



NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mock code red (fire) training proves useful just one month after annual drill – NHH thanks all involved for excellent response to hot water pipe rupture

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Friday, February 20th, 2015—This morning at approximately 2:30 AM Northumberland Hills Hospital's fire alarm system was triggered by a rupture in a hot water pipe feeding a heater in the stairwell in the north-east corner of the 1000 DePalma Drive building.

Though no fire was present, the rupture caused a sudden burst of steam in the stairwell which then entered the hallway of the Inpatient Rehabilitation unit on the east wing of the first floor and travelled up to the Maternal Child unit immediately above on the second floor.

NHH's response to such an event was tested with almost identical circumstances in a mock annual training scenario exactly one month ago.

As was tested during the mock scenario and repeated live this morning, NHH Switchboard staff quickly put the necessary steps into motion to notify internal and external emergency personnel. The Maintenance team safely and quickly located the source of the problem and shut off the water supply to the affected area. Inpatient Rehab and Maternal Child staff, as a precaution, took charge to quickly relocate approximately 14 patients in the affected areas (Inpatient Rehab and Maternal Child).

The Town of Cobourg Fire Department, which had also participated in the hospital's January mock code training, responded quickly to this morning's alarm.

Cheryl Turk, Acting NHH President and CEO, said: "I want to commend our team for the skill and professionalism they showed by reacting appropriately and quickly. On behalf of everyone here at NHH, staff and patients alike, I also want to thank the local fire department for their quick response to what turned out to be a steam issue, and not a fire. No patients or staff members were injured and minimal damage to the facility was sustained. We continue to investigate the cause of the pipe rupture to minimize the likelihood of it happening elsewhere. All patients have returned to their rooms and service at the hospital has returned to normal. Again, thank you to all involved."

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About Northumberland Hills Hospital – Located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto, NHH delivers a broad range of acute, post-acute, outpatient and diagnostic services. Acute services include emergency and intensive care, medical/surgical care, and obstetrical care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care, rehabilitation and palliative care. Mental health care, chemotherapy, dialysis and 16 other ambulatory care clinics are offered on an outpatient basis through partnerships with regional centres and nearby specialists. NHH offers a full range of diagnostic services, including magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), computed

tomography (CT) and mammography. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland comprises the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs approximately 600 people and relies on the additional support provided by physicians and volunteers. NHH is an active member of the Central East Local Health Integration Network. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

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