

Digital meeting 02/12/2020 – Questions & answers

Question: Are the evacuees themselves responsible for finding housing, and who pays for this?

Answer (LL): It is important to plan for a possible evacuation situation. We primarily advise people to find an "evacuation friend" with whom you can stay and make predictability for yourself and your family.

Longyearbyen lokalstyre will in any case establish a housing office in Næringsbygget where we ask those who are evacuated to contact us. Here we will distribute housing / rooms to those who need it. Longyearbyen lokalstyre will pay for this.

Question: How are avalanches monitored in Longyearbyen today and by whom?

Answer (NVE): We have partly instrumentation and then we have physical observations with observers. We have our own observers for the local avalanche warning in Longyearbyen who makes regular routes in the selected avalanche paths. This is combined with meteorological data, and careful analyzes are made.

Question: Should there be a crisis / evacuation or similar: How do I as a mother know what happens to my children in school / kindergarten if the crisis occurs when they are there? Where will my children go then? How do I get information? What am I expected to do then as a mother?

Answer (LL / Governor): The school and kindergartens have contingency plans for such situations. They have a system so that they can contact the parents quickly and directly by SMS or email with an update of the situation. The children will be at school, kindergarten until their parents can pick them up, or they will be driven home by bus.

If we decide to evacuate, we try to be out early so that people are notified 6-8 hours before it starts to become a dangerous situation. In this way, an evacuation can be carried out in a controlled and good way and as undramatically as possible.

Question: How are climate projections taken into account in the monitoring of natural hazards?

Answer (NVE): We have worked a lot with the new climate projections and design of measures and consideration for this. Regarding the warning system, we have spent almost a year on additional surveys to make sure that we make the right assessments in relation to the new climate projections.

The biggest challenges have been related to thawing of permafrost and foundation conditions. In a changed climate, we will have transition from one type of hazards, such as avalanches, to hazards that are more related to increased rain and landslides. We have used our foremost expertise on this, and also experts from abroad and experiences from comparable areas.