



National Municipal ESS Network

March 1, 2010
11:30PST/2:30EST

Regrets: Jackie Kloosterboer (Vancouver), Jo-Anne Stead (PHAC), Steve LaRoche (Kitchener-Waterloo), Ron Fortier (Manitoba), Sheila Brantnall (Calgary),

On Call: **Janine Aussem (ESSA), Kerry Evans (ESSA), John Webb (Nova Scotia), Linda Bouchard (PHAC), Pauline Hopley (Durham), Tracy Newton (Kingston), Gail Spencer (Sudbury), Wendy Hayko (York), Cathy Bulych (Saskatchewan), Elaine Smyer (Toronto), Rick Shirran (Salvation Army), Louise Geoffrion (Cdn Red Cross), Gary Johnson (New Brunswick)**

Agenda:

- Review February meeting minutes
- Learning Point: Rick Shirran (TSA) – A Haiti Experience
- National ESS Conference - update
- Roundtable
- Other Business

Review of February Minutes

- Change Grace's last name to Caron

Rick Shirran (TSA) – A Haiti Experience

- Rick Shirran is the Emergency Services Disaster Coordinator for The Salvation Army (TSA). Rick, along with two other members of TSA went down to Haiti right away to assess the situation. Haiti has a population over 9 million and is a very, very poor country as well as has a poor infrastructure. TSA has been contributing to the well-being of Haiti for many years.
- A team from the TSA headquarters in Canada were on the ground by January 7th. The man reported in the news that was pulled out of the rubble one month after the disaster was initially taken to TSA until he was later transferred to hospital. The initial assessment found the following needs to be of highest priority: Food, attrition, water, medical assistance and supplies, shelter, trauma grief, and spiritual counseling
- January 16 was the first mass feeding, with over 10,000 people served. The second day a partner agency brought food in but they were designated to the wrong area and their delivery was mixed with food and other donations. This caused many delays and some of the donations were not needed at that time. Another important step in working in Haiti is you also have to work with the local gang to make sure things go smoothly. Each section has its own gang and you must get permissions from them for each move. Even during tours, gang members accompanied them. An additional 4000 meals were served the second day (beans & rice) from the partner agency. From this point onward, there was security to manage the food distribution.
- Jan 17 – 10000 gallon water and filtration system was put in place. Before this there were only water trucks. Medical assistance was already in place but due to damage to the building a tent was set up and it



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was staffed by medical teams from UK, US and Canada. These medical teams assisted 250-300 people per day, everything from minor surgery to delivering babies.

- Shelter was established by displaced locals by using any materials possible: sticks, blanket, sheets and 2x4s. TSA provided as many tents as possible that were on supply from US Coleman. The airport was closed to non-military so supplies came into Santo Domingo then to Port-au-Prince. Later TSA partnered with UPS in Miami to use a plane to bring in supplies.
- TSA continues to meet and partner with several agencies and have the administrative reigns in a 20000 person area. They have raised \$8.4 million and with matching funds that is over \$16M that will be used for ongoing supplies and needs. Repair, reestablish, rebuild is what is most important at this time. One projects in the works is a job creation project, which includes hiring local people to start the reconstruction of Haiti.
- No staff or officers of TSA were injured but they were emotionally affected and continue to be. When Rick Shirran left Haiti there were children with smiles on their faces, even still with no sanitation, food, shelter, however they are still making and flying their kites. They remain to be resilient during this trying time.

Comment (Elaine Smyer): A plane load of Haitians had to stop in Toronto because of urgent illness. What surprised their team is how quick the non-ill persons were to abandon their families and move on. There was a child taken to hospital and its mother was going to just move on to Montreal. Is this an experience anyone else has witnessed? Rick: this is a survival instinct.

National ESS Conference Update

- Everyone has agreed that it's a good idea. The next step is to request JEPP funding to support this idea. Conceptually it is a great idea but now the logistics, specifically funding, will be the next issue. This group may be the first group to submit funds to benefit ESS across Canada and not just municipally or provincially. A small planning committee should be formed to work on the development of the conference. The NMESSN is run on a calendar year but the conference would most likely be in 2011. In terms of PHAC funding, it would be a good idea to work around an event that is already planned. Try to get as many groups together to provide a good crossover. Who would chair the committee? Send interest to Cathy and Linda at this time. The first step will be to identify those would like to join this committee. Another monthly conference call may be needed and Linda can coordinate this.

Roundtable

- **Tracey (Kingston)** – After recently participating in training at the JIBC – they were referring to using foamies instead of cots. Is anyone else familiar with using these over cots? The response is that most groups are using cots.

Next Conference Call: Tuesday, April 6, 2010
11:30PST/2:30EST