



Staff Report

Report Title: Point Clark Tornado Incident and Response

Prepared By: Chris Cleave, Fire Chief/CEMC

Department: Fire and Emergency Services

Date: Sep. 9, 2020

Report Number: FIRE-2020-09-14

File Number: 1150 - Reports

Attachments:

Recommendation:

That the Township of Huron-Kinloss Committee of the Whole hereby receives for information Report Number Fire2020-09-14 prepared by Chris Cleave, Fire Chief / CEMC

Background:

On Friday August 28, 2020 the following severe weather related warnings were issued for the Township of Huron-Kinloss:

About 9:51 PM a Severe Thunderstorm Warning was issued by Environment Canada for numerous Communities in the Southern portion of Bruce County including the Township of Huron-Kinloss.

About 9:58 PM minor rotation was detected on this storm over Lake Huron moving east towards Point Clark and eventually Ripley. This was posted on Facebook by the Instant Weather Ontario group.

About 10:05 PM a Squall Warning was issued by Environment Canada – Squall with wind gusts up to 90 km/h are expected or occurring in the area – At this time the severe thunder storm is located 6 Nautical miles directly west of Point Clark. This storm is also capable of producing a water spout.

About 11:15 PM. The Township of Huron-Kinloss After hours emergency answering service called me direct on my cell phone to advise me that residents from Point Clark where calling in and reporting that a possible Tornado had touched down in the London Road area of Point Clark. Multiple trees where down, hydro wires where

downed, power was lost to the area and homes were damaged as a result. This Triggered an Emergency response to the area by the Ripley-Huron Fire Department.

Discussion:

The Ripley-Huron Fire Department Responded to this Incident. Fire Chief Chris Cleave was the first responding unit to arrive in the area and established Command of this Incident. Upon arrival it was observed that both access to the area from the south at Lake Range Drive and Huron Road was completely blocked by downed trees across the road. All other responding units were able to divert to Concession Road 2 and gain access to the emergency site from the north.

Once the Command Post was established and all responding units arrived, urban search and rescue operations commenced. It was identified right away that additional resources would be needed. Mutual Aid was activated and assistance from the Kincardine and Lucknow Fire Departments was received. Additionally 1 member of the South Bruce OPP was on site and 2 Public Works Staff.

Life Safety was our first priority and as a result of our operations, Emergency Services were able to: evacuate all affected residents to a safe area, conduct an accounting of all person whereabouts, search and secure all damaged homes and secure the area from entry.

Unfortunately some homes were damaged and were deemed not safe for the occupants to inhabit until further assessment could be conducted. This resulted in three families being displaced from their home. Once this determination was made, the Incident Commander requested the OPP activate Victim Services and transferred care of the displaced residents to the OPP. The Kincardine Fire Department was able to safely place all of the displaced residents into their Rescue/Command vehicle until such time as they were escorted to safe lodging by the OPP.

There were no injuries to any person as a result of this incident.

The Initial Emergency Response Operation was 4.5 hours in duration. In this time frame our second priority of Incident stabilization was achieved.

On Saturday August 29, 2020 between 07:00 AM and 5:00PM the Fire Chief, The Director of Public Works, Public Works Staff, the Mayor, Community Services Staff, Hydro One crews, the Chief Building Official, the CAO and local private contractors attended the incident site to begin emergency management operations. These operations included; Site Security, Traffic and Access Control, Damage Assessment, Structural Assessments, Utility Restoration, Public and Resident Education and Debris Management.

During this Operation the Fire Chief/CEMC contacted the Office of the Fire Marshall's Provincial Emergency Operations Centre to notify them of this event and to advise our local Emergency Management Field Officer of the operations. Due to the scale

and confined area of the incident it was not necessary to declare a Local State of Emergency.

Additionally on this date and time the University of Western Ontario's Northern Tornadoes Project (NTP) attended the Site to conduct an investigation to determine what truly occurred.

On Sunday August 30, 2020 the NTP declared that an EF 0 Tornado had touched down in the identified area. The Tornado left a path of damage 80 metres wide and 300 metres long. Wind Speeds were estimated to be between 90-130 km/h. They have approximated that the Tornado touched down at 10:15 PM.

On Monday August 31, 2020 at 09:00 AM, a number of Government Representatives from the Office of the Fire and Emergency Management, Municipal Affairs and Housing, the Insurance Bureau of Canada and the NGO Alliance attended the Townships MECG meeting. All participants delivered information in regards to disaster recovery and services available to the Township and Residents.

Township staff have received information that has been or will be made available to the affected residents to assist them with recovery from this incident.

Financial Impacts:

Financial Impact and costs associated with the response are not known at this time.

Strategic Alignment / Link:

We are an accessible community that offers opportunities for everyone by having services and amenities nearby.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Chris Cleave, Fire Chief/CEMC

Approved By:

Mary Rose Walden, Chief Administrative Officer