



CIVIL SECURITY Department

ACTIVITY REPORT JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2025

The Civil Security Department raises awareness of emergency preparedness and support-related activities. In particular, the department works closely with the 14 Northern Villages NVs to strengthen planning, and human and physical resources for fire departments, and for search and rescue operations.

Revised - Nunavik Fire Safety Cover Plan (R-NFSCP)

Infrastructure

A contract has been awarded to renovate the firehall in Salluit, and minor renovations so far have been undertaken. More extensive repair work has begun, with completion and handover expected in fall 2025.

A formal request for additional funding has been submitted to the Ministère de la Sécurité Publique (MSP) to purchase fire trucks for Ivujivik and Umiujaq, and to proceed with construction of their firehalls.

Currently, four municipalities – Kuujuarapik, Umiujaq, Inukjuak, and Ivujivik – are connected to the Saint-Eustache emergency call centre. In July, the Civil Security Coordinator, Firefighter Training Officer and Fire Prevention Technician visited the call centre to review the progress of this initiative, and to engage in discussions on dispatch protocols, calling card systems, data reporting, and operational statistics. The team looks forward to revisiting the call centre during the Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting in September. The Civil Security Coordinator takes part in monthly coordination meetings to ensure steady progress toward connecting all Nunavik communities to the emergency dispatch system. Akulivik is scheduled to be connected in early September, with Puvirnituk and Salluit to follow pending completion of minor technical repairs.

To better ensure firefighter safety, clear and reliable communication is essential during emergency operations. A service contract has been awarded to TelCel to conduct a comprehensive assessment of firefighter radiocommunication systems across Nunavik. As part of this initiative, each of our 14 NVs will receive an upgraded and standardized radio system. We are continuously exploring advanced technology solutions to expand service capabilities and to establish a stable framework for ongoing maintenance and technical support.

TelCel's mandate involves the following:

- Inventory available facilities in the 14 NVs where new radiocommunication systems could be installed
- Prepare coverage maps of the 14 communities
- Prepare a technical requirements document summarizing information sources and needs
- Identifying technical requirements that will be part of a tender offer document (RFP), and share technical expertise

Firefighter Training

Wildland fire training was delivered in Kuujjuaq in July with 15 firefighters participating. The training was led by instructors from the Société de protection des forêts contre le feu (SOPFEU), and marks the completion of wildland fire training opportunities across all 14 NVs. The final six communities are scheduled to receive wildland equipment in the coming weeks, ensuring full regional readiness.

A weekend training session was also hosted in Kuujjuaq for firefighters from Kangiqsualujjuaq, covering rope and knot techniques, building ventilation, and search procedures. Our Training Officer coordinated transportation, refreshments, and reimbursements, and prepared the Firefighter Training Centre, which involved a full cleanup, classroom maintenance, and SCBA bottle refills.

In June, our Training Officer traveled to Montreal with the Civil Security Coordinator and Fire Prevention Technician to meet with key partners. This included a visit to the Saint-Eustache Dispatch Centre to address dispatch-related concerns and finalize plans for the Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting. These meetings strengthened inter-agency collaboration and advanced regional fire service planning.

Training was delivered in Kuujjuaq for representatives from seven communities that recently received new firetrucks. Sessions covered truck components, safety systems, and pumping operations. Despite weather-related delays, the training was successfully completed. Our Training Officer managed travel logistics, meals, and coordination with the local fire department. A comprehensive instructional video was also produced in collaboration with the Communications Department to support ongoing training, and ensure consistent operational standards across communities.

Looking ahead, Firefighter Level I training is scheduled for September, involving participants from four different communities. In addition to the Annual Fire Chiefs Meeting from September 15-18, meetings are planned with key stakeholders involved in firefighter training to align priorities and enhance regional training strategies.

Other Activities

Puvirnituk water crisis

In May, the municipality of Puvirnituk faced severe water distribution challenges due to infrastructure limitations, a shortage of experienced staff, limited water truck capacity, and frequent weather-related delays in pipeline repairs and delivery. These issues worsened because of extreme winter conditions.

While the *Act Respecting Civil Protection* does not explicitly define water shortages as disasters, climate-related impacts on infrastructure can seriously disrupt water supply, requiring exceptional measures under Chapter 1, Article 2. In Puvirnituk, the situation escalated to a civil security emergency, prompting the KRG Director General's Office and Civil Security Department to shift from administrative oversight to emergency coordination. The Nunavik Emergency Civil Security Committee (NECSC) was then activated, and all relevant response organizations were mobilized.

On May 19, the Civil Security Coordinator, accompanied by two regional technicians, travelled to Puvirnituk and remained in the community for seven days. On arrival, they supported the establishment of the Local Emergency Response Team (LERT), a key step in coordinating the community's response. Daily stakeholder meetings were held, led jointly by the Town Manager and the Civil Security Coordinator. This marked one of the first instances where the LERT process was utilized during a declared state of local emergency. The Civil Security team also played a critical role in setting up a bottled water distribution centre, managing logistics for receiving water shipments from Air Inuit, and securing a location for water storage.

Approximately 50 meetings were held across all levels of engagement during the crisis. The first, led by the KRG Civil Security Department, took place on May 14. Since then, NECSC meetings occurred three times a week, with participation from KRG and other partnering organizations.

Seventeen flights delivered 200 tons of bottled water to Puvirnituk, starting on May 16. Remaining supplies will be distributed to other municipalities via summer sealift. Both the water and transportation were provided by the Regional Civil Security Organization (RCSO – Region 10).

Following the crisis, KRG departments held a debrief to assess strengths and areas for improvement. The Civil Security Department also launched an external review of its response. Next, we will encourage Puvirnituk to organize a debriefing to refine local procedures, with input from external partners, and to share insights and lessons learned.

In addition, Civil Security along with MPW, in collaboration with NV Puvirnituk, is participating in an audit conducted by the Government of Québec to review the recent water issues experienced this spring. Civil Security along with MPW is coordinating with the municipality, the Director General's Office, and the Québec Government to identify strategies for future prevention of similar incidents through collective effort.

Canadian Coast Guard

An evolving relationship with the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) continues to be mutually beneficial. A presentation to Regional Council by CCG representatives is planned for fall 2025.

A Search and Rescue (SAR) exercise took place in Kuujjuaq on June 23-24, bringing together SAR members from Tasiujaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq and Kuujjuaq. Training focused on coordination and planning for search operations, and was led by the CGG. Kris Tukkiapik, our civil security technicians team leader, participated in the event.

Regarding potential environmental marine spills, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Kuujjuaq, Tasiujaq, Aupaluk and Kangirsuk received two containers (caches) of limited marine spill response equipment in the fall of 2024. Quaqtaq, Salluit, Puvirnituk and Kuujjuarapik will receive similar kits this fall. Planning is underway for local training on this equipment, and negotiations continue to have kits in the remaining Nunavik communities.

Civil Security mechanics fieldwork visits

During the period of this report, Civil Security mechanics completed extensive fieldwork across Nunavik, visiting Kuujjuaq, Puvirnituk, Inukjuak, Salluit, Kuujjuarapik, Umiujaq, Kangiqsualujjuaq, Aupaluk, Quaqtaq, and Kangiqsujuaq. In each location, they met with fire chiefs and SAR boat captains to assess operational needs, inspect SAR vessels, and document equipment conditions. Preventative maintenance and upgrades were carried out to improve safety and reliability.

Key upgrades installed on SAR boats included Automatic Identification Systems (AIS), FLIR night vision and thermal cameras, multifunction displays, folding masts, and shock-absorbing captain seating. Fuel systems were replaced to eliminate leak risks, and electrical rewiring was performed. In Umiujaq, a refurbished fire pump was successfully installed in the local firetruck, restoring critical firefighting capability.

During the Puvirnituk water crisis, mechanics supported emergency response efforts by assisting water delivery and ensuring fire apparatus were fully operational. On-site inspections and repairs were conducted, with replacement parts ordered as needed. This involvement helped maintain essential services during a challenging period.

Professional development was also prioritized in this quarter. Both mechanics traveled to North Bay to complete Emergency Vehicle Technician (EVT) certifications, successfully passing the F1 (Inspection, Maintenance, and Testing of Fire Apparatus) and F6 (Allison Transmission) modules. These certifications enhance technical capacity and support compliance with NFPA standards.

With the arrival of seven new firetrucks in the region, mechanics assisted with initial setup, including installation of seats, radios, lighting, and mounting equipment. Basic training sessions were conducted with local firefighters, focusing on truck operation and pump use.

Fire prevention and public safety activities

From September 2024 to August 2025, the department's Public Safety and Fire Prevention Technician conducted extensive work with all 14 NVs. A major focus was the implementation and optimization of Incident Command Operations (ICO) software, a central system for managing fire inspections, incidents, and civil security activities. This included data integration, troubleshooting, and ensuring smooth coordination between local fire departments and KRG personnel.

Over the year, 40 fire inspections were completed – including 33 in KRG-owned or operated buildings – resulting in 1,453 documented contraventions. Additionally, 212 activity reports and 146 incident reports were entered in the ICO system.

Beyond technical duties, the technician engaged in public outreach, including fire safety education for students in Quaqtaq and presentations at the fire chief's meeting in Montréal. Professional development included participation in key conferences and strategy meetings with stakeholders including 9-1-1 operators, Kativik Ilisarniliriniq, and local enforcement officials.

Hands-on training was provided to Civil Security staff and fire chiefs, enhancing team capacity in using the ICO platform. Recent inspections in Kuujuaq targeted critical infrastructure including daycares, the police station, and the Auberge Kuujuaq Inn. These efforts have significantly strengthened KRG's fire prevention systems and civil security readiness.

General Information

We have a job vacancy for Coordinator - Resilience Plan. This role will ensure the implementation of a Disaster Risk Regional Management Approach in accordance with the *Act respecting civil protection to promote disaster resilience*. This coordinator will plan and elaborate a Nunavik Public Safety and Awareness Strategy.

The École Nationale des Pompiers (ENPQ) is celebrating a 25th anniversary this year. We are participating in their success by sharing a testimonial video that recognizes the Nunavik Inuit community's progress with the ENPQ over many years.

In early September, the Sûreté du Québec, the Nunavik Police Service, and the Civil Security Department are meeting to formalize responsibility for Nunavik's SAR mandate. Given the remoteness of the Nunavik territory, the challenges are considerable for carrying out SAR operations; making response time crucial. We believe strongly that this mandate should be assigned to the Civil Security Department of the Kativik Regional Government with the appropriate resources.

The department also acquired InReach Messenger Plus SOS satellite communicators with photo and voice messaging capabilities. One device will be distributed to each community. This marks significant SAR progress for Nunavik. We received notification from the Regional Direction of Civil Security and Fire Safety of Nord-du-Québec that they have shared best practices in civil security with colleagues across Québec, along with presentations from other municipal regional counties (MRC). This exchange has led to the creation of a best-practices guide for MRCs that will be published in the coming months.

The Civil Security Department was advised that KRG is one of eight entities highlighted in the guide; that our coordinating structure and response systems, both routine and in support of municipalities, will be featured. The guide will be unveiled at the Civil Security Symposium in Québec City in late October.

See listing of departmental employees – Appendix A – next page

Appendix A – Staff

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Vacant, Coordinator – Resilience Plan

Vacant, Public Safety and Fire Prevention Technician (2 positions)

Vacant, Fire Service Instructor