



YARMOUTH COUNTY REGIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION (REMO)

DROUGHT PLAN (Revised September 7, 2021)

TRIGGERS to Activation of Drought Plan:

1. Drought conditions that result in at least 25-30% of on-site domestic dry wells throughout the County.
2. No significant predicted precipitation by Environment Canada in the next 60 days.
3. Requests from residents to Fire Departments for non-potable water.
4. Yarmouth County Fire Departments indicating low levels of water in fire ponds.
5. Requests to the Municipalities with assistance for both potable and non-potable water.
6. Town of Yarmouth Water Utility identifies concerning levels.
7. Surrounding areas (outside Yarmouth County) experiencing similar drought conditions.
8. Yarmouth County and surrounding areas under high to extreme drought warning as measured by the Department of Lands and Forest. Fire Index high to extreme.
9. Conservation of water requested by Municipal officials.

REMO YARMOUTH COUNTY: ASSUMPTIONS

This Drought Plan is based on the assumption that local Municipalities will be promoting on site solutions for residents of Yarmouth County who are experiencing a lack of water in their wells due to very dry weather conditions.

The Municipality of the Districts of Yarmouth and Argyle are presently providing financial loans through their 'Water Supply Lending Programs' to residents in the County who, because of drought conditions, are requesting assistance to either upgrade their existing well or dig/drill a new well. This Drought Plan focuses on the assumption that the Municipalities will continue this Program as well as work towards the possibility of providing other water security to residents and receiving support from the province.

Following this Drought Plan, REMO will only be providing drinking water to those residents who are referred by Provincial and Municipal agencies who work with residents in existing programs and demonstrate a need for assistance. REMO will have drinking water on hand on a yearly basis to supply water to these residents. Drinking water will be stored at the Ground Search and Rescue Building in Arcadia.

REMO will be responsible for publication of information on water conservation, water safety, testing and water security on its website and other social media when drought conditions are becoming apparent.

Below is the Operational Plan that REMO and the Municipalities will follow:

REMO YARMOUTH COUNTY: OPERATIONAL DROUGHT PLAN

Task	Assigned To	Supporting Agencies	Status (Confirmed/In Progress/Not Actioned)
0-1 Determine if drought conditions exist – see triggers	REMO/Municipalities	Fire Depts, Lands and Forestry, GSR, NS Env, NSEMO	
0-2 Activate ECC (virtual)	REMO	Municipalities, Fire Depts, Lands and Forestry, GSR, NSEMO	
0-3 Provide situational awareness, internal	REMO/Municipalities	Fire Depts, Lands and Forestry, GSR, NSEMO	

0-4 Acquire Weather Updates	REMO	Municipalities, NS Env, NSEMO	
0-5 Provide Public Information on regular basis throughout drought situation, including information on Municipal Loan program and other provincial government assistance	REMO	Municipalities, PIO	
0-6 Provide Public Information on existing water sources, bulk water station in Yarmouth and well in West Pubnico	REMO	Municipalities, PIO	
0-7 Provide Public Information on Water conservation, testing, safety	REMO	Municipalities, PIO	

0-8 Acquire drinking water to supply residents in need of assistance as referred by either provincial or municipal agencies	REMO/Municipalities	Local suppliers, provincial and municipal agencies	
0-9 Contact agencies dealing with public in need of assistance	REMO	Municipalities	
0-10 Arrange with GSR for storage of drinking water	REMO	GSR, Municipalities	
0-11 Arrange for delivery of drinking water to residents in need of water	REMO	GSR, Municipalities	
0-12 Support local fire departments in their requests for non-potable water.	REMO	Municipalities	

0-13 Request additional support from the Province of NS for local fire departments if needed	REMO	Municipalities	
0-14 Receive continued information from NS Env re weather updates	REMO	Municipalities, NS Env., NS EMO	
0-15 Continue providing situational awareness updates re Drought situation	REMO	Municipalities, GSR, Fire Depts., Lands and Forest, NS EMO	
0-16 Identify conditions when drought has come to an end, ie significant rainfall occurring and forecasted, wells recovering, no requests for drinking water, water levels in fire ponds rising, demand for water at bulk water station in Yarmouth	REMO/Municipalities	Fire Depts., Lands and Forest, NS Env.	

decreasing significantly, Land and Forest fire index low.			
0-17 Communicate to public through determined media outlets	REMO	PIO	
0-18 Communicate to agencies discontinuance of drinking water distribution.	REMO	Municipalities	
0-19 Debrief/analysis	REMO	All agencies involved	
0-20 Deactivate ECC	REMO	All agencies involved	