



## **NEWS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **Leak in sprinkler system at NHH on Family Day weekend – no services affected**

**NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY, Tuesday, February 16, 2016**—At approximately 8:00 AM on Sunday, February 14, NHH experienced an issue with its fire sprinkler system. The fire alarm was activated and water was subsequently found pouring out of the ceiling in the front atrium area, immediately inside the hospital's main entrance.

A Code Red (Fire) was declared, due to the fire system's involvement. Maintenance and housekeeping staff along with the Cobourg Fire Department reacted very quickly to isolate the problem, contain the leak and clean up the affected areas. While no patients or staff members were adversely affected, several patients on 2A were relocated to patient rooms farther away from the leak as a precaution.

Since Sunday AM, NHH has been working with its insurance provider to assess the damage and organize repairs. The sprinkler system is back online with the exception of the affected area and the front main entrance remains open with the affected area cordoned off. The NHH Auxiliary's gift shop inside the main entrance—the Little Treasure Shop—was closed Sunday as a precaution; normal operations have now resumed.

In a message to staff issued earlier today, President and CEO Linda Davis thanked all the staff members involved, particularly the hospital's maintenance and environmental services teams, for the very fast and calm response to the situation. Early detection meant that the leak was under control quickly and damage was minimized.

"The reaction to this emergency provided yet another example of great NHH teamwork in action, ensuring patients, staff and visitors were safe and well cared for," said Davis.

The cost to repair the damage caused by the water is still being assessed. Insurance is expected to cover eligible costs of repairs, but not all. A further update will be shared when the Senior Management Team reports to the Board at their next meeting early next month. The cause of the leak has not, at this point, been confirmed.

**Media contact:** Jennifer Gillard, [jgillard@nhh.ca](mailto:jgillard@nhh.ca) or 905-377-7757.

**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, obstetrical care and palliative care. Post-acute specialty services (PASS) include restorative care and rehabilitation. 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](http://www.nhh.ca) or follow us on Twitter [@NorHillsHosp](https://twitter.com/NorHillsHosp).

- END -