

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – NOTES –
EMERGENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE NOVEMBER 23, 2010

Notes of the tabletop exercise held on November 23, 2010 in the O'Connor community centre.

Present: Mayor Nelson
Councillors - Racicot, Vezina
Councillor Elect - Loan
Clerk-Treasurer Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Racicot
John Coupland, Emergency Measures Organization
Fire Chief Henry Mattas, Deputy Fire Chief Mike Styles,
Fire Department and First Response members – Greg Biloski, Brendan Byers, Aaron Rutland, Stefan Derech, Randy Turk, Leanne Coderre, Willy Coderre, Josh Turk, Michael Carli, Ian Hamilton, Mike Biloski
Road Department – Kelly Johnson, Brent Dennhardt, Catriona Earl
O'Connor Community Club – Ronda Martin
Ontario Provincial Police – Staff Sergeant Dan Peters
Superior North EMS - Don Stokes
Canadian Red Cross Society – Ken Widdifield

Mayor Nelson called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m. and thanked everyone for attending the Tabletop Exercise. Introductions were made around the table. Mayor Nelson then turned the exercise over to Mr. Coupland from the Emergency Measures Organization (EMO).

Mr. Coupland explained that this was both an exercise and an educational session and that it is mandatory that the municipality has one exercise a year. This exercise allows everyone the opportunity to work together. Mr. Coupland continued to explain that in an emergency there would be two stages, the first beginning the activation of the plan by calling out the Community Control Group (CCG) and stage two dealing with the emergency. The exercise goals are to handle the emergency, ensure that all outside agencies are contacted, ensure there is good two-way communication between the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and the site command post, and to ensure good communication among the Community Control Group (CCG). The Mayor or Acting Mayor is the only person who can declare an emergency. Once declared the declaration would be signed and faxed to Toronto. There is no down side to declaring an emergency if it turns out not to be as serious as first expected. If an emergency is declared individually you cannot be sued. During the scenario there would be on scene – short term planning and at the (EOC) – long term planning. The Township of O'Connor would now use the new council chambers and office as the EOC, allowing for the community centre to be used as a reception centre.

The scenario for this exercise is a large aircraft crash at 3:00 p.m. carrying 51 people. The crash site started at the junction of Highway 590 and Smart Road and continued west to where the main body of the aircraft was located at the intersection of Highway 590 and 595. There is fire in the aircraft as well as wild fires burning. There are injured and deceased passengers from the aircraft and homes along the crash site are burning or have been destroyed. One of the firefighters has been killed and one is injured.

Mr. Coupland asked each organization what they would be doing in this incident. During the emergency the Mayor has had a heart attack and has been taken away by ambulance. The Acting Mayor has been contacted and is now in charge of the event. All necessary agencies would be called in for assistance, including Mutual Aid from all local fire and first response teams. The incident was discussed in great detail by all organizations until the situation was under control.

Mr. Coupland also continued with an education session. Family planning was discussed. How emergencies also affect your family situation as a responder, as well as being prepared at home as a family for any kind of emergency. It was suggested that information be put in the upcoming newsletters with regard to being prepared in case of an emergency, "Be Ready", as well as safety tips for what not to do.

Overall it was a good exercise, the possibility of this accident happening in O'Connor is there as the flight path to the Thunder Bay airport is over the Township.

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Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for attending and congratulated them on a job well done. There is confidence within the Township that in an emergency this group would be able to deal with the situation. Mayor Nelson also thanked the O'Connor volunteers for the outstanding service that they provide to the community year round.

Mayor Nelson thanked everyone for coming and the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer