

TOWNSHIP OF O'CONNOR – NOTES –
EMERGENCY TABLETOP EXERCISE NOVEMBER 8, 2017

Notes of the Tabletop Exercise held on Wednesday, November 8, 2017 in the O'Connor Community Centre.

Present: Mayor Jim Vezina
Councillors Chantal Alkins, Kevin Foekens, Jerry Loan, Bishop Racicot
Clerk-Treasurer Lorna Buob
Deputy Clerk-Treasurer & CEMC Linda Racicot
Administrative Assistant Erin Laforest
Fire Chief and Alternate CEMC Henry Mattas
Deputy Fire Chief and Alternate CEMC Monica Budiselic
Alternate CEMC Morris Douglas
Fire Department and First Response members – Leanne Coderre,
Willy Coderre, Paul Phillips, Jesse Buob, Mike Carli, Jenna Coderre,
Road Department – Kelly Johnson, Brent Dennhardt,
Ontario Provincial Police – Acting Staff Sergeant John Reppard
Superior North EMS West Superintendent – Arthur Soulias
Acting Emergency Management Advisor MNRF – Aviation, Forest Fire
and Emergency Services – Tim Neufeld
O'Connor Community Club – Tammy Cook
Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Field Officer –
Amethyst Sector – Sharon Bak (On the phone)

Mayor Vezina called the exercise to order at 7:12 p.m. Attendees were welcomed and thanked for attending the Township of O'Connor's Emergency Tabletop Exercise. Introductions were made around the tables. Mayor Vezina then turned the exercise over to Ms. Racicot, the Township of O'Connor's Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC).

Ms. Racicot explained the requirements of the Township under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Section 12. (1) states that every municipal shall have a Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG). This group is required to have a mandatory four hour training session, which was held on November 1, 2017 in the Township of Conmee as a joint meeting with some of the surrounding municipalities. The group is also required to conduct an annual practice exercise for a simulated emergency incident in order to evaluate the municipality's emergency response plan and its own procedures, this being the reason for this exercise.

Ms. Racicot proceeded with the slide presentation explaining the objective of the exercise and the scenario. The scenario was read aloud with the group. The situation began at 8:00 p.m. when the occupants of 40 Loghrin Road reported that they heard an explosion and black smoke was billowing in behind their property. Thunder Bay Airport has also reported that an aircraft has crashed landed in the same area and they have activated their Emergency Plan. A map of the area was also presented to the group to ensure that all those present were aware of the exact location. The O'Connor Fire and First Response Team have been paged out by Central Ambulance Communication Centre (CACC). Each organization/group in attendance then proceeded to explain what they would be doing or how they would be reacting at this time of the incident. The scene would be secured and responders would be responding as required. Mutual Aid would be called for assistance. The Community Control Group would be notified of the situation and be ready to respond as needed. The Kakabeka Falls Provincial Park would be notified of the situation so that they could activate their own evacuation plan. There would be contact with the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre (JRCC) in Trenton. The media would be made aware of the situation and the residents in the area would be contacted and asked to evacuate. The scenario continued with the residents at 40 Loghrin Road leaving their home. At 9:00 p.m. their home is engulfed in flames resulting from the intense heat of the forest fire which has resulted. The fire is spreading rapidly and is threatening nearby homes located on both Loghrin Road and Highway 590. High winds are blowing heavy smoke in the direction of Highway 590 creating low visibility for emergency responders and motorists. Numerous calls into 911 are being made by local residents reporting the fire with some residents requesting emergency medical assistance due to respiratory difficulties resulting from smoke inhalation. Each organization/group again gave comment on what they would be doing or how they would be dealing with the situation. It was noted that as the fire is

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happening in the evening the water bombers would not be able to respond until daylight. It was suggested that, as there are a couple of school bus drivers in the area that keep the buses at their home, the bus companies be asked for permission to use these buses in an emergency situation. In this case the school buses could be used to help with the evacuation of residents. The ambulatory patients could also possibly be transported to the hospital or to a triage location in the school bus. It was noted that a media center should be setup away from the incident and it was suggested perhaps in this incident, somewhere in Kakabeka Falls. The Scenario continued, the fire has been reported as under control. The house on 40 Loghrin Road has sustained significant damage, wind conditions have subsided and smoke has dissipated. Once again each organization/group described what they would be doing in this situation at this time.

The group was then asked if anyone had any questions with regard to the scenario or with any other emergency situation. A good discussion then pursued. It was noted that this scenario would have probably lasted a couple of days, there would have been a significant loss of homes and crews would have had to be rotated. The OPP were asked if there would be an additional bill from them for assisting with this type of situation and Acting Staff Sergeant Reppard replied no. It was determined that in this situation the fire started in the area protected by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry so there would be no additional cost from them for their assistance with the fire.

Ms. Bak for the OFMEM provided additional information with regard to media, 211, incident command, mental health and information with regard to the assistance of the Salvation Army and the Red Cross. There would be a charge from the Red Cross if their services were used and a memorandum of understanding could be prepared to determine what their roll would be and what is expected of them. Every case is very different but the bottom line is that they are there to help people.

It was also recommended that there be an operational debriefing following an incident. How quickly one would be held would depend on the situation. Generally it is for support of the responders and should be held a day or two following the incident. A full debriefing would also be held at a later date but not too far after the incident so that participants don't forget. It was noted that the MNRF action review is usually weeks or months later.

Mayor Vezina thanked everyone for attending and participating in the exercise and thanked Ms. Racicot for preparing and presenting and the meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mayor

Clerk-Treasurer