

This meeting will be held as a hybrid meeting, in-person and virtually through Microsoft Teams. For information on how to attend a REMAC meeting, contact info@lunenburgremo.ca.

REMO Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda
MODL Council Chambers, Hybrid Meeting
10 Allée Champlain Drive Cookville NS
Monday, September 21, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

- 1. **Call to Order**
- 2. **Approval of Agenda**
- 3. **Approval of Committee Meeting Notes from July 20, 2026 (circulated)**
- 4. **Business Arising from Notes**
 - 4.1 Ongoing Cellular Services Concern 1
- 5. **Correspondence**
 - 5.1 Memo – Region of Queens Request to Join REMO.....3
- 6. **REMO Manager Updates**
 - 6.1 Introduction of Kayla Board, Community Readiness Coordinator, MODL
 - 6.2 Updated on TOB King St Fire Improvement Plan status
 - 6.3 Updating Activation Flow Charts.....5
 - 6.4 Update on ECC Position Specific Training status
- 7. **New Business**
- 8. **Next Meeting – Monday, November 16, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.**
- 9. **Adjournment**



REMAC

Item: 4.1

Date: September 21, 2026

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August 14, 2026

RE: 2026-291

Matt Cottingham, REMO Manager
Lunenburg County Emergency Management
10 Champlain Drive
Cookville NS B4V 9E4

RE: Ongoing Cellular Service Concerns within the Municipality of Chester

Dear Mr. Cottingham:

On behalf of the Council of the Municipality of Chester, I would like to express our appreciation for the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' ongoing leadership and advocacy regarding rural cellular coverage and emergency preparedness. Council is encouraged by NSFM's recognition that reliable cellular service is a matter of public safety and by its continued engagement with provincial partners to advance improvements in connectivity across Nova Scotia.

Despite ongoing investments and initiatives, residents, businesses, and visitors within the Municipality of Chester continue to experience significant cellular service challenges. Reports of dropped calls, poor call quality, unreliable connectivity, and extensive areas with limited or no service remain common throughout our municipality. These persistent service deficiencies raise concerns not only for day-to-day communications but also for emergency response and public safety.

Reliable telecommunications infrastructure is now an essential service that supports emergency preparedness, economic development, tourism, remote work, access to services, and overall community resilience. While Council acknowledges the progress being made through the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program, the experience of our residents indicates that substantial coverage and reliability gaps continue to exist.

Municipalities possess valuable local knowledge regarding service deficiencies and priority areas for improvement and should remain active partners in efforts to address these challenges. Accordingly, Council respectfully requests that NSFM continue to advocate with the Provincial and Federal Governments, Build Nova Scotia, telecommunications regulators, and service providers to ensure rural municipalities receive the level of cellular service necessary to support public safety, emergency communications, and economic sustainability.

In addition, Council respectfully requests that NSFM consider the following actions:

NOVA SCOTIA'S TREASURE

- Maintain rural cellular coverage and service reliability as a standing advocacy priority.
- Advocate for the establishment of measurable service standards and implementation timelines for telecommunications providers operating in rural areas.
- Encourage more regular public reporting on progress and outcomes associated with the Cellular for Nova Scotia Program and related initiatives.
- Support the establishment of a provincial working group or roundtable comprised of municipalities, emergency management officials, provincial representatives, Build Nova Scotia, and telecommunications providers to identify priority coverage gaps, monitor progress, and develop coordinated solutions to improve service reliability and emergency communications.

Council appreciates NSFM's continued commitment to this important issue and looks forward to working collaboratively to ensure all Nova Scotians have access to safe, reliable, and dependable cellular service.

Thank you for your continued leadership on this important issue.

Respectfully,



Allen Webber
Warden



Memorandum

To: Regional Emergency Management Advisory Committee (REMAC)

From: Alex Dumaresq, Deputy CAO, MODL

Date: September 09, 2026

Re: Region of Queens Request to Join Lunenburg REMO

REMAC

Item: 5.1

Date: September 21,
2026

BACKGROUND

Following up on previous discussion at the REMAC meeting staff had further communication with the Region of Queens to better understand how a potential expanded partnership would be structured. Below is a summary of the information gathered for further discussion.

Overall Position

RQM strongly supports joining Lunenburg County REMO as a full participating partner and believes its inclusion would strengthen emergency management capacity, reduce costs for existing members, and provide additional trained personnel, facilities, and resources.

Funding Formula

- RQM is prepared to join under the existing funding formula (20% base rate, remainder based on uniform assessment).
- RQM would become a full 1/6 partner in the organization.
- RQM estimates their contribution will reduce the financial contribution required from the five current member municipalities by approximately \$60,000 annually.

Staffing

- RQM is not proposing a dedicated CRC position similar to Chester's model.
- RQM would appoint an AEC
- RQM is prepared to provide municipal staff for training and activation work
- RQM identified significant emergency management experience and training among staff:
 - CAO, Deputy CAO, and Director of Protective Services all have extensive EM training and ECC experience.
 - All RQM Directors have completed basic emergency management training.
 - Numerous staff are enrolled in the Province's Be Ready training program, which RQM has made mandatory.

Additional ECC Infrastructure

- RQM has secured a provincial grant to upgrade Council Chambers to function as a modern ECC.
- This would provide LC REMO with a third ECC location option in Liverpool, in addition to existing locations.
- The Liverpool location could be advantageous during incidents near the Queens-Lunenburg boundary or if existing ECC locations become inaccessible.

Response to Concerns About Reduced Focus on Existing Municipalities

RQM believes adding Queens would enhance rather than dilute service delivery by:

- Reducing costs for current members.
- Adding experienced emergency management personnel.
- Increasing the pool of trained ECC staff.
- Providing additional Public Works equipment and infrastructure resources.
- Adding communication assets

Comfort Centres and Shelters

- RQM identified 14 comfort centres available throughout the municipality.
- While overnight shelter infrastructure is limited, smaller facilities could be utilized as needed.
- Key sites include Queens Place Emera Centre, Liverpool Fire Department, Liverpool Curling Club, and smaller community halls

Enhanced MOU Proposal

- RQM does not support replacing full REMO membership with an enhanced Memorandum of Understanding.
- Their position is that such an arrangement would not meet Nova Scotia REMO Standards, which require municipalities to be fully integrated members of a Regional Emergency Management Organization.
- If LC REMO is not open to adding another full partner, RQM will explore other regional partnership opportunities that satisfy provincial requirements.

RQM emphasized that it wants to join a REMO where it is viewed as a valued, welcomed, and equal partner.

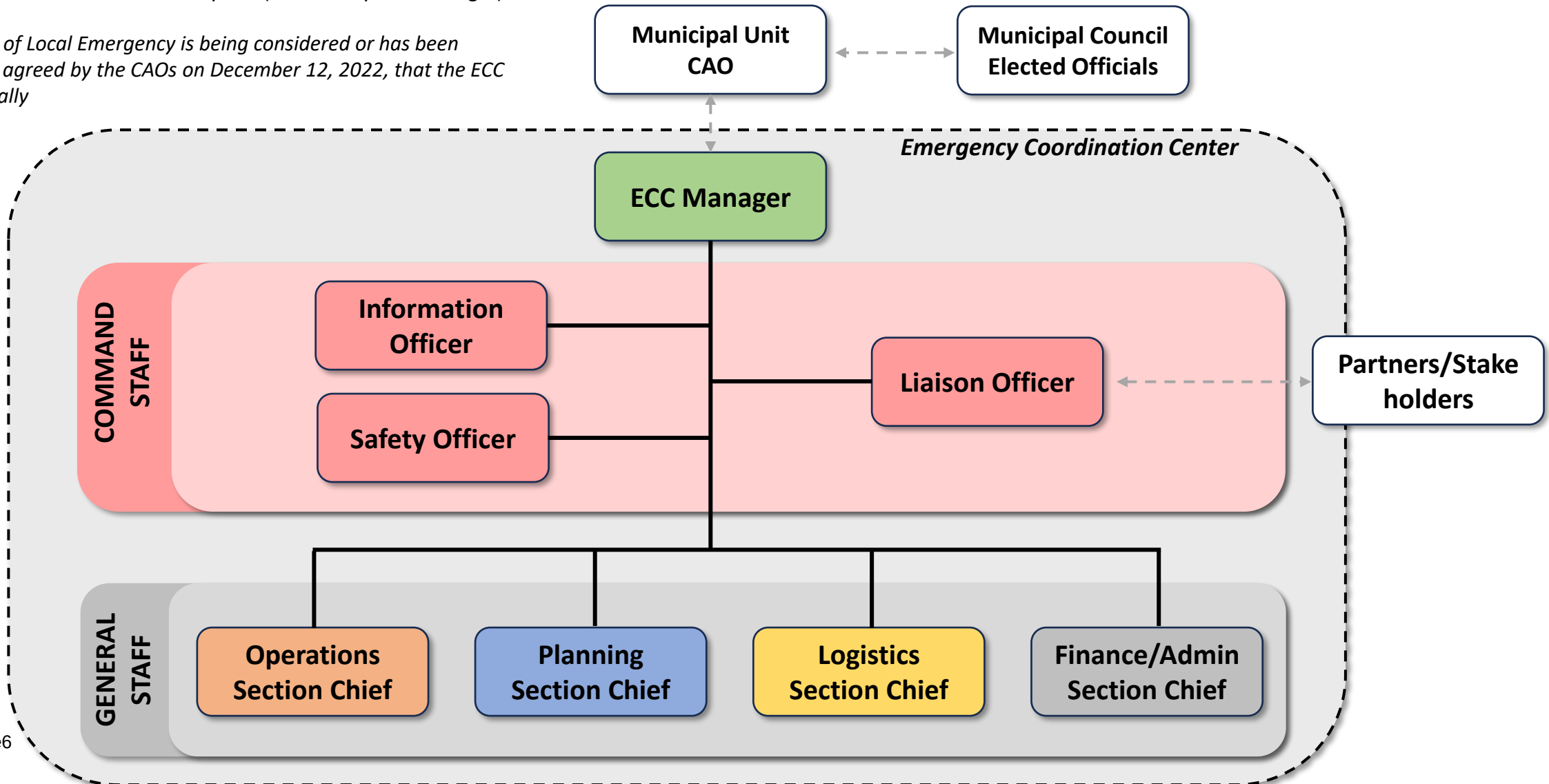
Lunenburg County REMO Activation Triggers

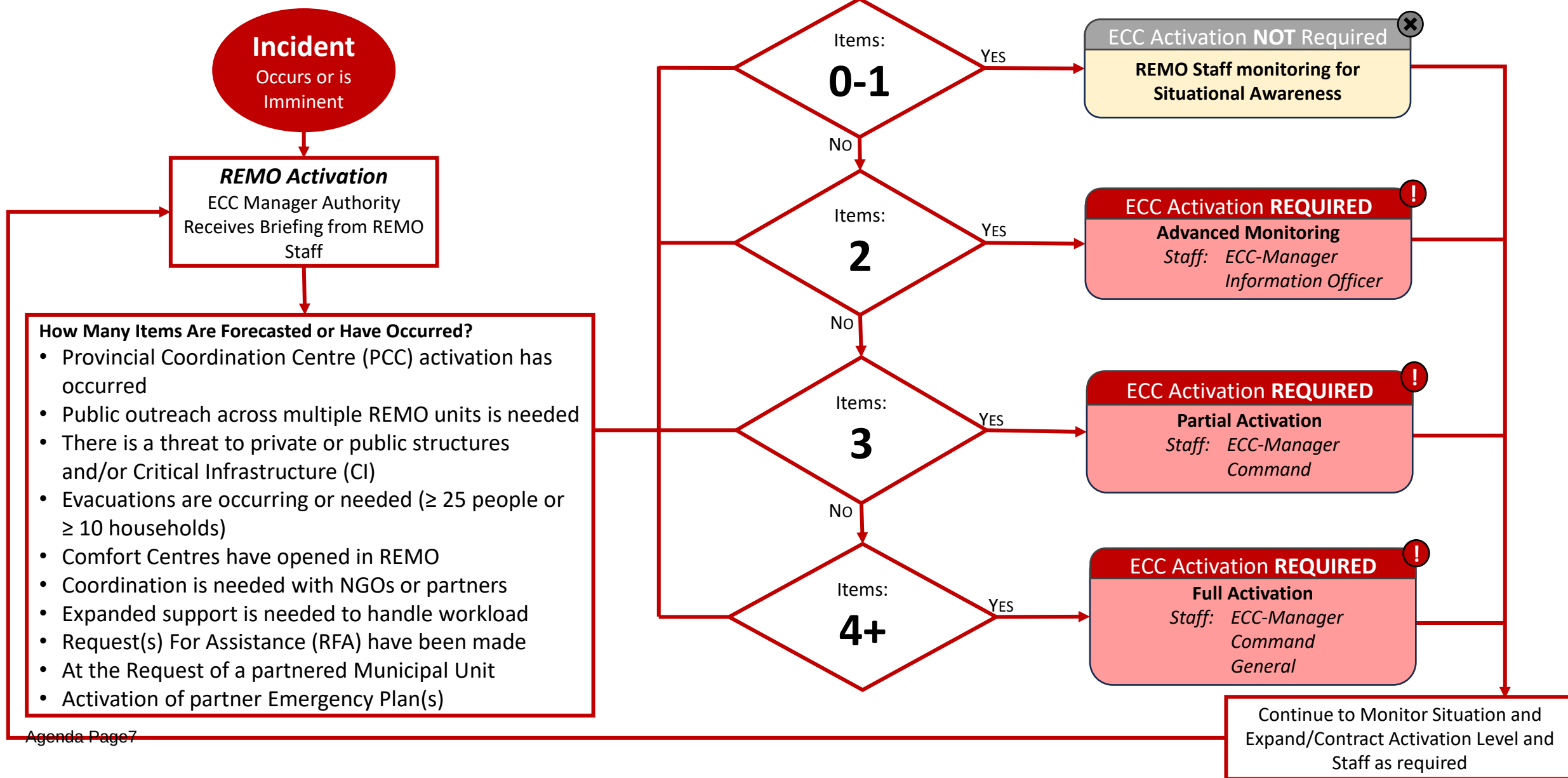
To Be Reviewed by REMO Advisory Committee September 21, 2026

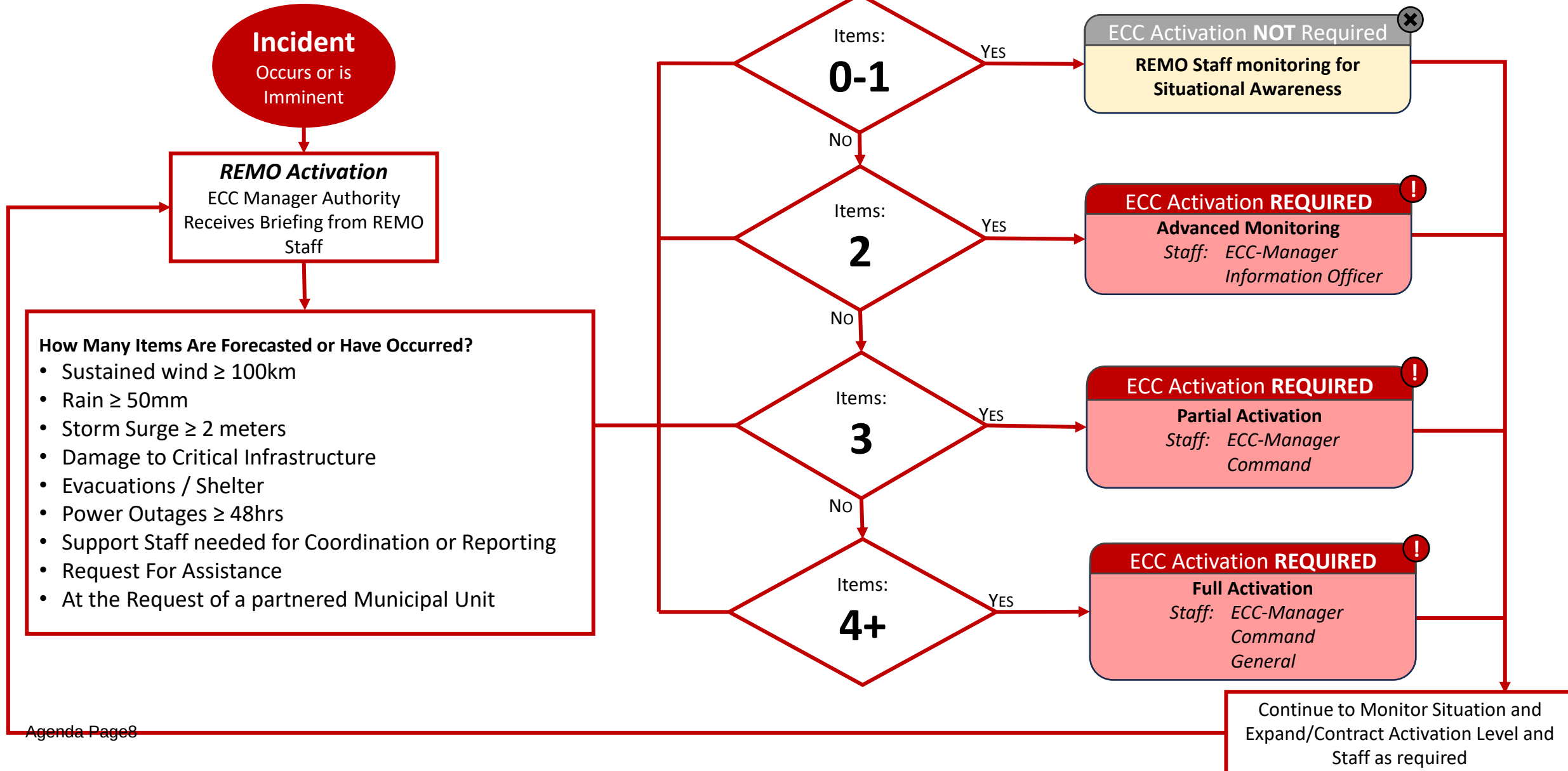
REMO ECC Activation Triggers - ECC Staffing Roles

- Staffing levels could be **Any** or **All** positions listed
- ECC Activation could be Virtual or Physical (Decision by ECC Manager)

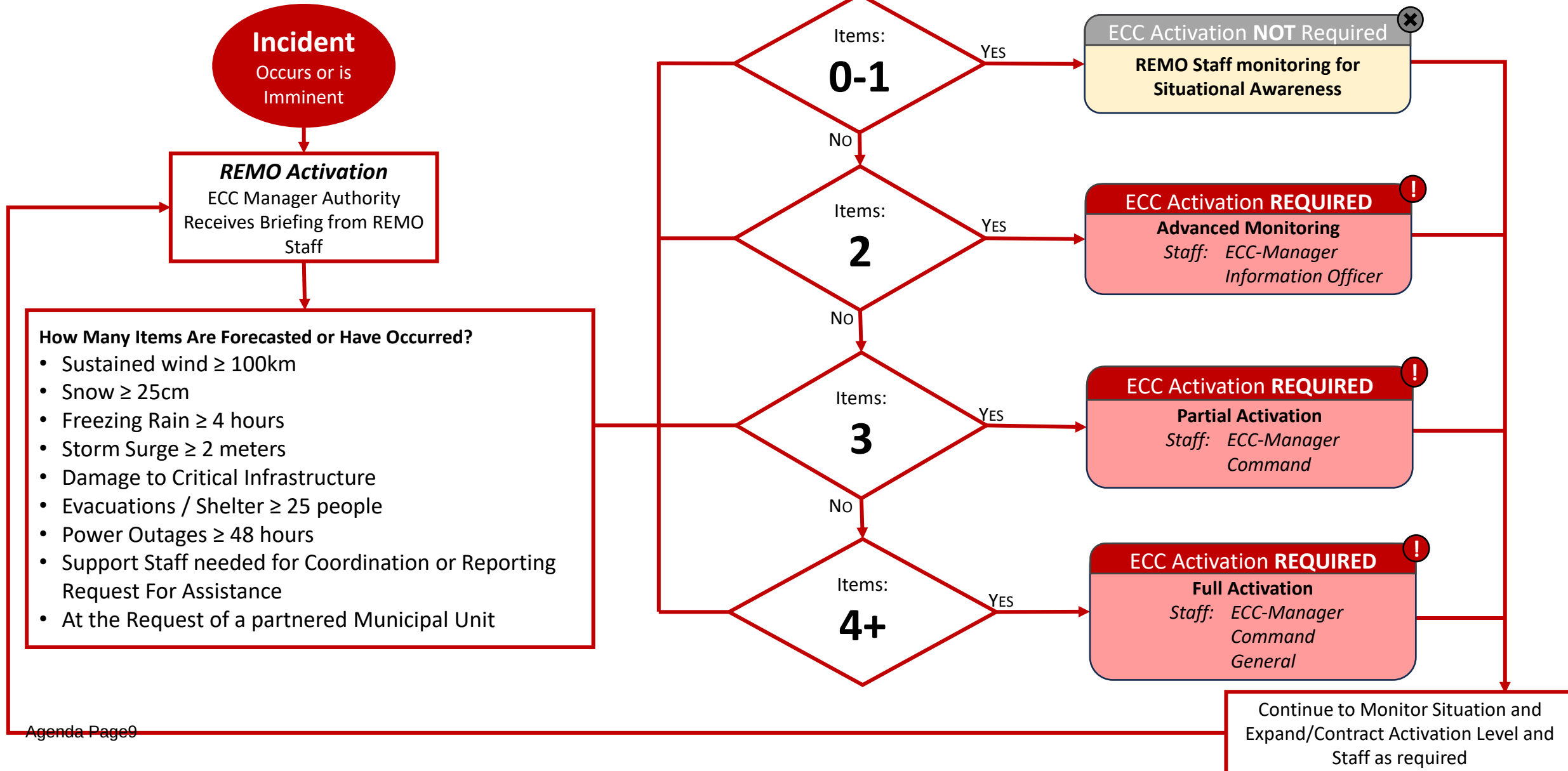
NOTE: If a State of Local Emergency is being considered or has been declared, it was agreed by the CAOs on December 12, 2022, that the ECC will open physically



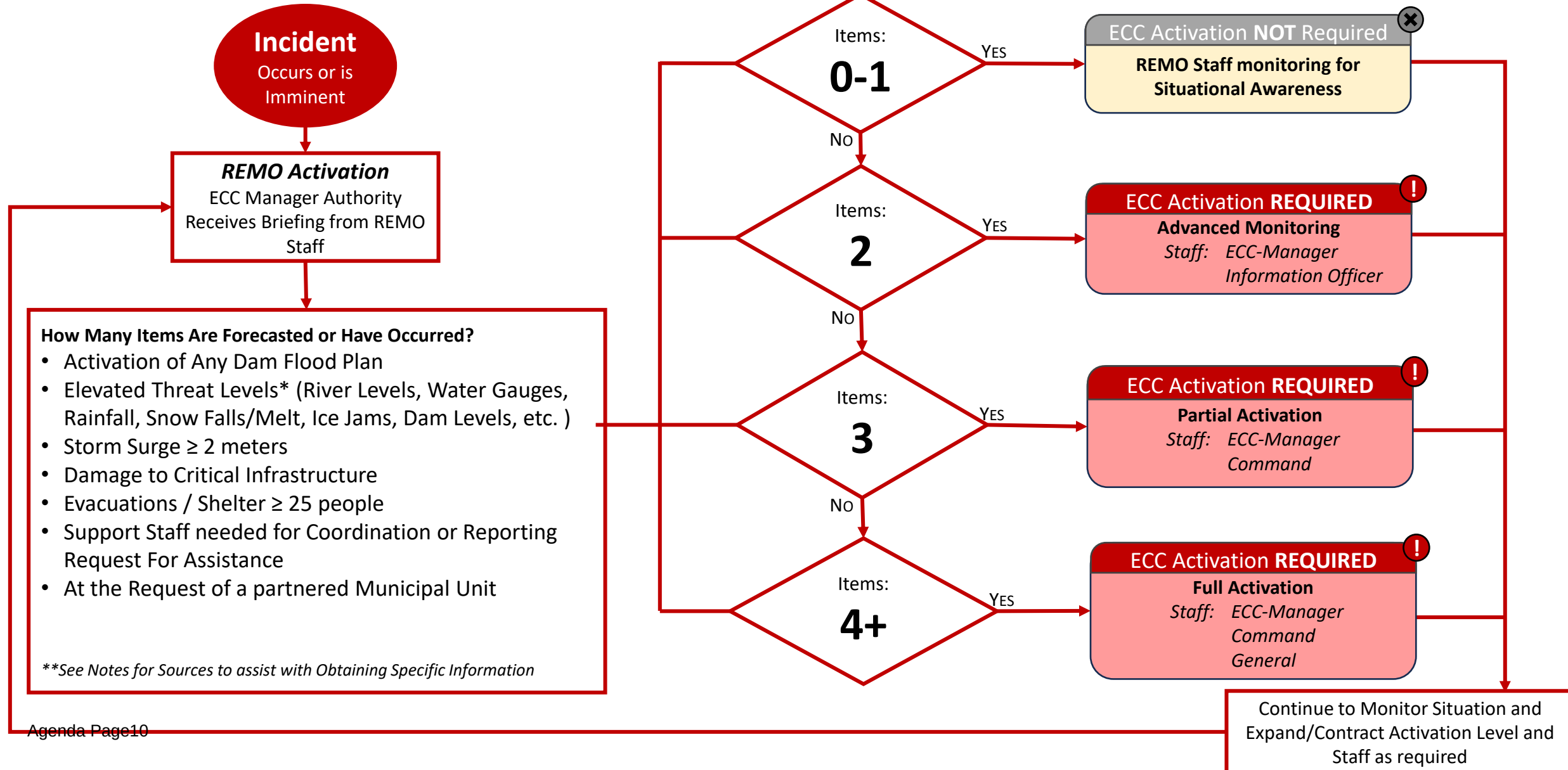




REMO ECC Activation Triggers



REMO ECC Activation Triggers



REMO ECC Activation Triggers

