

MINISTRY OF NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT AND MINES

PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY PLAN

FOR

ABANDONED MINES HAZARDS

November, 2005

# INDEX

	PAGE
Record of Amendments	3
Preface	4
Aim	4
Definitions	4
Declaration of Emergency	
Ministry Action Group	8
Membership	
Notification	
Location	
Responsibilities	
Provincial Liaison Team	10
Membership	
Location	
Responsibilities	
Notification	
Provincial Operations Centre	13
Plan Maintenance	13
Appendices	14
1.    MAG and Alternate Contact Numbers	14
2.    PLT Contact Numbers – MNDM	18
3.    Communications Plan	19
4.    PLT Contact Numbers – Ministries/Agencies	19

## RECORD OF AMENDMENTS

Draft	December 12, 1997
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## **PREFACE**

The Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM) has completed this Emergency Plan in accordance with the *Emergency Management Act* R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9, which governs the formulation of an emergency plan by both ministries and communities. In addition, the Order-in-Council 1492/2005 specifies areas of responsibility for which ministry emergency plans are mandatory. The MNDM has special responsibilities for abandoned mine hazard emergencies and is required to formulate an emergency plan to deal with such emergencies.

A response to an emergency usually begins at the community level and expands as needed, to involve senior levels of government. The extent of the response depends upon the nature and severity of the incident, while the effectiveness of the response depends upon the level of preparedness. Both emergency preparedness and emergency response are therefore very important specific arrangements, which must be included in the MNDM Emergency Plan.

It is envisioned given the definition of emergency in the *Emergency Management Act* that abandoned mines hazards that would cause a danger of major proportions would occur within municipal or community areas where infrastructure and planning exists to deal with such emergencies; nevertheless situations may occur requiring capability beyond the local community, which this plan is intended to address. In the case of spills resulting from abandoned mine sites, the Ministry of the Environment (MOE) has the responsibility to deal with a resulting emergency and in the case of dam failures, the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) has the responsibility to deal with the resulting emergency.

## **AIM**

The aim of this plan is to provide the extraordinary arrangements that may have to be taken to protect the life, health, welfare and property of the residents of Ontario in the event of an emergency as a direct result of an abandoned mine hazard.

## **DEFINITIONS**

Authorities: refers to the government at either the local, community, provincial, or federal level; or any in combination, working together.

Branches and Agencies: in the MNDM Emergency Plan, refers to all Ontario ministries and any other groups which assist the MNDM during an abandoned mine hazard emergency.

Chief, Emergency Management Ontario: is responsible for the monitoring and development of emergency response plans and overall coordination of provincial emergency response through the PEOC during emergencies.

Designated (Governing) Ministry: That ministry which has been assigned responsibility for a specified type of emergency. In this plan, the Designated Ministry is MNDM.

Emergency: defined by the Provincial Emergency Response Plan as a “situation or an impending situation caused by the forces of nature, an accident, and an intentional act or otherwise that constitutes a danger of major proportions to life or property. These situations could threaten public safety, public health, the environment, property, critical infrastructure and economic stability. Three categories of emergencies: Human-Caused, Natural and Technological.”

Emergency Area: includes the geographic dimensions in which an emergency exists, usually defined by the authority that declares the emergency.

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC): each level of government responding to an emergency has an emergency operations centre (EOC). A Community Emergency Operations Centre is part of the community emergency plan, and is where a Community Control Group (CCG) can meet to direct and coordinate all operations at a local level. A Ministry Emergency Operations Centre is part of a ministry emergency response plan and is where the Ministry Action Group can meet to direct and coordinate a ministry’s response to an emergency. At the provincial level there is the Provincial Emergency Response Centre from which Emergency Management Ontario coordinates the province’s response to emergencies. For this plan the EOC refers to MNDM’s Emergency Operations Centre.

Emergency Management Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.9 (EM Act): governs the formulation of emergency plans by both ministries and municipalities and makes emergency planning mandatory.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO): is an organization within the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services whose mandate is to monitor, coordinate and assist with the promotion, development, implementation and maintenance of emergency management programs in Ontario.

Emergency Preparedness. Emergency preparedness describes the measures taken to prepare before the onset of an emergency. Such measures normally include prevention plans, scientific and technical advice, exercises, public education and any other measures that lead to an effective emergency response.

Emergency Response. Emergency response describes the measures that are taken following the threat or onset of an emergency. Response measures include: liaison, provision of advice and assistance, arrangements for the provision and coordination of personnel, services, equipment, and material, emergency management, recovery and funding assistance, and the issue of timely instructions and directions related to safeguarding the health, safety, welfare and property of those affected until such time as the emergency has been terminated.

Emergency Site: is the location of the emergency, usually cordoned off by police, including the damage area and enough additional space for emergency response workers to operate.

Joint Information Centre (JIC): is a location, usually near the emergency site, where government information resources are combined. The aim of the JIC is to present coordinated emergency information from all involved levels of government, to the media and to the general public, in an effective and timely manner.

Ministry Action Group (MAG): is a group of individuals from various branches of the Designated Ministry, who are necessary for the successful response to an emergency. A MAG shall be activated when needed to respond to an emergency, whether declared or threatened, which requires a coordinated response under the assigned emergency responsibilities of the ministry.

Provincial Emergency Response Plan (PERP): describes the arrangements and measures that may be taken by the Province to safeguard the health, safety, welfare and property of the citizens affected by an emergency, excluding nuclear emergencies.

Provincial Liaison Team (PLT): is a group of provincial officials assembled near the emergency site, whose main objectives are to gather information, provide advice to local officials, and to offer recommendations for a coordinated response involving one or more ministries. Leadership of this team is based upon special responsibility areas, type of emergency, and/or resources involved or mutual agreement of the Ministries involved.

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO): is an organization within the Ontario Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services whose mandate is to monitor, coordinate and assist with the promotion, development, implementation and maintenance of emergency management programs in Ontario.

Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC): is maintained by Emergency Management Ontario (EMO). Its main functions are:

- To assist municipalities/communities in responding to major emergencies by providing advice/assistance and coordinating the provision of additional resources.
- To assist ministers assigned special responsibility by coordinating their operations with municipalities, communities, and other ministries.
- To keep the Solicitor General and Premier informed.
- To brief ministers who have been assigned special responsibilities.
- To coordinate a provincial response when a provincial declaration of an emergency is made.
- To assist the federal government when responding to a national emergency.

Solicitor General: is the minister who heads the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services which includes The Ontario Provincial Police, Office of The Fire Marshal and Office of the Chief Coroner. The Solicitor General must be informed through EMO once an emergency has been declared. The Solicitor General is

responsible for maintaining provincial emergency response capabilities, including the responsibility of formulating and implementing the PEP.

Special Responsibilities: refers to the responsibility for specified emergencies assigned to ministers/ministries by Order in Council 1492/2005 or any subsequent replacement, whereby they are delegated to different ministers/ministries. It is mandatory under the EM Act for the minister to formulate an emergency plan for the assigned special responsibility/responsibilities.

Supporting Ministry/Ministries: consists of one or more ministries, which work with the Delegated Ministry to carry out emergency operations. Supporting Ministries would be requested to participate in an emergency plan because of their technical skill and/or knowledge, which will prove beneficial during emergency operations.

## **DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

Local authorities will respond to an emergency in accordance with the community plan, and if the circumstances warrant, may declare an emergency. If an emergency is declared, the Solicitor General must be informed through the Director, Emergency Management Ontario. Depending on the situation, the Solicitor General may implement the provisions of the Provincial Emergency Plan.

In accordance with the Emergency Management Act, 1990, Crown employees may also take action where an emergency exists but has not yet been declared.

### **MINISTRY ACTION GROUP (MAG)**

The Ministry Action Group is responsible for coordinating Ministry actions during an emergency. For MNDM the MAG is also responsible for implementing the Ministry's Order in Council Emergency Response Plans related to abandoned mine hazards.

#### **a). MEMBERSHIP (see Appendix 1)**

Appendix 1 gives a list of all MAG members, however, for abandoned mine hazard emergencies only a partial activation of the MAG will be required. During a partial activation of the MAG, membership will be comprised of the following staff with the Director, Mineral Development and Lands Branch as the Acting Chair:

Senior Manager, Resident Geologist Program - Alternate - Mines and Minerals Division

Senior Manager, Communications Services Branch

Senior Manager, Controllership – Corporate Management Division

Director, Regional Economic Development - Northern Development Division

Emergency Management Coordinator (EMC)

#### **b). MAG NOTIFICATION PROCEDURES**

As noted previously, the notification procedures for the MAG during an abandoned mine hazard emergency involves only partial notification of the MAG. This partial notification is shown in the Notification Diagram in Appendix 1. If the emergency increases in magnitude over time or if an emergency's magnitude requires it at the outset, the entire MAG can be activated.

The Emergency Management Coordinator or alternate is the main point of contact for emergency information from the PEOC. Upon being contacted by EMO the Emergency Management Coordinator will notify the Executive Lead (CAO/ADM Corporate Management Division) for MNDM.



## MAG Notification Procedures

1. When MNDM personnel or the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC) become aware of an abandoned mine hazard emergency they will notify the EMC.
2. The EMC will notify the Executive Lead (CAO/ADM Corporate Management Division).
3. The Executive Lead will determine if the MAG requires notification and if it should be the full or partial MAG notified. The Executive Lead will also inform the Deputy Minister of the emergency.
4. The EMC will notify MAG members as required.

If any staff member or another member of the MAG becomes aware of an emergency situation, they should notify the Emergency Management Coordinator or alternate. The EMC or alternate is available by cell phone on a 24/7 basis. Given the limited cell phone coverage in the north and in Sudbury specifically, a list of additional names from the MAG is provided in Appendix 1 in the event that the EMC or alternate cannot be reached. A full listing of MAG members and alternates is given in Appendix 1.

MAG member contact information is updated monthly by the EMC or more frequently if required.

### c). LOCATION - MINISTRY EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE

Once a decision is made to activate the MAG or portion of the MAG the Emergency Management Coordinator or alternate will activate the calling tree for MAG members (see Appendix 1) and if required, request that they report to the Ministry Emergency Operations Center (MEOC). In most instances, MAG members located at other locations will report to the MEOC via teleconference. The MEOC is located at:

The alternate MEOC is located at:

### d). RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the MAG include:

- notify members of the PLT and deploy at an early stage to provide advice and monitor the emergency
- establish location of PLT
- provide direction to PLT
- brief senior staff as emergency operations continue

- provide communications expertise to PLT and provide coordinated emergency information (Senior Manager, Communications Services Branch)
- coordinate and authorize any necessary expenditures, obtain resources or external services, track provincial expenditures (Senior Manager, Controllershship)
- provide a representative to PEOC, if required.
- provide a representative to JIC, if required; provide briefing notes, coordinated information to public/media (Senior Manager, Communications Services Branch)

## PROVINCIAL LIAISON TEAM

### a) MEMBERSHIP (see Appendix 2)

#### i) MNDM

The PLT leadership will be assigned to Manager, Rehabilitation, Inspection and Compliance or one of two Regional Managers of the Resident Geologist Program. Field support will be assigned as required from both groups comprising:

- Project Specialist (1)
- Inspection/Compliance (2)
- Abandoned Mines Coordinator (1)
- Mineral Development Officers (3)
- Resident Geologists (6)
- District Geologists (12)

As well the PLT will contain a communications expert (see Appendix 3 for communications plan)

#### ii) Supporting Ministries (see Appendix 4)

Other Ministries also assigned responsibilities under the EM Act and deemed necessary to assist in an emergency will be assigned to the PLT.

### b) LOCATION

The location will be determined by the location of the emergency situation.

### c) RESPONSIBILITIES

#### i) MNDM

Mineral Development & Lands Branch is responsible for supplying information available for specific hazards and providing expertise relating to mine hazards and contact with specialized consultants. The Resident Geologists Program acts as a resource base supplying drawings, maps and information regarding mine workings and local geological expertise. Communications will coordinate internal briefing notes and coordinate information to local public/media.

#### (ii) Other Ministries/Agencies

Emergency Measures Ontario (EMO): The EMO's role in all provincial level emergency plans, is to support the designated ministries, and to coordinate a multi-ministry response.

Ministry of Community & Social Services (MCSS): At the time of an emergency, MCSS is responsible for emergency social services such as emergency food, shelter, clothing, personal services (counseling) and victim registration and inquiry. The MCSS will work in collaboration with the MCSCS to ensure that the evacuees needs are met. Local social services will usually be involved as well. Often volunteer groups such as the Red Cross or the Salvation Army will assist.

Ministry of Transportation (MTO): The responsibility of the MTO is to provide assistance to the MNDM with evacuation routes and emergency traffic management. In such an emergency, they are also responsible for guiding infrastructure rehabilitation (i.e. damaged roads and highways), public transportation planning, on-site safety, and coordination of construction equipment and supplies.

Ministry of Labour (MOL): The MOL is responsible for the development and maintenance of plans relating to the health and safety of emergency workers. They are also responsible for the enforcement of the Occupation Health and Safety Act. Once an emergency has been declared, the MOL will advise emergency workers about personal protective equipment (PPE), and will provide other health and safety expertise as required. The MOL is able to call on the following professionals during a declared emergency:

- health and safety inspectors
- mine engineers

Therefore, they can provide engineering assistance and advice on health and safety issues. In addition the mine rescue stations can coordinate any activities in that regard.

Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. This ministry includes Correctional Services, Office of the Fire Marshall, Office of the Chief Coroner, Ontario Provincial Police as well as Emergency Measures Ontario. Each of these areas can provide the following specific human and physical resources in abandoned mines hazards emergencies.

Correctional Services can if operational requirements permit:

- provide emergency health care assistance where deemed appropriate;
- offer post crisis counseling through professionally and clinically trained staff;
- supply certain heavy equipment items (note: exact items to be determined in consultation with the provincial liaison team prior to an emergency);  
and
- provide clean-up services in and around the emergency area using low-risk, pre-screened offenders.

Office of the Fire Marshal can provide:

- fire investigation/evaluation services in event of abandoned mine emergency involving fire;
- expertise in the identification and coordination of municipal fire emergency response resources and capabilities (e.g., hazardous materials response, confined space rescue);
- critical incident stress support in emergency service providers.

#### Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)

Ontario Provincial Police can:

- manage traffic in and around the emergency area;
- ensure perimeter security at both emergency site and area;
- manage policing aspects of the emergency from a mobile command post;
- conduct criminal investigations and support Ministry of Labour personnel with their investigations;
- search for lost person(s);
- provide communications advisors;
- provide support with services and equipment (e.g., air compressor, camera, sonar) available through the Underwater Search and Recovery Unit.

Ministry of the Environment (MOE): This ministry is required to assist the MNDM, in the event of an abandoned mine hazard emergency, with interrupted sewer/water services. In the event of a spill MOE is responsible to deal with the resulting situation.

Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR): This ministry may supply the radio base needed as a backup telecommunications system. The MNR may also be asked to supply emergency equipment such as airplanes and helicopters, if land evacuation is not possible. MNR also has the ability to provide equipment to establish an on-site command post.

#### d) NOTIFICATION

Upon activation of the MAG, the PLT members will be notified and appropriate personnel deployed.

#### PROVINCIAL EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRE (PEOC)

If a representative is required to attend the PEOC, staff will be assigned in the following order of priority:

- Senior Manager, Mining Lands
- Senior Manager, Resident Geologist Program
- Emergency and Safety Advisor

## **PLAN MAINTENANCE**

This plan will be reviewed annually and where necessary revised and forwarded to EMO.

**APPENDIX 1**  
**Ministry Action Group and Alternates Phone List**

**APPENDIX 2**  
**Ministry PLT Members**

**APPENDIX 3**  
**Communications Plan**

The aim is to coordinate release of accurate information to news media, issue authoritative instructions to public and respond to or redirect requests for reports. In order to fulfill these functions during an emergency staff will be assigned to:

- provide public information or act as an on-scene media coordinator

The coordinator will attend the MEOC at the earliest opportunity and:

- establish communication links with local and other media and prepare press releases in conjunction with PLT
- liaise with community officials
- set up media centre/call's
- respond to inquiries or redirect them to PLT leader, as appropriate
- provide briefing notes for PLT members, senior management (MAG), Minister and Deputy Minister's Offices and PEOC/JIC
- coordinate on-scene interviews between emergency personnel and media

**APPENDIX 4**

**Ministry/Agency Contact #'s**

MCSS - Appropriate Regional Office

MOL Mine Rescue Unit Emergency Line – Sudbury (705) 670-5600

MTO - Appropriate Regional Office

OPP General Headquarters - Orillia (705) 329-6950

Duty Officer

MOE Spills Action Centre - Toronto (416) 325-3000

TOLL FREE (Spill Reporting) 1 (800) 268-6060

MNR Aviation, Flood & Fire Management - Sault Ste. Marie (705) 945-5700

EMO - Toronto (416) 314-8595

Duty Officer (416) 314-0472 / 0473

(After Hours - See OPP)