



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS HOSPITAL

inspiring strength, dignity and compassion

NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Northumberland Hills Hospital – CODE ORANGE (EXTERNAL DISASTER SITUATION) “ALL CLEAR”

Northumberland County, Thursday, February 1, 2007 – At approximately 1220 hours on Thursday, February 1, 2007 the Northumberland Hills Hospital went on what is known as a Code Orange (external disaster) status after receiving confirmation from the Emergency Services Dispatch of a massive motor vehicle accident on highway 401 between Cobourg and Grafton.

With unconfirmed information as to the extent and type of casualties and/or fatalities to expect, the NHH quickly responded to the immediate situation by calling a Code Orange. A Code Orange is a plan to ensure the necessary staff and physician resources are immediately deployed to the hospital.

“We have plans in place to guide us through emergency situations just like this one, plans that we hope never have to be deployed – but when emergency situations do happen, after this situation, I’m very happy to say our staff rose to the occasion and our Emergency Department was ready and waiting for the first ambulance to arrive,” said Mary Anne Shill, Vice President, Patient Services at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

“A call went out to physicians and additional staff and without hesitation these individuals were onsite within minutes,” said Shill.

The Northumberland Hills Hospital triaged 15 patients from the accident scene and of those four patients will probably be admitted to our facility and 11 were treated and released. The NHH is unable to confirm the number of fatalities at this time as a result of this accident.

At approximately the same time there was another serious accident on Burnham Street. Four individuals were brought to the hospital for treatment.

At 1500 hours the hospital was informed that there would be no further ambulances coming from the accident scene.

“Challenges were identified and we will be requesting a formal debriefing of all affiliated emergency response providers, as is customary following horrific situations like this. I am so very proud of our staff and physicians who came together – when we needed them the most,” said Joan Ross, President and CEO of Northumberland Hills Hospital.

For more information, contact Joan Ross, President and CEO at 905-372-6811 ext. 4005 or jross@nhh.ca.

About Northumberland Hills Hospital - The Northumberland Hills Hospital (NHH) is located approximately 100 kilometres east of Toronto. The 137-bed hospital delivers a broad range of services, including medical/surgical care, complex/long term care, rehabilitation, palliative care, obstetrical care and intensive care. NHH also sponsors a Community Mental Health Centre and an Assertive Community Treatment Team. The hospital serves the catchment area of west Northumberland County. A mixed urban and rural population of approximately 60,000 residents, west Northumberland is comprised of the Town of Cobourg, the Municipality of Port Hope and the townships of Hamilton, Cramahe and Alnwick/Haldimand. NHH employs over 500 people and is an active member of the Central East LHIN. For more information, please visit www.nhh.ca.