency or disaster. This process allows Kings REMO and its partners to identify successes, challenges, and actionable recommendations to enhance future preparedness, response, and recovery activities.

6.2 Objectives

- Evaluate how well the Debris Management Plan was implemented during the event.
- Identify strengths, gaps, and areas for improvement across all functions of debris operations.
- Document inter-agency collaboration and coordination challenges.
- Capture community and public feedback related to communication, support, and service delivery.
- Inform updates to the plan, annexes, training, and future exercises.

6.3 Scope of the AAR

The AAR should include input from:

- Kings REMO and participating municipalities
- Valley Waste and solid waste contractors
- Public Works / Municipal Operations departments
- Provincial departments (e.g., Environment, Public Works, EMO)
- Private sector contractors (if applicable)
- First responders (e.g., Fire, RCMP, EHS)
- Volunteer and NGO partners (e.g., Red Cross, faith-based groups)
- Community representatives and impacted residents

6.4 Recommended AAR Elements

The AAR should document and include:

Element	Considerations
Event Overview	Date, type, scale, and impact of the event
Debris Impact Summary	Volume and types of debris generated; affected zones; unusual challenges
TDSS Activation	Site readiness, access, layout, environmental controls
Curbside Collection Operations (if activated)	Scheduling, communication, public compliance
Public Information	Clarity, accessibility, trauma-informed messaging, misinformation management

Element	Considerations
Safety & Health	Staff safety, PPE, HHW handling, heat stress
Volunteer & NGO Engagement	Roles, coordination, challenges, and opportunities
Mental Health Considerations	Supports provided to staff and residents; effectiveness of outreach
Resource Management	Staffing, equipment, contractor management, mutual aid utilization
Costs & Reimbursements	Track eligible costs for possible Disaster Financial Assistance (DFAA)
Equity & Inclusion	Accessibility of information, services, and supports for vulnerable or underserved populations

6.5 Improvement Plan (IP) Components

The Improvement Plan documents corrective actions, assigns responsibilities, and sets timelines for completion. A simple improvement tracking table may include:

Issue Identified	Corrective Action	Responsible Party	Timeline	Status
Residents confused about debris separation	Create infographic for social media & print	Kings REMO PIO	Within 3 months	Not Started
TDSS lacked clear signage	Develop pre-printed signage for rapid deployment	Valley Waste & Kings REMO	By next season	In progress

6.6 Timeline

- A preliminary debrief should occur within 14 days of the end of major debris operations.
- A formal AAR session with stakeholders should be completed within 45–60 days post-event.
- A final AAR/IP report should be circulated to stakeholders within 90 days, with recommendations integrated into the next version of the plan.

6.7 Recordkeeping & Distribution

- The AAR/IP becomes part of the official Kings REMO Debris Management record.
- A summary of key findings may be shared publicly or through Council briefings.
- All AAR/IPs should inform future training, exercises, and plan revisions.

[Annex J](#) provides sample survey questions for both staff/partner agencies and the general public to support the After-Action Review & Improvement Planning (AAR/IP) process for the Kings REMO Debris Management Plan. These questions are designed to gather qualitative and quantitative feedback to improve future response and recovery operations.

7.0 PLAN TESTING, REVIEW & MAINTENANCE

7.1 Plan Testing Schedule & Responsibility

The Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) is responsible for coordinating the annual testing (in whole or in part) of the Regional Debris Management Plan in order to verify its overall effectiveness and provide training to the emergency personnel. The exercise can take the form of a simple tabletop or a more elaborate functional exercise.

7.2 Plan Review & Maintenance

The Kings County DMP will be maintained by the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP) and the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC).

The DMP will be reviewed annually and, where necessary, revised by a meeting(s) of the Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMP) and the Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (REMAC). The REMAP shall be revised subject to the approval of Municipal Councils.

REVIEWS

MONTH	DAY	YEAR	BY

PLAN REVISIONS

MONTH	DAY	YEAR	CHANGE	APPROVED

8.0 DISTRIBUTION LIST

Distributed electronically:

Municipal Units:

- [Municipality of the County of Kings](#)
- [Town of Berwick](#)
- [Town of Kentville](#)
- [Town of Wolfville](#)
- [Village of Aylesford](#)
- [Village of Canning](#)
- Village of Cornwallis Square
- [Village of Greenwood](#)
- [Village of Kingston](#)
- [Village of New Minas](#)
- [Village of Port Williams](#)

Fire Departments

- Kings County Fire Departments

Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee (REMPC)

- [NS DEM](#) – Regional Operations Manager
- [Acadia University](#)
- [Annapolis Valley Amateur Radio Club](#) (AVARC)
- [Annapolis Valley First Nation](#)
- [Annapolis Valley Regional Centre for Education](#) (AVRCE)
- [Brigadoon Village](#)
- Community Services – Kings County
- [NS Department of Natural Resources](#) (DNR)
- [NS Department of Public Works](#) (DPW)
- [NS Emergency Health Services](#) (EHS)
- [NS Federation of Agriculture](#) (NSFA)
- [Glooscap First Nations EMO](#)
- [Kentville Police / Kings County RCMP](#)
- [Kings Transit Authority](#) (KTA)
- [NS Department of Agriculture](#) (NSDA)
- [NS Health](#) (NSH)
- [Canadian Red Cross](#) (CRC)
- [Valley Communications](#)
- [Valley Search and Rescue](#) (VSAR)
- [Valley Waste Resource Management](#) (VWRM)

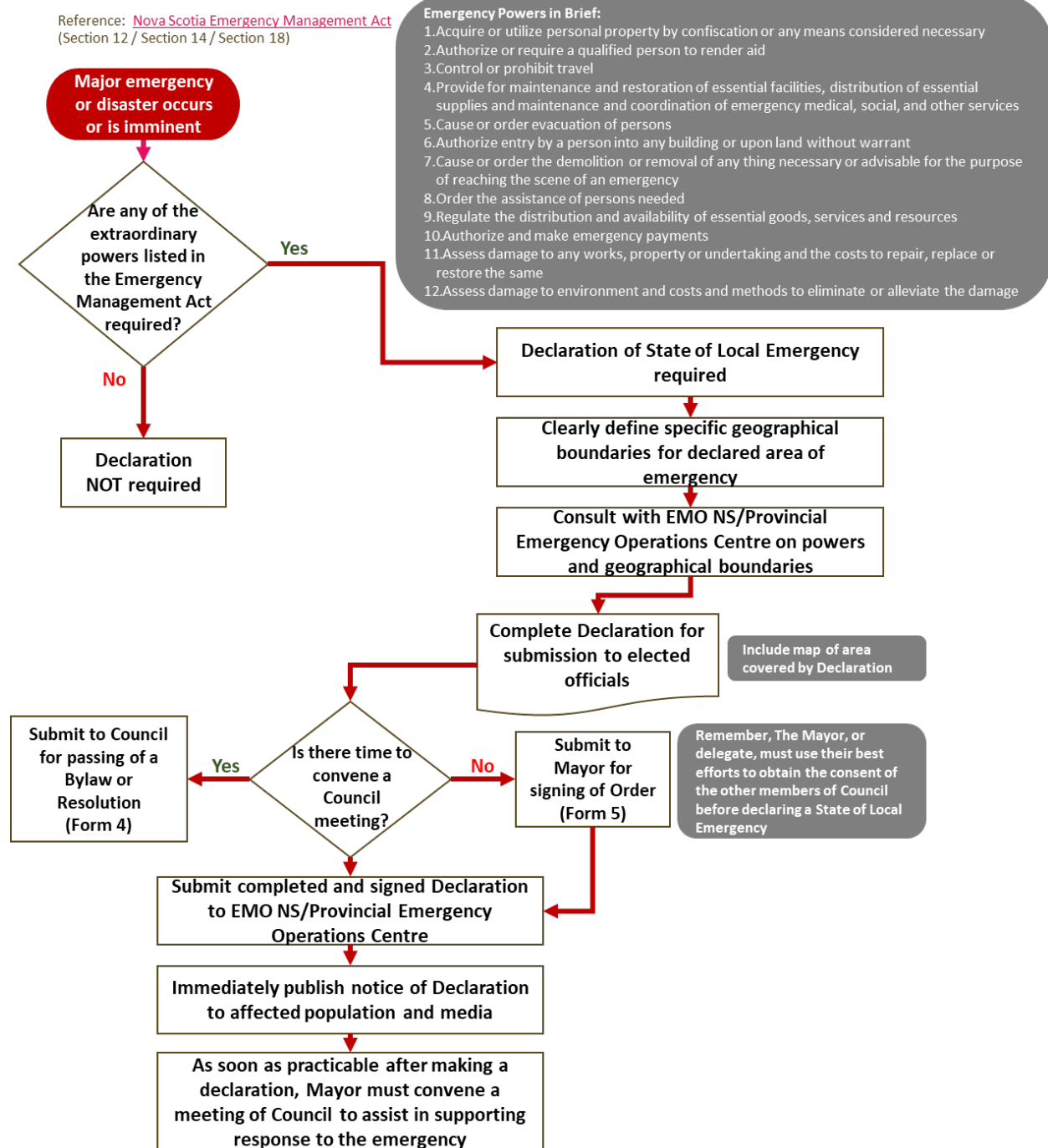
Annexes

- A [Declaring a State of Local Emergency \(SOLE\)](#)
 - [Form 4 \(Council\)](#)
 - [Form 5 \(Mayor\)](#)
- B [DMP Phases & Action Required](#)
- C [Debris Management Plan – Implementation Timeline Guide](#)
- D [Debris Management – Variance Request Example](#)
- E [Expected Debris by Hazard for Kings County](#)
- F [Critical Infrastructure Impact and Debris Management Considerations](#)
- G [Debris Volume Estimates by Area \(Kings County\)](#)
- H [Debris Visual Estimation References](#)
- I [Priority Road Clearance Routes](#)
- J [Public Communication Samples](#)
- K [Sample AAR/IP Survey Questions](#)
- L [Abbreviations & Acronyms](#)

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

Declaring a State of Local Emergency

Reference: [Nova Scotia Emergency Management Act](#)
(Section 12 / Section 14 / Section 18)



FORM 4

DECLARATION OF 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 the health, safety or welfare of persons therein;

Emergency Area:

The area general 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 OF 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 the health, safety or welfare of persons therein;

Emergency Area:

The area general 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 the 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(3) 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's Signature

Municipality of

Annex B – DMP Phases & Action Required

Phase	Objective	Actions Required
Preparedness Phase (Pre-Event)	Ensure readiness of municipal, regional, and partner resources for debris management	Plan Development & Review • Maintain & update the Debris Management Plan annually • Confirm roles and responsibilities with Valley Waste Regional Management (VWRM) and contractors. Site Identification: • Pre-identify and assess Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Sites (TDSS). • Obtain necessary permissions, agreements, and variances. Contractor Coordination: • Establish pre-event contracts or MOUs with vetted debris haulers and processors Training & Exercises: • Conduct training with municipal staff and VWRM. • Include debris scenarios in tabletop and full-scale exercises Public Education: • Prepare and pre-approve public messaging templates. • Integrate DMP awareness into seasonal preparedness campaigns.
Response Phase (Immediate Post-Event)	Ensure public safety, clear critical access routes, and begin assessment of debris impact.	Initial Damage Assessment • Coordinate with Public Works and VWRM to survey debris impacts. • Identify priority areas and critical infrastructure (hospitals, fire stations, evacuation routes) Activate DMP Operations • Deploy monitoring personnel and establish debris tracking protocols TDSS Activation: • Open and secure approved TDSS locations. • Deploy equipment and signage. Communications: • Issue public service announcements (debris separation, drop-off sites, safety). • Establish inquiry line or web portal for public questions.

Phase	Objective	Actions Required
Recovery Phase (Ongoing Debris Collection & Processing)	Efficiently remove, process, and dispose of debris to restore community function.	Curbside Collection & Site Operations: • Implement scheduled collection by debris type and location. • Manage operations at TDSS (segregation, volume tracking, environmental controls) Contractor Management: • Oversee service delivery, documentation, and ensure compliance with environmental regulations Monitoring & Documentation: • Use debris load tickets, volume tracking forms, and daily logs. • Ensure photographic evidence and GPS verification (if required for cost recovery). Cost Tracking & Reimbursement: • Maintain accurate cost records for potential disaster financial assistance from the Province or Federal Government.
Demobilization Phase	Stand down debris operations, restore sites, and finalize financial and operational reporting	Site Closure: • Clean and remediate TDSS locations. • Remove signage, fencing, and equipment. Contractor Demobilization: • Confirm completion of services. • Process final payments. Final Reporting: • Submit After-Action Report (AAR) with volumes, lessons learned, and financial summary. • Evaluate the plan's effectiveness and make updates as required. Community Debrief & Communication: • Share recovery progress with the public. • Acknowledge partner contributions and notify of service resumption.

Annex C – Debris Management Plan – Implementation Timeline Guide

A practical, “good weather”, timeline that can be used to plan for the implementation of the Debris Management Plan (DMP) once Unified Command confirms it’s safe to re-enter. Note that timings assume road access is restored, utilities are in progress, and no extraordinary contamination (e.g., widespread asbestos/ash exceedances) is found.

0–24 hours (Re-entry “Day 0”)

- Stand up a **Debris Task Group** under the ECC (Ops + Logistics + Finance/Admin; Planning for IAP updates).
- Confirm re-entry zones, control points, and “go/no-go” areas with Fire/Forestry, RCMP, Public Works, and Utilities.
- Validate DMP operational assumptions: debris streams, priority routes, and Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Sites (TDSS) locations.
- Push first public info: what debris goes where, what **not** to move (Household Hazardous Waste (HHW), ash), and when curbside sweeps (if applicable) begin.
- Resource check: activate standing offers/MOUs (haulers, arborists, asbestos/lead/PCB contractors, refrigerant techs), and mobilize TDSS equipment (scales, fencing, lighting, stormwater controls).
- Start cost tracking from minute one (separate project codes for collection, haul, site ops, monitoring).

24–72 hours (Operational “set”)

- Safety clearances: “Make Safe” sweeps for hazards (leaners, downed lines with utility, propane/fuel tanks, unstable structures).
- Environmental controls in place at TDSS (pads/liners where needed, runoff control, air monitoring if grinding).
- Launch Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) intake (satellite events or fixed sites).
- Begin **white goods & e-waste** collection (refrigerant recovery required).
- Start **Green Waste Phase 1**: push to boulevard; chip/grind only after nesting checks and with dust control.
- Finalize ROE (Right-of-Entry) form and intake (for debris removal from private property if adopted by County).
- Daily situation report: tonnages by stream, contractor performance, public issues, and route maps.

Days 3–7 (Initial debris operations)

- Start **Curbside Debris Sweep #1** (by zone): metal → white goods → HHW (event-based) → green waste.
(Do **not** collect ash/structural fire debris until risk assessment and PPE protocols are in place.)
- Stand up **Debris Monitoring** (independent from haulers) for load tickets, QA/QC, and environmental compliance.
- Open **Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris** lanes at TDSS (separate from MSW).
- Launch **Private Well & Septic advisory** comms; coordinate testing guidance for residents returning to damaged areas.
- Target metric: first-pass access cleared on 100% of public roads in affected zones.

Week 2 (Days 8–14) – First pass complete

- Complete **Curbside Sweep #1**; publish heat map of completed blocks and announce **Sweep #2 window**.
- Begin **Ash & Burn Debris Management** only with: risk assessments, asbestos screening plan, PPE/air controls, and qualified contractors. Use lined containers/covered haul; direct to approved facilities.
- Begin **Hazard Tree Phase 2** (Public Right-of-Way (ROW) and ROW+10 m for fall risk; document with photos/GPS for reimbursement).
- Implement **Resident Drop-off Option** (extended hours) to reduce curb volumes.
- Start demolition permit triage (if County is supporting demos for destroyed structures), including utility disconnect verifications and hazardous materials surveys.

Weeks 3–4 (Days 15–28) – Second pass + stabilization

- **Curbside Sweep #2** (lagers/late set-outs); targeted pickups for bulky metal and green waste.
- Continue ash/structural debris removals (priority: total loss parcels) with environmental oversight.
- Optimize TDSS (consolidate piles, grind/chip when dry and monitored; bale/sort scrap metal).
- Begin **Recycling/Recovery** outbound flows (metal, clean wood, appliances) and minimize disposal to landfill.
- Finance/Admin: interim cost report; match tonnage tickets to invoices; update mutual aid/standing offer burn rates.

Month 2 (Days 29–60) – Transition to recovery steady-state

- Wind down curbside operations; shift to **by-appointment** bulky/C&D pickup.
- Close HHW events; maintain limited HHW intake.
- Begin TDSS drawdown: final grind, cover, load-out; complete environmental sampling as required.
- Complete majority of hazard tree removals and stump grinding in public ROW/parks; restore soils where feasible.
- Public comms: “What’s next” for rebuilding, demo permits, and insurance coordination.

Month 3 (Days 61–90) – Demob and documentation

- **Demobilize TDSS:** site restoration, final environmental close-out, photo logs, and engineer sign-offs (if required).
- Final pass for stragglers and illegal dump sweeps in the impact area.
- After-Action Review (AAR) for debris ops; capture improvements to DMP and Re-entry playbook.
- Submit consolidated documentation package (load tickets, truck certifications, monitoring logs, site logs, photos, maps) to support provincial/federal disaster financial assistance claims.

Typical overall duration

- **First-pass clearance & basic collection:** ~10–14 days
- **Second pass & special streams (ash/structural, hazard trees, white goods, HHW):** through Weeks 3–4
- **TDSS drawdown and close-out:** by **Day 60–90**, assuming no extraordinary contamination or weather setbacks

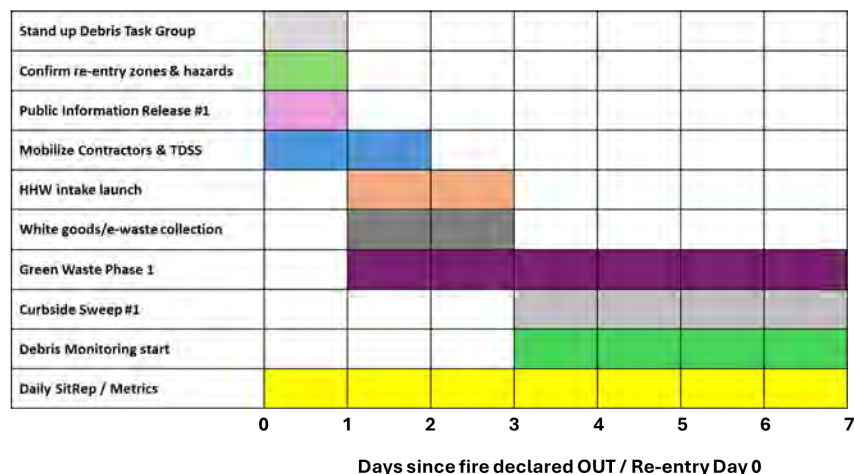
Streams & responsibilities (quick reference)

- **Green waste:** arborists + haulers; chip/grind with dust and runoff controls.
- **Metal & white goods:** scrap contractor + certified refrigerant recovery.
- **HHW:** managed events or facility; do not mix with curbside streams.
- **C&D / structural debris & ash:** qualified contractors only; asbestos/lead screening; lined/covered transport.
- **Hazard trees:** certified assessors; ROW first, then critical facilities/parks/trails.

Critical dependencies that can stretch the timeline

- Safety/all-clear for structures and roads; utility isolation.
- Environmental approvals for TDSS, grinding, and ash handling.
- Contractor and equipment availability during regional fire season.
- ROE adoption and resident participation.
- Weather (heavy rain will pause grinding and ash removal).

Debris Management Plan (First 7 Days) – Timeline Guide



Annex D – Debris Management – Variance Request Example

To: Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change

From: Kings REMO / VWRM

Date of Request:

1. Request Summary - Type of Variance Requested:

- ☐ Use of Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Site (TDSS)
- ☐ Temporary acceptance of banned materials at landfill
- ☐ Alternate debris transportation or handling method
- ☐ On-site burning (requires separate permit from NS DNR)
- ☐ Other: _____

2. Justification for Request

Briefly explain why a variance is needed (e.g., volume exceeds current site capacity, access issues, public health risk):

Insert explanation e.g. "Following Hurricane Fiona, the volume of vegetative debris exceeds capacity at current facilities. We propose temporary use of a former municipal pt as a TDSS for chipped wood and brush."

3. Proposed Site Details (if applicable)

Site Name / Location:

[Insert address or GPS coordinates]

Owner of Site:

[Insert – e.g., Municipality of the County of Kings]

Zoning / Land Use Designation:

[Insert – e.g., Industrial, Agricultural]

Map and Site Plan attached:

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Security / Access Controls:

- ☐ Fencing
- ☐ Staff Monitoring
- ☐ Controlled Entry

Environmental Protections:

- ☐ Runoff Control
- ☐ Waste Separation
- ☐ Spill Kits Available

4. Debris Types to be Handled on Site:

Debris Type	Accepted	Not Accepted
Vegetative (e.g., brush, logs)		
Construction & Demolition (C&D) Waste		
Household Hazardous Waste		
White Goods / Scrap Metal		
Electronics (e-waste)		
Mixed Debris (unsorted loads)		

5. Duration of Request

Proposed Start Date (yyyy-mm-dd): _____

Proposed End Date (yyyy-mm-dd): _____

Estimated Volume of Debris (e.g., 3,500 m³): _____

6. Remediation Plan

Explain how the site will be restored after use (e.g., debris removal, soil testing, seeding):

[Insert – e.g., “Site will be fully cleared within 60 days. Soil sampling will be conducted to confirm no contamination. Site to be restored to pre-use condition.”]

7. Supporting Organizations

Lead Contact (Municipality or REMO):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Partner Agency (if applicable, e.g., VWRM):

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

8. Attachments (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Site Map / Aerial Photo
- ☐ Environmental Protection Plan
- ☐ Letters of Support (e.g., from landowner)
- ☐ Debris Volume Estimates
- ☐ Public Communication Plan (if near residences)

9. Signature of Authorized Representative

I certify that the information provided in this variance request is accurate and that all provincial and environmental regulations will be adhered to.

Name: _____

Title: _____

Organization: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Submit Completed Form to:

Nova Scotia Environment and Climate Change – Western Region Office

Annex E – Expected Debris by Hazard for Kings County

Hazard	Primary Debris Streams	Typical Examples in Kings County Context	Special Handling / Disposal Notes
Riverine & Coastal Flood	- Construction & Demolition (C&D) debris - Household goods / Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) - Vegetative debris (uprooted trees, brush) - Sediment, soils & sandbags - Household hazardous waste (paints, fuels, cleaners)	Drywall, insulation, flooring, furniture, personal belongings, refrigerators, freezers, propane tanks, fuel-oiled soils, contaminated sandbags	Segregate wet HHW early; test sediments for contaminants before reuse or disposal; refrigerants must be recovered by certified technicians.
Hurricane / Post-Tropical Storm & Nor'easter	- Vegetative debris (limbs, whole trees, seaweed) - C&D debris (roofing, siding, docks, piers) - White goods & electronics - Small craft/boats & marine debris	Shingles, vinyl siding, deck lumber, wharves, boats, appliances, TVs	Prioritize road-clearing vegetative push; derelict boats may need Coast Guard liaison; remove mercury switches from appliances.
Severe Wind	- Large vegetative debris piles - C&D debris (structural framing, roofing) - Vehicles & trailers - Metals (silos, sheet metal)	Barn roofs, grain silos, transport trailers, wind-thrown trees	Metals can be stockpiled for recycling; contaminated vegetative piles (fuel, asbestos) require separate handling.
Winter Storm / Heavy Snow & Ice Storm	- Vegetative debris (ice-laden broken limbs) - Utility infrastructure (downed poles, wires) - Limited C&D debris (roof collapses)	Hardwood limbs, utility poles, asphalt shingles, insulation	Coordinate with utilities for pole/wire removal; treat creosote-treated poles as special waste.

Hazard	Primary Debris Streams	Typical Examples in Kings County Context	Special Handling / Disposal Notes
Wildfire / Interface Fire	- Ash & burn soil - Partially burned C&D debris - Hazardous materials (pressurized cylinders, pesticides, stored fuels) - Vegetative debris (charred timber)	Ash piles, melted siding, propane cylinders, fuel drums, charred logs	Ash may contain heavy metals—dust control & PPE essential; inspect cylinders for warping before transport.
Landslide / Erosion Event	- Soils & rock - Vegetative debris - Infrastructure fragments (culverts, pipes)	Saturated clay soils, culverts, trees, asphalt chunks	Test displaced soil for hydrocarbons/metals if near roads; riprap may be reused in shoreline repair.
Technological / Transportation Incident (e.g., Hwy-101, or industrial fire)	- Contaminated soils & water-soaked absorbents - Damaged containers, pallets - Hazardous materials (chemicals, fuels)	Spill-soaked booms, totes, drums, plastic pallets	Follow provincial Dangerous Goods regs; segregate empty vs. product-bearing containers; manifest Haz-waste off

Annex F – Critical Infrastructure Impact and Debris Management Considerations

Category	Example Locations / Assets	Challenges During Debris Events	Mitigation Measures
Hospitals & Health Centres	Valley Regional Hospital (Kentville), Western Kings Memorial (Berwick), Eastern Kings Memorial (Wolfville)	- Blocked access routes; - medical waste handling; - backup power vulnerability	- Priority clearance routes; - coordinate with NS Health; - pre-assign hazardous debris support
Emergency Services Facilities	Kings REMO ECC, RCMP detachments, fire stations (New Minas, Kentville, Berwick, etc.)	- Obstructed access impacts response; - debris restricts site operations	- Include in priority routes; - rapid post-event assessment; - stage clearance teams nearby
Water & Wastewater Infrastructure	Kentville WWTP, Greenwood water supply, regional pumping/lift stations	- Blocked access prevents emergency repairs; - infrastructure damage; power loss	- Confirm generators; - alternate access routes; - coordinate with utilities
Transportation Corridors	Highway 101, Highway 1 and 221, rail lines, key bridges (e.g., Cornwallis River)	- Debris blocks evacuation and supply; - bridge/culvert washouts	- Pre-identify detours; - coordinate with NS Public Works; - monitor culverts
Educational Institutions	Acadia University, Horton High, Central Kings, West Kings, elementary schools	- High debris volumes; - potential shelter use; - pedestrian safety	- Coordinate staging plans; - post-event debris route planning; - designate debris zones
Long-Term Care Facilities / Group Homes	Wolfville Nursing Home, Grand View Manor, Kings Regional Rehabilitation Centre	- Vulnerable residents; - curbside debris health risks	- Support crews for vulnerable groups; - use VPR; - targeted public education
Tourism and Recreation Areas	Evangeline Beach, Grand-Pré National Site, Cape Split, Look-Off	- Damage to trails/signage; - impact on economy; - ongoing visitor traffic	- Phase cleanup of public sites; - coordinate messaging; - signage to inform
Historic / Heritage Areas	Grand-Pré UNESCO Site, Ross Creek Centre, Kentville historic downtown	- Fragile structures; - regulatory limits; - environmental sensitivity	- Consult NS Heritage; - low-impact cleanup methods; - document damage

Category	Example Locations / Assets	Challenges During Debris Events	Mitigation Measures
Agricultural Areas	Farms and orchards (Coldbrook, Aylesford, Canning); wineries and farm markets	• Contamination; • Agri-waste mixed into debris stream	• Coordinate with NSFA; • Agri-specific disposal guidance; • include TDSRS options
Flood-Prone Zones / Low-Lying Communities	Kentville (Cornwallis River), Port Williams, New Minas (Mud Creek), Canning	• Mixed debris; • mold and HHW risks; • heavy waterlogged debris	• Pre-identify HHW drop-off; • early access pumping; • proactive sandbagging

Annex G – Debris Volume Estimates by Area (Kings County)

Community / Zone	Hazard Exposure (e.g., Flood, Hurricane)	Estimated Debris Volume ⁵ (m ³)	Notes / Assumptions
Kentville	Flood, Windstorm	2,000 – 4,000 m ³	Includes residential, municipal and vegetative debris
New Minas	Windstorm, Flood	1,500 – 3,000 m ³	Densely populated; commercial waste volume significant
Berwick	Winter Storm, Hurricane	800 – 1,200 m ³	Moderate tree cover and aging infrastructure
Canning	Flood, Hurricane	1,200 – 2,500 m ³	Proximity to dykelands and orchard/agricultural waste
Wolfville	Flood, Storm Surge	1,000 – 2,000 m ³	University infrastructure and older homes
Aylesford / South Greenwood	Windstorm, Ice Storm	600 – 1,000 m ³	Mixed residential and rural
Port Williams	Flood	500 – 900 m ³	River proximity increases flood-related debris risk
Kings County Rural Areas	Hurricane, Wildfire, Winter Storm	4,000 – 7,000 m ³	Widespread treefall, fencing, and C&D

⁵ Estimated Debris Volume source of information: ChatGPT (<https://chatgpt.com/>)

Annex H – Debris Visual Estimation References

Visual Estimation References		
Visual Reference	Item	Dimensions
	Debris pile the size of a porta-potty	1.5 m ³
	Roll-off bin volume	4.6m x 1.8m x 1.8m: 15 m ³
	Tandem-axle dump truck volume	10 m ³
	Dump trailer volume	12.8m x 2.6m x 1.8m: 64 m ³
	Single Storey Family Home	140 m ³
	Mobile Home	Single Wide: 220 m ³ Double Wide: 315 m ³
	One acre of debris pile i.e., size of a football field	4050 m ² 3m high debris pile: 12,319 m ³

Annex I – Priority Road Clearance Routes

Priority Route	Purpose / Connectivity	Supporting Notes
Highway 101	Primary regional evacuation and supply route	Coordinate with NS Public Works for shared clearance responsibilities
Highway 1	Main connector through Kentville, Berwick, Wolfville	Supports detours and access to healthcare facilities
Highway 221	North-south movement from Canning to Berwick	Critical for access to rural communities and orchards
Bridge Street (Kentville)	Access to hospital	High priority for healthcare access
Main Street (Wolfville)	University and emergency reception centre access	Maintain access for student evacuation and services
Commercial Street (New Minas)	Retail zone and high public traffic, and location of primary emergency reception centre/shelter	Essential for food, fuel, and pharmacy access
Bridge crossings on Cornwallis River	Multiple points across Kentville, Port Williams	High flood risk and potential washouts

Annex J – Public Communication Samples

Response Phase Communications

Phase: Debris Clearing

Concern:

Due the disaster event there is a high volume of debris on the roadways, which is restricting access to **<name of critical facility, e.g. Hospital, Fire Hall No. 1>** and impacting the ability of Emergency Services Personnel to provide critical services to the public.

Action:

Impacted governmental bodies are to activate their disaster debris management plans and to commence clearing of primary roadways and transportation routes leading to critical services and infrastructure, which will assist the Emergency Services Personnel in providing critical services to the impacted community/ies.

Associated Communication Sample:

Disaster Debris Restricting Access – Avoid Impact Area(s)

Location, Date: Debris stemming from the **<disaster description>** is blocking roadways and other emergency access points. Public Works crews are working to clear areas as quickly as possible to support emergency responders, who are focused on assisting affected citizens as quickly as possible.

Please use alternate routes to stay away from the following areas until further notice: **<list affected areas or refer to a website for list if extensive number of locations>**. Updates on the status of road clearing and access to these areas will be available at **www._____**, on Facebook following **#KingsREMO** or by calling **<emergency information line # or customer information #>**.

Phase: Garbage and Recycling Collection Temporarily Delayed

Concern:

Regular garbage collection cannot be provided in the impacted areas due to limited/ restricted access, which is raising health concerns within the community caused by a delay in collection of regular household waste and the debris resulting from the disaster.

Action:

Advise members of the public to continue placing household waste in their normal bins until access can be provided and service can resume. Temporary waste handling facilities will need to be set up to provide an alternate location for debris and waste to be collected until regular waste collection resumes.

Associated Communication Sample:

Garbage and Recycling Collection Temporarily Delayed

Location, Date: Due to limited access to areas affected by the <disaster description> and the need to focus on debris removal to clear emergency routes, regular garbage and recycling collection will be temporarily delayed. Residents are asked to continue using their garbage and recycling carts, as well as additional bags and bins as needed, until collection can resume. There will be no charge for extra collection.

Residents are assured that if collection cannot safely be resumed within a <xxx week time>, alternative options for waste disposal will be implemented, including possible use of drop-off locations.

Drop Off and Alternate Collection Options Now in Place

Location, Date: To help support areas with accumulated garbage and recycling, a number of temporary drop-off points and collection areas have been set up. Dropping off your household waste offers a quick and simple option to address collection delays. For a list of locations where residents can drop off their household waste, visit www._____.

Residents who are not able to transport their household waste are asked to call [###-###-####](tel:###-###-####). Please note that there may be a delay in when contractors will be able to collect the waste due to the continued focus on clearing debris that poses safety hazards or blocks emergency routes.

Recovery Phase Communications

Temporary Waste Handling Facilities

Concern:

Due the disaster event there is an influx of debris in the impacted area, and the usual disposal sites have limited or no capacity to accept the increased volume of debris.

Action:

Governmental bodies are to determine debris management strategies and set up temporary waste handling facilities to assist with the clearing, collection and removal of debris. This may include one, or all, of the following depending on the volume and types of debris as well as the community/ies needs: neighbourhood drop-off points, collection centres, temporary transfer stations, or debris management sites.

Associated Communication Sample:

Temporary Waste Handling Facilities Now in Place

<Local Authority> are asking people to take their garbage to their neighbourhood drop-off points and place them in the bins provided. Please remember to put your garbage in the right bins! They are clearly marked to accept **<types of debris>**. Your drop-off points will be open **<from-to>**.

Social Media Posts:

“Reminder: The **<name of facility>** landfill is providing free disposal of residential waste brought by personal vehicles until **<date>**. **#<Local Authority>**”

“**<Local Authority>** reminds residents of options for residential debris removal **<link to article>**. **#<Local Authority>**”

White Good Collection

Concern:

White goods, e.g. fridges and freezers, contain an array of hazardous materials and cannot be transported by members of the public to disposal facilities.

Action:

Governmental bodies need to determine a collection program for white goods inclusive of a communication plan containing information on health and safety concerns, e.g. they are difficult to move and contain hazardous materials such as Freon and organic materials, which is to be shared with the public.

Associated Communication Sample:

Fridge and Freezer Collection

<Local Authority>: are asking people to place their fridges and freezers for disposal on the curbside on **<date(s) and time(s)>** so they can be collected. Please remember to make sure they are secured to avoid attracting rodents and other wildlife!

Social Media Posts:

“Reminder: Place fridges and freezers for disposal on the curbside for collection on **<date>**. **#<Local Authority>**”

“**<Local Authority>** reminds residents to place fridges and freezers for disposal on the curbside for collection on **<time, date>**. **#<Local Authority>**”

Annex K – Sample AAR/IP Survey Questions

A. Staff & Partner Agency Survey (Internal Feedback)

Audience: Municipal Staff, Valley Waste, First Responders, Contractors, Community Organizations, Provincial Departments.

1. General Response & Coordination

- On a scale of 1 to 5, how effectively did your agency/department coordinate with Kings REMO during debris management operations?
- What worked well in the coordination between agencies?
- What barriers or challenges did you experience in executing your role?
- Were roles and responsibilities clearly defined for your team?

2. Operational Effectiveness

- Were the debris collection and disposal procedures clear and actionable?
- How would you rate the timeliness of debris removal operations?
- Did you have adequate resources (staffing, vehicles, PPE, equipment) to fulfill your tasks?

3. Communications

- How effective were internal communications (e.g., situation reports, briefings, alerts)?
- Was the public messaging aligned with operational realities on the ground?
- Did you receive adequate and timely updates regarding operational priorities and changes?

4. Mental Health & Wellness

- Did the event and cleanup operations cause stress or emotional strain among your staff/team?
- Were staff aware of available mental health or wellness supports?
- What additional supports would be helpful during future events?

5. Improvement Areas

- What were the three most significant challenges you observed?
- What recommendations do you have to improve debris management planning and operations?
- Would your organization benefit from additional training or exercises on debris operations?

B. Public Feedback Survey (External Feedback)

Audience: Impacted residents, community members, local business owners

1. Awareness & Communications

- How did you first learn about the debris collection process following the [event name]?
 - ☐ Social Media
 - ☐ Municipal Website
 - ☐ Word of Mouth
 - ☐ Radio/TV
 - ☐ Paper Flyer
 - ☐ Other: _____
- Was the information provided about debris collection clear and easy to understand?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Somewhat (please explain): _____

2. Debris Removal Experience

- Did you place debris at the curb for collection?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ NoIf no, why not? (check all that apply)
 - ☐ Didn't know how
 - ☐ No transportation
 - ☐ Physical limitations
 - ☐ No debris to remove
 - ☐ Other: _____
- Was your debris collected in a timely manner?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Somewhat

3. Emotional & Community Impact

- Seeing personal items and damaged belongings in public debris piles was emotionally difficult for me or my family.
 - ☐ Strongly Agree
 - ☐ Agree
 - ☐ Neutral
 - ☐ Disagree
 - ☐ Strongly Disagree

- Did you or someone in your household feel stressed, anxious, or overwhelmed during the debris removal period?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No
 - ☐ Prefer not to say

- Were you aware of available emotional or mental health supports?
 - ☐ Yes
 - ☐ No

4. Suggestions for Improvement

- What could Kings REMO or your municipality do better to support residents during future debris cleanup efforts?
- Do you have suggestions for how to improve communication and outreach?
- Would you be interested in volunteering or participating in future preparedness programs?

Annex L – Abbreviations & Acronyms

AAR	After Action Report
AREP	Agency Representative
C&D	Construction & Demolition
DFAA	Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements
ECC	Emergency Coordination Centre
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
ECCMT	Emergency Coordination Centre Management Team
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EMO	Emergency Management Office
GIS	Geographic Information System
HazMat	Hazardous Material
HHW	Household Hazardous Waste
IAP	Incident Action Plan
IC	Incident Commander
ICP	Incident Command Post
ICS	Incident Command System
IMT	Incident Management Team
IO	Information Officer
LO	Liaison Officer
LSC	Logistics Section Chief
m³	Cubic Metres
MSW	Municipal Solid Waste
NSEA	<u>Nova Scotia Environment Act</u>
NS DEM	<u>Nova Scotia Department of Emergency Management</u>
NS DNR	<u>Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources</u>
NS DPW	<u>Nova Scotia Department of Public Works</u>
NS ECC	<u>Nova Scotia Department of Environment & Climate Change</u>
OSC	Operations Section Chief
PCC	Provincial Coordination Centre
PSC	Planning Section Chief

REMAC	Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee
REMC	Regional Emergency Management Coordinator
REMP	Regional Emergency Management Plan
REMPC	Regional Emergency Management Planning Committee
REOC	Regional Emergency Operations Centre (Provincial)
RFA	Request for Assistance
SO	Safety Officer
TDSS	Temporary Debris Storage and Processing Site
UC	Unified Command
VWRM	<u>Valley Waste Resource Management</u>

