



National Municipal ESS Network

April 6, 2010
11:30PST/2:30EST

Regrets: Jackie Kloosterboer (Vancouver), Jo-Anne Stead (PHAC), Steve LaRochelle (Kitchener-Waterloo), Sue Ritchie (Peel),

On Call: **Janine Aussem (ESSA), Kerry Evans (ESSA), John Webb (Nova Scotia), Tracy Newton (Kingston), Gail Spencer (Sudbury), Wendy Hayko (York), Elaine Smyer (Toronto), Luana Kaleikini (Revelstoke), Ken Hopper (Calgary), Ron Fortier (Manitoba), Sara Walsh (Victoria), Jodi DeNoble (Peterborough)**

Agenda:

1. Review March CC Minutes
2. Learning Point: **Elaine Smyer – Vulnerable Populations**
3. NMESSN Connections Newsletter
4. NMESSN Website
5. Membership
6. Other Business
7. Round Table

Review of March Minutes

- Remove one of the Cathy Bulych from the minutes.
- Add Terry Johnson from New Brunswick.
- Accepted with the above noted changes.

Learning Point – Elaine Smyer – Vulnerable Populations

- New protocol – a combination of efforts by: TO police, fire, community care access centre (CCAC).
- Finding out where the vulnerable populations are continues to be a matter of concern.
- Over the last year many groups have been identified as vulnerable. CCAC has met with all of their 20,000 clients to find out what their emergency plans, as well as have them sign forms for assistance in an emergency, as well as prepare emergency contact information.
- During this collaboration some of the processes have changed. For example, the protocol during a power outage. People have since become more mindful about the issues surrounding the vulnerable populations.
- The plan started with one idea and has since expanded and interest is being generated. It is hopeful that more agencies will come on board to continue the ease in maintaining communication with the vulnerable populations, specifically in the case of emergencies.
- A document is currently being created on this topic and will be distributed when complete.

NMESSN Connections Newsletter

- Question: should ESSA be profiled in the newsletter as a support to NMESSN? Yes, Janine will include something for the next one.



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- Next issue ideas: ESSA profile, Rick Shirran – Haiti Experience, Elaine Smyer – Vulnerable Populations, ON – ESS
- Possible future learning point: Extreme Weather Alert, Elaine will see if she can find a presenter for this.

NMESSN Website

- Contact us: add the executive's profiles and then the information for Janine @ essa for contact. Janine will contact the execs and confirm approval.
- Can there be a quick links for NMESSN?

Membership

- Slight decrease in membership. The membership form can be found on the website or please contact Janine to get a copy of the form. Please support this group by signing up for a paid membership. Some supporters have changed they category of support they have had in the past, from sponsor memberships to general memberships which is a \$400 decrease per membership.
- Provinces that don't run ESS directly should be targeted for memberships.

Roundtable

- **Ken (Calgary)** – Ken started in his current role in Dec 09 and has been busy responding since. Ken took over for Sheila Brantnall for the City of Calgary. Ken started his ESS career many years ago as a Reception Centre Manager. This was Ken's first time on the call and he looks forward to collaborating with the NMESSN.
- **Gail (Sudbury)** – Fire which affected about 20 homes. Working on better communications between support organizations.
- **Luana (Revelstoke)** – Revelstoke 7200 people population in a remote area. There was recently a large category 3 avalanche where ESS responded and set up an information centre, managed media, and provided support to families (emotional support). Another avalanche occurred following this event with a fatality. They opened another info centre at that time.
- **Tracey (Kingston)** – Inclusive Preparedness Canada – This is a group who is incorporating customer services standards at Reception Centres (RC). The March of Dimes is leading this group. They have taken the customer service standards in ON and applied it to the RC piece. They have created a handbook and are looking at doing field tests in TO, possible in Kingston. This info will be widely available once complete.
- **Ron (Manitoba)** – Had been preparing for huge floods but thankfully there were only two small evacuations. It's been really dry and warm and the lack of rainfall may become an issue in the summer.
- **Jody (Peterborough)** – Concerned about the summer. Last weekend there were four grass fires. It has been unseasonably warm and dry. The long term forecast indicates potential summer issues. Short term evacuations due to gas main breaks in the city, some schools involved. There were some glitches identified with the school preparedness plans.
- **Wendy Hayko (York)** – All quiet!
- **Louis (Red Cross)** – Looking towards forest fire season and extreme weather conditions now and on the horizon. Disaster management conference in early June and also a conference in November.

Next Conference Call: Tuesday, May 4, 2010

11:30PST/2:30EST