

# Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Update Report

Presented to: Emergency Services Committee on April 17, 2019



This report aims to provide the City of Greater Sudbury Emergency Services Committee with an update on information as it relates to recent business activities within the Community Safety Department's Emergency Management Section.

The Emergency Management Section provides leadership, guidance and direction to ensure the safety of residents in community emergencies. This section is governed by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). The Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management and the Greater Sudbury Emergency Management Advisory Panel provide further direction and advice to the Emergency Management Section. This Section provides 24/7 support with a primary focus on the safety of our citizens through the effective management of community risks and emergencies.

## Joint Emergency Services Operational Advisory Group (JESOAG) Tabletop Exercise

On January 14th, the Joint Emergency Services Operational Advisory Group (JESOAG) held a tabletop exercise to evaluate emergency services response to a mass casualty incident in a remote area of the City. JESOAG is a group which is designed to improve joint emergency response throughout the City of Greater Sudbury. The exercise was designed to evaluate a coordinated interagency emergency response with decision making processes and testing of operational policies and procedures, emphasizing the coordination between Central Ambulance Communications Centre, 911 Communications Centre, Greater Sudbury Police Services, Greater Sudbury Paramedic Services and Greater Sudbury Fire Services.

The exercise had a total of 20 participants.

## Coniston Power Outage

In the early morning of January 22, 2019 the Greater Sudbury community of Coniston experienced a power outage. According to Greater Sudbury Utilities (GSU), power went out at approximately 3:50am. GSU Hydro crews were able to isolate the area of the problem which was located on the Hydro One transmission system. A downed power line in a heavily wooded area interrupted the power supply. The outage affected approximately 925 Sudbury Hydro customers in the area. With the remote location of the downed wire, power was effectively restored at approximately 2:40pm.



*Photo Courtesy of Hydro One/GSU*



A power outage in the 12-hour range would not normally be cause for concern but due to the extreme cold temperatures (temperature range of -24°C at 5am to a high of -13°C at 3pm) enhanced measures were implemented. Those measures included:

- The deployment of transit buses to the community to act as warming centres for residents.
- Frequent interagency communication with Greater Sudbury Utilities and City departments which allowed Corporate Communications to provide information to the residents via the City's social media platforms.

There were no injuries as the result of this event. Call volumes to 311 were not abnormal when compared to other power outages. Warming buses were utilized by six residents.

### Tour of Greater Sudbury Utilities Control Room

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, Emergency Services staff toured the Hydro Control Room of Greater Sudbury Utilities. The tour provided an opportunity for staff to gain a better understanding of GSU's operations as well as procedures in place for emergency situations. The group also had fruitful discussions on how both organizations can continue to work together to ensure information is shared in a timely manner during emergency situations.



### City Service Fair



The Emergency Management Section participated in the City Services Fair held on Wednesday February 6<sup>th</sup> at the New Sudbury Shopping Centre. The fair provided an opportunity for residents to learn about Emergency Preparedness initiatives such as having a 72-hour kit and a Family Emergency Plan. Residents were also encouraged to sign up for Sudbury Alerts. Sudbury Alerts is the City's Public Emergency Mass Notification System used to notify residents of imminent threats to public

safety. The Emergency Management booth had encounters with approximately 55 community members.



### Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Support Staff Training

The Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) Support Staff team consists of employees from across the organization who have been trained to provide support to the Community Control Group during EOC activation. Support Staff are trained on EOC activation and deactivation procedures, operation of crisis communication software as well as administrative duties. Currently, there are 29 EOC Support Staff members.

The first training sessions for 2019 occurred on February 13<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> with 13 EOC Support Staff in attendance.

### Flood Preparation

The City's operations crews, in partnership with community stakeholders, are actively monitoring the spring thaw. Greater Sudbury's Emergency Management Section has been working closely with various internal and external stakeholders such as the Growth and Infrastructure Department, Conservation Sudbury, dam operators and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry to ensure plans have been revised and updated where appropriate, resources procured, and staff trained and ready to respond quickly to any emergency that may arise.

The flooding potential in any given year depends on the snow pack level within watersheds and warm spring weather. Each year Greater Sudbury undertakes several activities to ensure that our critical businesses will either continue to operate or recover rapidly despite serious incidents or disasters. Additional areas of concern are addressed through continuity measures include the protection of critical infrastructure and public safety.



*Photo courtesy of Greater Sudbury Conservation Authority*



With the onset of rain and milder temperatures, there are a few things residents can do to help reduce the potential of basement flooding:

- Check your sump pump to ensure it is operating correctly.
- Check your sump pit to ensure it is not blocked by debris.
- Reposition your downspout, if possible, to direct water away from the foundation and neighbouring properties.
- Assist city crews if possible by ensuring catch basins near your property are clear of snow, ice, leaves and debris.
- Move valuables stored on basement floors to a safe location if you are concerned about basement flooding.
- If your basement does flood, do NOT enter the water until you are certain the electricity has been shut off. Contact your electricity distributor to do the disconnection safely.



*Photo courtesy of Greater Sudbury Conservation Authority*