



Public Service Announcement/ Community Calendar Listing

April 11, 2005

For Immediate Release

Emergency exercise to be held April 20 at the Maple Health Centre

NEWMARKET- On Wednesday, April 20th, the Regional Municipality of York, York Regional Police and Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service will be conducting a mock emergency exercise at the Maple Health Centre, 10424 Keele Street, in Maple.

Residents should not be alarmed if they see emergency vehicles. This simulation will require participation of local Fire, Police and Emergency Medical Services.

The exercise is expected to run from approximately 10:00am to 12:00noon. The flow of traffic will not be interrupted on Keele Street.

For more information on Emergency Measures, visit www.york.ca.

Backgrounder

Emergency Exercise to be held April 20, 2005 at the Maple Health Centre

- The Regional Municipality of York, York Regional Police and Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service maintain active Emergency Measures Plans to be ready in the event of a large-scale emergency.
- The purpose of these Emergency Measures Plans is to protect and preserve life and property during times of crisis by providing efficient, co-ordinated emergency services and responsible decision-making.

- Emergency exercises and simulations provide an excellent opportunity to test emergency plans, policies and procedures. The exercises allow strengths and deficiencies to be identified in order to determine where improvements can be made.
- York Region Health Services, Long Term Care and Seniors Branch, has planned a mock emergency exercise in conjunction with York Region Emergency Medical Services, York Region Emergency Management Program, York Regional Police and Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service.
- The exercise helps meet the emergency planning standards set by the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation.
- In the mock scenario, Maple Health Centre staff report an unusual smell on one of the facility's floors during daytime hours. A call is placed to 9-1-1. An evacuation is ordered.
- Volunteers will play the roles of residents in the mock emergency. Actual residents will not be involved and their routine will not be interrupted.
- A similar mock emergency exercise was held November 3, 2004, at the Newmarket Health Centre, 194 Eagle Street, Newmarket.
- The Newmarket and Maple Health Centres are not-for-profit facilities funded by the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and York Region, and operated by York Region Health Services.

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