

Project Primer

Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment

In collaboration with the municipality's Environment & Climate Change team, Halifax Regional Municipality's Emergency Management Division is implementing a holistic Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (HRVA) to better understand community and critical infrastructure vulnerability and resilience.

Climate change continues to affect our environment, including extreme weather events. Halifax continues to grow rapidly in both industrial and residential areas, therefore we need a full understanding of how to mitigate and prepare for potential extreme hazards to increase individual, community and infrastructure resiliency. Developing a structure for an in-depth analysis that will assess community vulnerability from a wide spectrum including the physical, social, economic and cultural impacts, will help the municipality better prepare for natural and human caused emergencies and disasters.

HRVA defined

An HRVA is a multi-dimensional process that identifies the likelihood and severity of consequences experienced during an emergency event by assessing potential hazards, likelihood, physical, social, economic, and cultural vulnerabilities and impacts.



Support for services: for municipal operations that may require risk assessments for specific programs, parts of the HRVA will be made available for internal municipal use. Certain aspects of the HRVA may also be made public to help promote awareness and personal preparedness.

HRVA key benefits



Emergency planning: effective emergency management plans must be supported by an HRVA.



Resource allocation: the HRVA will make recommendations to outline priorities based on risk mitigation and preparedness initiatives.



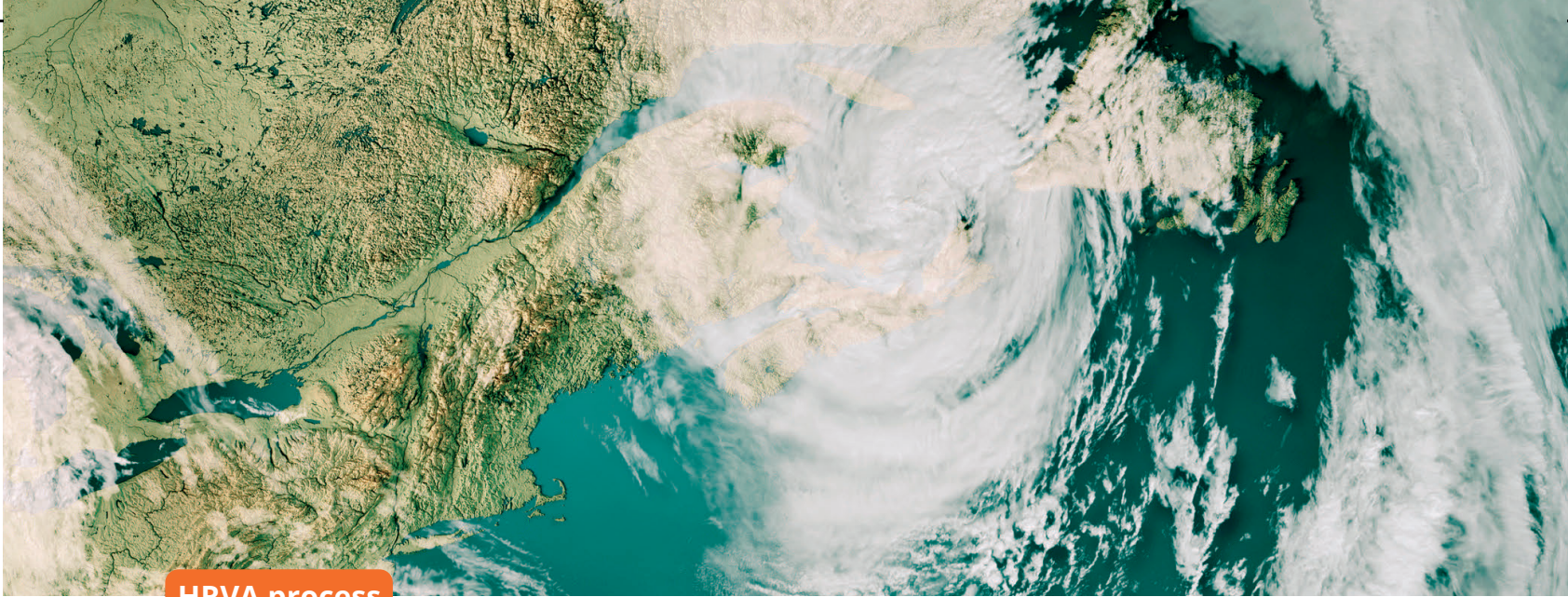
Public education: through the engagement process, community leaders and invitations to the general public will help educate and engage broader communities, increasing awareness and in turn awareness.



Business continuity planning: the HRVA will be available for municipal operations and services to help better inform their business continuity processes in the event of an emergency.



Collaborative processes: the HRVA serves as a platform for collaboration between different stakeholders in support of response, preparedness, mitigation and community recovery.



HRVA process

The HRVA process is an assessment of the following:



Potential hazards: sources of harm to human health, infrastructure, and natural environment, and social vulnerabilities.



Risks: severity and possibility of impacts.



Vulnerabilities: conditions that may be influenced by physical, social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors which increase the impacts of a hazard on a community.



Impacts: identifying potential consequences on individuals, community, businesses and natural and economic resources.



Resiliency planning: Identifying mitigation strategies to help the municipality and its communities be better prepared and resilient to the identified hazards. This includes future identification and preparedness of potential risks and hazards.

HRVA data availability

The data collected during the assessment provides critical information for facilitating community discussions, determining unacceptable levels of risk, identifying priority hazards when planning community risk reduction initiatives and projects, building resiliency and guiding decisions around all four pillars of emergency management.

Recommendations and certain data sets may be made available to municipal operations and services, stakeholders and members of the public depending on the nature of the requests, operational risk or privacy considerations.



Question or additional project information

For more information about the HRVA please contact:

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