

91.5 CKPR

November 20, 2006

Mock disaster tests readiness

If Thunder Bay were to be struck by disaster, would the city be able to cope?

That question was put to the test over the weekend, as the Thunder Bay Regional Health Sciences Centre along with a team from Toronto conducted a mock disaster exercise at the hospital.

Saturday morning a scenario was played out in which close to 400 people gathered to take part in the exercise. In the case of a real disaster, an Emergency Medical Assistance team from Toronto would be dispatched to the city to work along side local emergency and health care personnel.

However, it's estimated it would take EMAT 22 hours to arrive and set up in Thunder Bay. Health Sciences Centre's director of communications Don Edwards, says the city is prepared to handle the situation until the team arrives.

The mock disaster was a simulation of a train derailment involving a chemical spill that affected both crew members and residents of the city.

<http://www.ckpr.com/localnews/index.asp?cid=89226>