

North Shore Emergency Management Office Facilitated Successful Disaster Exercises for City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver

February 1, 2013 - North Vancouver, B.C. The North Shore Emergency Management Office (NSEMO) facilitated three emergency training exercises during the week of January 28, 2013 for the City of North Vancouver, District of North Vancouver, and District of West Vancouver.



These full scale exercises were based on a plausible severe 'rain on snow' weather event and consisted of a simulation involving a multi-casualty bus crash with a tanker truck causing a gasoline and diesel spill. The severity of the incident and the impact to municipal and response resources from the prolonged severe weather event were the triggers for activating the municipal Emergency Operations Centre (EOC). There were numerous additional events that the EOC needed to address including the potential for a landslide and how the community would be alerted and evacuated if required.

Mike Andrews, NSEMO Emergency Planning Officer explained "...exercises are a way to allow municipal personnel and our NSEMO volunteers to practice their response activities in a safe learning environment and enables them to be more prepared during a real disaster."

There were over 100 participants involved on each day including Fire, Police, Engineering, and other municipal staff, North Shore Emergency Management Office staff and volunteers. In addition, external agencies included BC Ambulance, Ministry of Environment, Port Metro Vancouver, Emergency Management BC, Capilano University Documentary program, Newalta, BC Disaster Psychosocial Support Program, Ministry of Environment, St. John Ambulance, Justice Institute of B.C., Integrated Partnership for Regional Emergency Management, as well as volunteers who acted as injured victims.

The exercises were made possible in part through a Federal Joint Emergency Preparedness Program (JEPP) grant and NSEMO would like to thank Public Safety Canada for the financial contribution. As this is one of the last grants made available through JEPP, NSEMO would also like to acknowledge the funding previously received through this federal program that has helped to enhance the emergency preparedness on the North Shore.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 1, 2013



**North Shore Emergency
Management Office**

City of North Vancouver • District of North Vancouver • District of West Vancouver

“The City of North Vancouver and Districts of North and West Vancouver take their responsibility for preparing for disasters seriously,” stated Dorit Mason, NSEMO Director. “These full scale emergency exercises demonstrate their commitment to be able to respond to our citizens and communities in a time of need.”



Photo caption: Fire crews and BCAS personnel triaging 'victims' from a simulated multi-casualty vehicle crash.



Photo caption: Capilano Documentary Program students acting as 'media' to interview the Incident Commander.

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