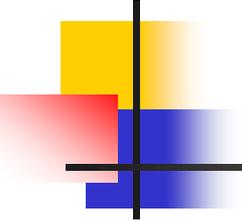




# Miawpukek First Nation(MFN) Conne River

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Community Disaster (Fire)  
Tabletop Exercise  
February 26, 2020



# Agenda

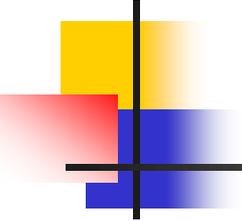
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- Introductions/Welcome
- Rules
- Purpose
- Objectives
- Scope
- Scenario/Discussion
- Conclusion
- Debriefing
- Feedback Forms

# Characteristics of a Tabletop Exercise

- Discussion-based.
- Facilitated group analysis of a situation.
- Conducted in an informal, low-stress environment.
- Designed for the examination of plans or policies, combined with problem solving.
- Usually deal with “what if” scenarios.
- Delivered within a structured framework.

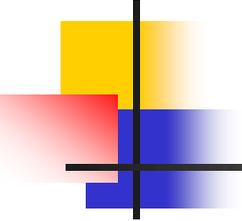




# Rules

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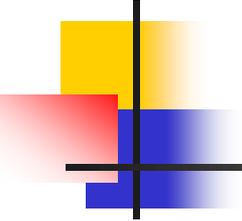
- Please set cell phones to vibrate.
- Everyone participates.
- No wrong answers.
- Everyone's opinion counts.
- Use existing policy/procedures as outlined in your emergency plans.
- Relax and Learn.



# Purpose

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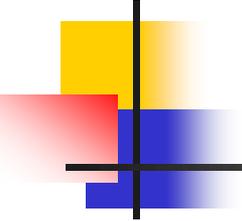
- To better enable MFN Government employees to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to/ manage and recover from a disaster event.
- To assist each player to understand their roles and responsibilities plus that of their team members in an activated Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) during disaster event.
- To develop a clearer understanding of partner/stakeholder roles & responsibilities during a disaster event.



# Objectives

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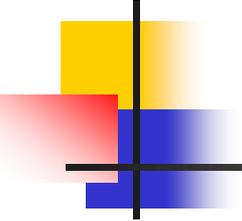
- To examine the level of knowledge each player has regarding their own resources and the resources/expertise of other players/community partners.
- To identify/confirm roles and responsibilities related to disaster response/evacuation.
- To identify and prioritize emergency response activities.
- To familiarize players with notification protocols and decision-making processes.



## Objectives (Cont'd)

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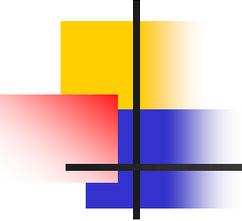
- To enhance developed multi-level partner/ stakeholder relationships/linkages and empower/promote community leadership skills.
- To build local community capacity which will reduce risk, heighten preparedness, and ensure resilience.
- Identify potential gaps in developed MFN Community Disaster, Evacuation and Emergency Management Communications Plans and prioritize future planning efforts.



# Scope

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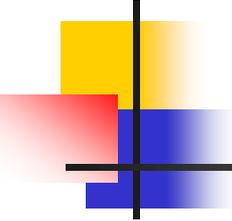
- This exercise will assist Chief & Council, MFN Government employees, residents, community stakeholders & partners to better prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recover from a disaster event.
- This exercise will also provide an opportunity to review components of the developed Emergency Management Communications Plan.
- Provide opportunities to further develop linkages between community partners and stakeholders.



# Scenario Highlights

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- Mild winter and no snow on the ground since early April 2020.
- High winds, low humidity, beautiful June month and no rain for three weeks.
- Seasonal forest fire fighters have been kept busy with some forest fires around the province.

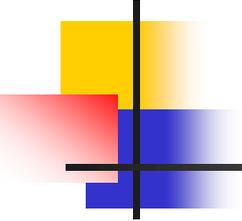


# Weather Forecast



*Forecast for Newfoundland issued by Environment Canada at 0550hrs, Sunday **June 24, 2020**. The next scheduled forecast will be issued at 11:00 a.m.*

- South Coast, Newfoundland and vicinity:
  - Today...Sunny. Wind southwest 20 km/h increasing to southeast 40 gusting 60 km/h this afternoon. High 14.
  - Tonight...A few clouds. Wind south 20 km/h. Low 6.
  - Monday...A mix of sun and cloud. Wind south 40 km/h. High 14.



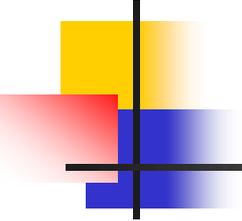
# Scenario

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- On Sunday June 24, 2019 at 0930 hrs Michael Forest visited the Conne River Waste Disposal Site. As he was getting out of his truck to dispose of his garbage he flicked his cigarette butt paying no attention to where it landed or the Extreme Fire Hazzard notices posted around the community in the past month.
- Within five minutes of dropping off his garbage he left the site and returned home.

**EXTREME**  
**FIRE HAZARD**  
**DON'T EVEN FART**  
**IN THE FOREST**





## Scenario (Cont'd)

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- Given the warm dry weather, it only took a few minutes for the cigarette to ignite a fire in the nearby bushes.
- At approximately 0945 hrs, Gerard Heater was driving towards Jipujikuei Kuespem Provincial Park and noticed smoke rising through the trees. As he got closer it became obvious that a serious looking fire was well underway.
- Although he pulled over to call Conne River Fire Rescue he was not able to get cell phone service.

# Scenario (Cont'd)

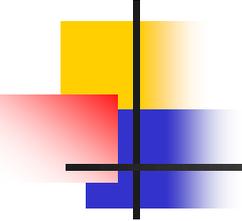
- Gerald continued to drive to Highway 365 and stopped when he got a cell phone signal.
- He immediately called Conne River Fire Rescue and notified them of the forest fire.



# Scenario (Cont'd)

- Within 15 minutes Fire Rescue & RCMP arrive at the Site. They take control of the site and set up response and security perimeters.
- Initial assessment indicates that the wind is blowing from the southeast at 20kms an hour. The weather for noon indicates a temperature of 25C, increasing winds to 40kms an hour, and no forecast of rain for the next two days.
- There is a risk of winds changing direction (early afternoon) and blowing towards the community.





# Scenario (Cont'd)

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- At 1025 hours the fire is not under control as the fire has spread to the woods.
- Also, the local Fire Rescue response is a concern to the Fire Chief as he is short two firefighters as they are out of the community on vacation.
- Fire Chief requests support from neighboring communities as well as forestry officials.



# Discussion Points

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Fire Rescue and RCMP have control of the Site:

- What additional actions does the Fire Chief or designate need to be take? (notifications, tactical response etc.)



# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- Given the impact that the fire/smoke is having on life safety, environment, nearby residents, traffic flow etc. How will the MFN Government effectively coordinate a multi-agency response?
- Who /how will this coordination be achieved?
- What is the process of contacting EOC member's and set up EOC?
- How will the EOC communicate with Fire Chief/RCMP at Fire site?



# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

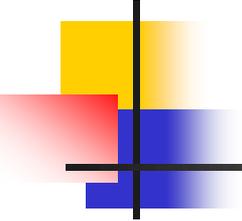
- At this point, will the Emergency Management Communications Plan be activated? If so, who activates it and what components could be activated at this time? (Communications Team, Information Centre)



# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- Who will update Band Chief & Council, community residents, deal with social media issues?
- What is the process dealing with media inquiries?
- If media personal arrive in the community who will meet with them?
- Where will they be stationed?

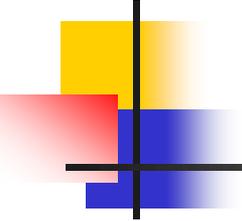




# Scenario

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- It is now **noon** and the Fire Chief advises that the fire remains out of control. Main road in Conne River is closed.
- Responders at site include: RCMP, nearby Fire Rescue, Emergency Medical Responders (EMR), Prov Forestry Resources, MFN Dept's of Forestry, Public Works and Natural Resources.
- The EOC and Information Centre are operational.
- Temperature is 25C and the winds remain at 42km per hour.



# Discussion Points

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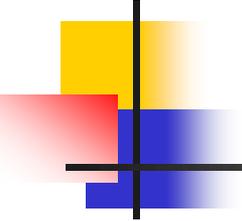
- What are the roles and responsibilities of the responders at the site? (RCMP, Dept of Forestry Services, Fire Rescue, EMR, MFN Gov. Dept's).
- What other community partners should be notified of this event at this time? (Indigenous Services Canada, Public Safety Canada, Search & Rescue Services). Who would initially follow up and later maintain contact with these partners?
- What would be the roles and responsibilities of these community partners include?

# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

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- How will road closure concerns be addressed?
- First Responder's have now been at the Fire site for several hours. What support, if any, should the EOC provide to the Responders? Who leads this initiative? How is it coordinated?
- People living in the geographical area of the fire are getting concerned about their safety. They are raising the question "Should we prepare to evacuate?"



## Discussion Points (Cont'd)

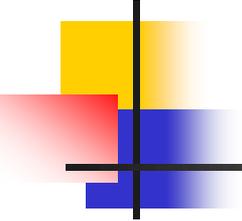
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- What, if any, discussions should be taking place regarding the evacuation of community residents?
- Would neighboring communities be on alert to receive potential evacuees?
- Who should be involved in these discussions?
- What is the process of obtaining approval to evacuate?
- Once evacuation order is approved who oversees and coordinates evacuation plan?
- Who could assist with evacuation of residents?

# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

- What other discussions should the EOC and Information Centre be engaged in at this time? (Involvement of community partners, setting up 1-800 info line).

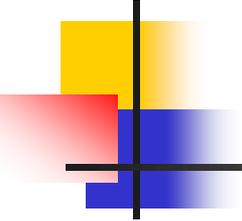




# Scenario

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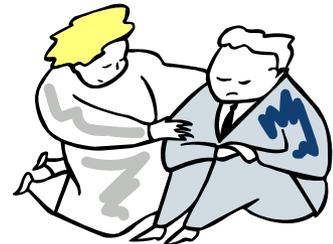
- At 1800 hours, the EOC has been notified that the fire has been brought under control.
- Environment Canada advises that winds will demise overnight. Smoke and Fire are no longer an issue.
- Nearby resident's who were evacuated will be allowed to return home around 2100 hours.
- Road has been reopened. RCMP still on site.
- Media are still in the area, leaving within the hour.

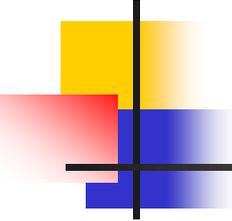


# Discussion Points

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- Once evacuation order is rescinded (by whom?) what public safety factors must be dealt with before residents return home?
- Will the EOC remain in place to help coordinate residents returning home to their community?
- What, if any, health considerations should be made? (counselling, asthma, etc).





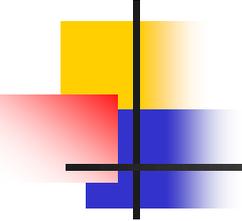
# Discussion Points (Cont'd)

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Recovery is a key component of DEM:

- What are some of the priority recovery efforts that should take place pertaining to this exercise? Who would let these efforts?
- Would the EOC remain active during the recovery stage? If so, would it be fully operational, or continue on an adhoc basis?
- After a disaster, would a debriefing be scheduled? Who would be invited to participate?



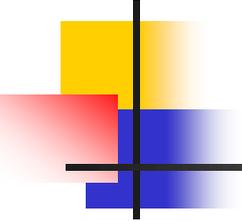


# Exercise Conclusion

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- Emergency Planning is a continuous process and is an investment that often is not realized until an incident happens.
- Departments/agencies must work together to share skill sets.
- There is only one thing more difficult than planning for an emergency – and that is having to explain why you didn't.



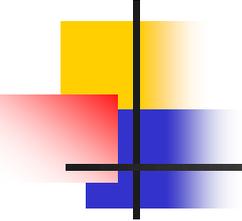


# Questions????

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- Are there any other issues that you have identified that should be addressed?

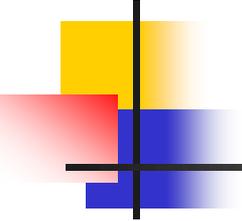




# Exercise Debriefing

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- Rules:
  - Be nice
  - Don't throw pens or sharp objects
  - Be open and honest
  - Be brief



Thank – You!!

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