

Mulrooney, Marcella

From: Blagdon, Diane
Sent: Monday, May 7, 2012 12:12 PM
To: Thompson, Robert
Cc: Samson, Mike
Subject: Makkovik May 7.doc
Attachments: Makkovik May 7.doc

Sensitivity: Confidential

Mr. Thompson,

On behalf of Mike Samson please see attached Briefing Note.

Thank-you
Diane
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"There are time-tested ways to prevent and survive a fire.

It's not a question of luck. It's a matter of practicing and planning ahead."

For more information on fire safety planning, visit <http://www.gov.nl.ca/fes>

Information Note
Fire and Emergency Services-Newfoundland and Labrador (FES-NL)

Title: Makkovik Search: January 30 – February 1, 2012

Issue: This briefing note is prepared at the request of Cabinet Secretariat.

Background and Current Status:

Search and Rescue/Engaging Air Services

- The Provincial Government engages air services for ground search and rescue operations at the request of policing agencies. The police force that has jurisdiction is always the lead agency. The request to provide air search capabilities to a missing person search must come from the Criminal Operations Division of the RCMP (not a local detachment) or the Emergency Management Division of the RNC for FES-NL to authorize.
- When requested by the lead policing agency to provide air search capabilities to a missing person search, FES-NL contacts the Department of Transportation and Work's Air Services Division. This division has a helicopter services contract with Universal Helicopters Newfoundland Limited which provides access to a minimum of 5 helicopters.
- The contracted air service, in consultation with Air Services Division, determines whether conditions are favourable for flying. The agreement dictates that helicopter service shall be available at all times during the term of the contract, subject only to adverse weather conditions and can be used by the Provincial Government or anyone named by the Minister for any purpose, including aerial search. It is worthy to note that these helicopters are not capable of night flying.
- Standard operating procedures indicate that Search and Rescue services provided by the federal government can be requested when our contract helicopters cannot fly. That can be in the event of adverse weather or for the purposes of night flying. Therefore, FES-NL may request humanitarian assistance of federal air resources through the Joint Rescue Coordination Center (JRCC), based on the time of day of the request and the resources available. The JRCC officials are responsible for determining whether it is safe for federal aircraft to fly.

Civil Air Search and Rescue Association (CASARA)

- CASARA is a Canada-wide volunteer aviation association dedicated to the promotion of Aviation Safety, and to the provision of air search support services to the National Search and Rescue Program.
- The decision to engage CASARA in a search and rescue operation rests with the lead policing agency.

Request for Air Services – January 30, 2012

- The initial contact to FES-NL from the RCMP on the morning of January 30 was the first time FES-NL was aware of the Makkovik search; this occurred at 8:19 a.m. island time. This led FES-NL to contact government's Air Services to inquire as to whether a contract helicopter would be able to provide support. It was determined by the contract helicopter service that weather conditions precluded their engagement.
- FES-NL subsequently contacted JRCC to request humanitarian assistance but was informed by the Duty Officer that they had minimal resources available however he would check into the request and get back to FES-NL. Shortly thereafter JRCC returned the call to advise that resources were not available.
- FES-NL advised the RCMP that JRCC were unable to assist. RCMP later advised FES-NL that a private helicopter was about to land in Makkovik and queried whether or not air services could now be provided.
- FES-NL contacted government's Air Services with this information and a helicopter was dispatched from Goose Bay at 10:50 a.m. Labrador time.

Prepared by: David McCormack, Director of Emergency Services/Pam Rodgers, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning

Approved by: Mike Samson, Chief Executive Officer

May 7, 2012