

## EXERCISE TRILLIUM RESPONSE 2008: TIMELINE

November 21, 2008

Exercise Trillium Response is a multi-jurisdictional disaster response exercise developed by Emergency Management Ontario (EMO), the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM) and the Canadian Forces taking place in northwestern Ontario between November 17th and 23rd, 2008.

The 1,500 participants from 40 different organizations including provincial ministries, federal departments, the Canadian Forces, municipalities, non-governmental organizations and the private sector that are taking part in the exercise have been dealing with an escalating simulated scenario.

As the scenario escalates, more and more people and organizations are becoming involved and are dealing with that aftermath of the simulated ice storm in northwestern Ontario.

Here's a timeline narrative of the simulated scenario:

- **November 12-14:** first heavy snowfall and freezing rain is experienced across the area from Lake Nipigon to the Manitoba border. As much as 40 centimetres of snow and 20 millimetres of freezing rain have fallen in and around Thunder Bay.
- **November 16-18:** second heavy snowfall occurs accompanied by freezing rain; additional 30 centimetres of snow and 20 millimetres of freezing rain blanket the region.
- **November 16-17:** communities across the area declare emergencies and notify the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC).
- **November 17-18:** the PEOC continues to monitor the situation and inquires what resources may be available from the Canadian Forces.
- **November 17-20:** critical infrastructure across the northwest starts to fail or is impacted by the storm; roads, telephone systems and power lines are closed or are down.
- **November 18:** the province, through the PEOC, contacts Public Safety Canada to transmit an official request for federal assistance in the form of military resources and personnel.
- **November 19:** first elements of the Canadian Forces arrive in Thunder Bay from Ontario-based Joint Task Force Central part of Canada Command.
- **November 19:** Emergency Management Ontario's Mobile 1, a state-of-the-art command and communications vehicle, arrives in Thunder Bay.
- **November 20:** in the evening, buildings in Thunder Bay collapse because of ice accumulation and trap a number of people, the local fire department responds.
- **November 20:** Thunder Bay fire officials request the deployment of the Toronto Heavy Urban Search and Rescue (HUSAR) team from the Office of the Fire Marshal (OFM).
- **November 20:** the build up of Canadian Forces units in Thunder Bay continues; there are now members of the military in and around the city.
- **November 20:** the OFM first deploys members of the Ontario Provincial Police's Provincial Emergency Response Team who specialized in search and rescue operations.
- **November 20:** the OFM also commits the deployment of the Toronto HUSAR team and its own Mobile Satellite/Operational Support Unit

- **November 20:** Nipigon hospital is forced to rely on a generator for power and requests assistance from the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Emergency Medical Assistance Team (EMAT), which is a 56-bed mobile field hospital.
- **November 20:** The Thunder Bay Regional Hospital is overwhelmed and also requests the EMAT.
- **November 21:** the EMAT arrives in Thunder Bay and becomes operational.
- **November 21:** the Canadian Forces airlifts the HUSAR team and its equipment from Pearson International in Toronto.
- **November 21:** the HUSAR team is at the site of the grain elevator collapse and relieves the Thunder Bay fire search and rescue team who have been working at the site for 24 hours.
- **November 20-23:** weather improves in northwestern Ontario and critical infrastructure is restored.
- **November 22-23:** key provincial assets (EMAT, HUSAR, Mobile 1) are demobilized and start their return to the home locations.
- **November 23-28:** Canadian Forces unit complete their return to their home bases

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