

# Provincial Emergency Management Advisory Council 2004 Meeting – Summary of Resolutions and Actions



*[Amendments to resolutions are in bold and italics]*

## 1. **Funding:**

- a) The province should provide financial support to offset the costs of what is left to be done to achieve the requirements of the *Emergency Management Act*.
- b) That Emergency Management Ontario request the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services provide direct funding to municipalities to implement emergency management programs ***and to improve response capabilities***.

**ACTION:** Resolution amended as above. Resolutions will be forwarded as appropriate within the Government of Ontario.

## 2. **Critical Infrastructure:**

- a) Since land-telephone service ***and the electrical grid have*** been identified as Critical Infrastructure in most municipalities, that PEMAC petition Bell Canada ***and Hydro One*** to provide greater cooperation to municipalities.
- b) That EMO prepare an amendment to the EMA to strengthen the FOI clauses relating to a municipality's Critical Infrastructure.
- c) EMO create a template that can be used by municipalities evaluating their Critical Infrastructure.

**ACTION:** 2(a) amended as above and accepted. 2(b) Municipalities with concerns or suggestions should contact EMO in order to arrange contact between municipal and provincial solicitors. 2(c) A template exists, but those with more specific concerns should contact Randy Reid at EMO.

## 3. **JEPP:**

- a) EMO review their process to make JEPP funding more transparent and current with municipalities' fiscal year.

- b) That Emergency Management Ontario request the federal department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness to review their guidelines for JEPP for clarity, and it is also suggested that they change the process timelines to the calendar year.

**ACTION:** EMO Chief Neil McKerrell will present the Council's concerns to the heads of the other provincial emergency management organizations in an effort to gain a national consensus on what changes to JEPP should be recommended to Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada.

#### **4. Emergency Response:**

- a) That an improved method for contact and information flow be sought from Ontario Hydro.
- b) That EMO take the initiative to work with MOHLTC to ensure that plans and protocols are in place to appraise communities of the expected Provincial response to large-scale health emergencies.
- c) That EMO develop guidelines to address who is responsible for costs incurred by a community in helping a neighbour during an emergency, if a formal arrangement is not in place.

**ACTION:** 2(a) EMO will continue to work with Hydro One to improve information flow. Much progress has been made to date. 2(b) MOHLTC has released a draft epidemic plan and this will be made available to all communities. MOHLTC is creating an emergency management unit to improve capabilities and communications. The Medical Officer of Health is looking to revamp the relationship between the province and local Medical Officers of Health. 2(c) EMO will investigate this issue.

#### **5. EOC Costs:**

- a) Request that the Province of Ontario lobby the CRTC for changes in regulations regarding emergency phone lines in municipal Emergency Operations Centres.

**ACTION:** Accepted as written.

#### **6. Alternate CEMCs:**

- a) While the province currently allows for the training of one CEMC and one Alternate for each municipality, that allowance be made for a second Alternate
- b) Allow municipalities to designate a second alternate CEMC in order to provide for appropriate HR resources at the CEMC position in an emergency and to allow for "succession" planning in the municipality.

- c) That EMO allow municipalities to name more than one alternate CEMC, for example where justified by large population or distribution in two or more separate areas.

**ACTION:** Accepted. EMO will allow two alternate CEMCs per municipality.

**7. Committee Representation:**

- a) That EMO work with the appropriate Provincial parties to ensure that municipal representatives sit on the Great Lakes Security Council.

**ACTION:** Accepted. EMO will work to improve communication between levels of government in regard to security issues in general.

**8. CERV:**

- a) Prepare a package to secure stable and consistent CERV funding for municipalities to access in the future.
- b) That EMO supply on-going funding to communities with viable CERV teams in place.

**ACTION:** No action, pending release of the provincial budget.

**9. Upper Tier/Lower Tier:**

- a) That the Province of Ontario provide municipalities with further clarification on the relationship between Upper and Lower Tier municipalities during an emergency, including roles and responsibilities of each.

**ACTION:** The Government of Ontario is investigating amendments to the *Emergency Management Act*. The issue of upper tier/lower tier responsibilities regarding emergency management is recognized.

**10. Volunteer Programs:**

- a) That the provincial and federal governments assist the Canadian Red Cross financially to provide the much needed and appreciated service by this organization during times of emergencies.
- b) That the Provincial government provide adequate funding for volunteer agencies to ensure that they are capable of assisting municipalities in emergencies, and that such assistance be planned and coordinated.

**ACTION:** There is no indication that funding will be provided for volunteer organizations.

**11. Contact Information/Notifications:**

- a) That EMO take whatever steps are necessary to send e-mails to as many different e-mail addresses for a municipality as required.

**ACTION:** This issue requires further investigation and consultations.

**12. French Translation:**

- a) That all EMO resources and aids be translated into French within a reasonable period (one to three months) after their being issued in English.

**ACTION:** All EMO documents will be translated into French, although the size and complexity of some documents makes this a lengthy process.

**13. Unorganized Territory:**

- a) That EMO work with MNDM to define roles and responsibilities with respect to the handling of emergencies in unincorporated municipalities, and that this information be published to all CEMCs.
- b) It is recommended that EMO seek clarification on what Ministries are responsible for what types of emergencies in unincorporated areas in the North.

**ACTION:** EMO will explore this matter further.

**14. Training:**

- a) While CEMC courses are currently being conducted by “Distance Learning,” a number of municipalities have requested that actual physical courses be conducted in communities.
- b) On the basis of requests received and inputs from alternate/new CEMCs, the request is for a return to classroom instruction in providing the CEMC training program.
- c) That Emergency Management Ontario provide a subsidy for EMO/AMCTO workshop-related costs and/or, alternately, EMO consider conducting Elected Officials/Senior Staff workshops independently of AMCTO at reduced or shared cost with municipalities.

**ACTION:** 14(a)&(b) Classroom courses will be offered on a sector or area basis where a minimum enrollment of twelve (12) students can be achieved. 14(c) No subsidy will be offered as the AMCTO seminar is optional training. Others interested in similar partnerships should contact EMO.

**Additional Issues** (as raised by Area Council representatives during the presentation of recommendations):

- 1) The Central Area Council representative expressed concern over the potential shipping of garbage to Simcoe County from the Greater Toronto Area (given uncertainty about the continuation of shipments to Michigan). This could cause significant issues in the County.
- 2) The Southwestern Area Council representatives requested that representatives of all sectors be present at the PEMAC.
- 3) The Northerneastern Area Council representative asked for assistance in enhancing communications capabilities, particularly for Emergency Operations Centres. Many municipalities cannot afford to maintain sufficient phone lines due to monthly connection fees.