



Spring Freshet Emergency Response Policy

April 8, 2019



Purpose

The purpose of the Spring Freshet Emergency Response Policy for the City of Saint John is to define:

- the parameters that would initiate an emergency response to flood water conditions during the annual Saint John River Spring Freshet, and;
- the resources and services the city would provide



Rationale

- During the flood of 2018, the City of Saint John distributed sandbags to residents to protect their property.
- Severe flooding during the annual spring freshet has occurred most recently:
 - 1973
 - 2008 (Lowest flood levels)
 - 2018
- Therefore, the 2008 flood levels (5.2 m) will be used as the trigger for flood emergency response moving forward.
- Enhanced response for this flood level or higher will help mitigate the potential impacts on critical infrastructure and residential property.



Flood Activation Levels

Projected Flood Levels (metres)*	Actions	Lead Agency
Pre-flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flood preparedness messaging Resource inventory and preparation (staffing and equipment) Confirm reception centre availability Stakeholder engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Communications TES ESS SJEMO
4.2 m Regular flood level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO – Level 1 Activation – Enhanced Monitoring Implement flood communication messaging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO Communications
4.7 m	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO – Level 2 Activation – Partial Activation Provide assistance on a case by case basis if an emergency exists. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO
>5.2 m Flood Emergency Response Level	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO – Level 3 – Full Activation Implement a flood emergency response including the establishment of sandbag distribution centres. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO TES
Post-Flood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damage assessment Implement the Flood Recovery Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SJEMO



Implementation

During Spring Freshet Emergency Response

- Filled sandbags will be made available at distribution centres for pick up free of charge.
- City resources will not be used for delivery to specific locations.
- The number and location of distribution centres will depend on the situation.
- The City will maintain the capacity to establish up to three centres.

During Spring Freshet Emergency Recovery

- The City will assist in the removal of flood debris including sandbags.
- Separate instructions provided with clear direction on debris separation by type and place roadside.
- City resources will not operate on private property.
- City Spring Blitz Program will be impacted



Cost

2018 Flood

44,000 sandbags used = \$33,000 (@.75)

Sand = \$6,413.75

Total: \$39,413.75

2019 Flood Preparation

44,000 sandbags + sand = \$39,413.75

30,000 left over = -\$22,500

Sand Bags = \$10,500 (14,000 bags)

Sand = \$6,413.75

Total: \$16,913.75



Recommendation

The Spring Freshet Emergency Response Policy sets clear response actions based on specific flood levels that have been experienced over the last 45 years, increasing public safety and providing good customer service to our residents.

Therefore, it is recommended that Council adopts the Spring Freshet Emergency Response Policy

