Eastwood Nursing Center Evacuation Tabletop January 22, 2014



Region 8
Healthcare Coalition



Purpose for tabletop exercises

- Provide an organization a way to determine its readiness to respond to a crisis or disaster.
- Clarify gaps or problems with existing policies and plans.
- Help administration and staff understand their roles during a disaster.



Purpose for tabletop exercises

- Serve as a training tool.
- Help identify needs for other resources.
- Serve as a tool for modifying and improving existing plans based on the lessons learned.



Ground rules:

- Minimize distractions from outside this room for the next few hours.
- Follow my instructions; I will be presenting the scenario and giving you specific instructions.
- Treat the scenario and described events as real, even if it seems improbable.
- If an actual emergency occurs during this drill, the drill will be suspended. Real life takes precedence.



Ground rules:

- Once the scenario is presented, you will be given specific information in the form of injects. Please respond to this information as if it were credible and simulate the response actions you would take to protect your staff, residents, and facility.
- This is a "no blame" setting all ideas are welcome. This drill works when you think about the problems I will be posing, and engage in thinking and talking through the actions and solutions you would take.



Any questions before we get started?

Background Information



Date: August 4, 2014

Weather: Mostly sunny, 92F; relative humidity is 15%; wind SSW 15-20, gusts to 35. No precipitation in over 3 weeks and no rain is in the 10-day forecast.



DNR Warning



At 8:00am the Michigan Department of Natural Resources issues a Red Flag Warning for most of the Upper Peninsula of Michigan including Marquette County.

This warning is announced via local radio stations, NOAA weather radios, and on local TV stations as a scroll line at the bottom of the screen.

DNR Warning



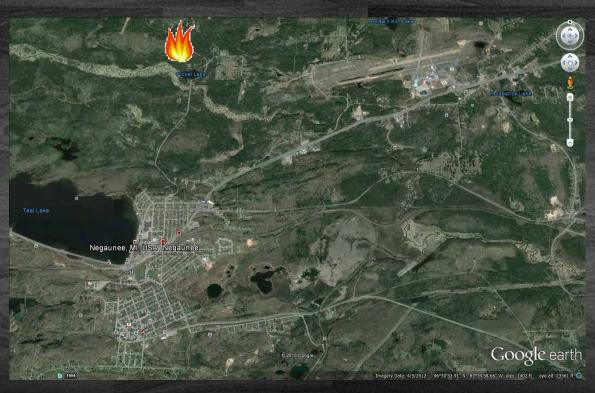
URGENT - FIRE WEATHER MESSAGE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE MARQUETTE MI 800 AM EST WED AUG 4 2014 ...RED FLAG WARNING FOR CENTRAL AND WESTERN **UPPER PENINSULA AFTERNOON** ...HUMIDITIES HAVE FALLEN BETWEEN 10-15% WITH GUSTY SOUTH/SOUTHWEST WINDS 15-20 MPH GUSTING TO 35 MPH. ...THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN MARQUETTE HAS ISSUED A RED FLAG WARNING...WHICH IS IN EFFECT UNTIL 9 PM EST THIS EVENING.

Initiate thinking/open a dialogue for discussion with staff-previous events?

Fire Reported



At 10:30am Marquette TV channel 6, WLUC, breaks into normal broadcast scheduling to report that fire departments, assisted by the Michigan DNR, are reporting to a fire just north of Picket Lake.

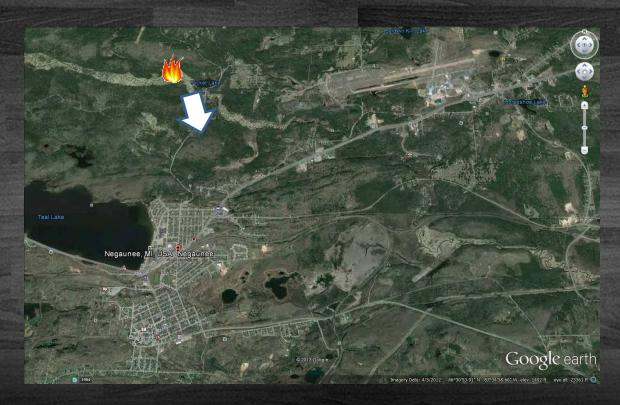


Fire Reported



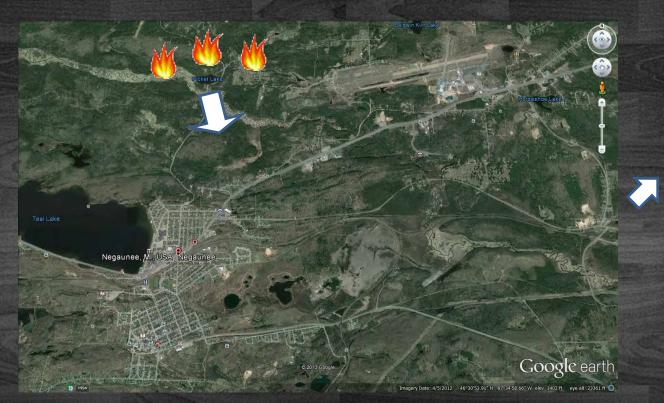


The fire is reported to be at least 40 acres in size and is being swept by the wind to the south/southeast. Fire crews are having difficulty accessing the fire. The cause of the fire is under investigation.





At 1200pm WLUC reports that the fire has grown to over 500 acres and evacuations are being ordered in the area ahead of the fire.



Initiate thinking/open a dialogue for discussion with staff-previous events?

Evacuation orders



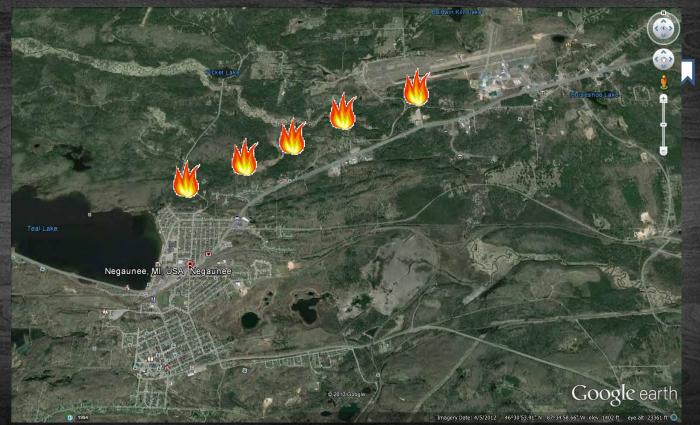
The Marquette County Sheriff's Department is coordinating the evacuation effort.

Residents living north of US41 East from the State Police Post to Ishpeming have been ordered to evacuate.

Evacuation zone #1 866-276-4443 **Medical Coordination Current evacuation area map.** Negaunee, MI, USA Negaunee.

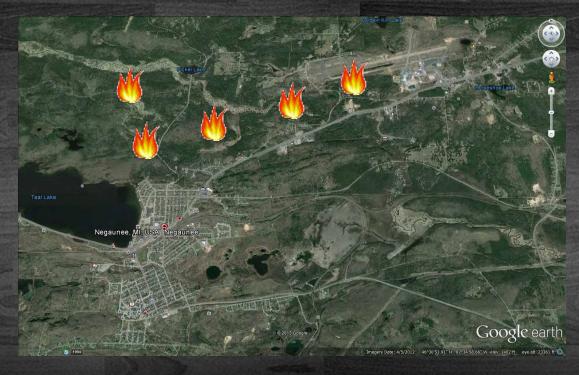


At 2:30pm WULC reports that the fire has now grown to over 2000 acres and is threatening to cross US41 East. Over 30 structures have been lost and the fire is 10% contained.



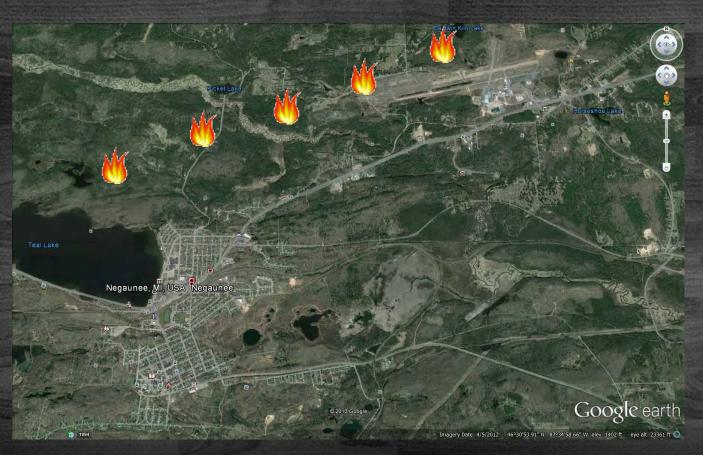


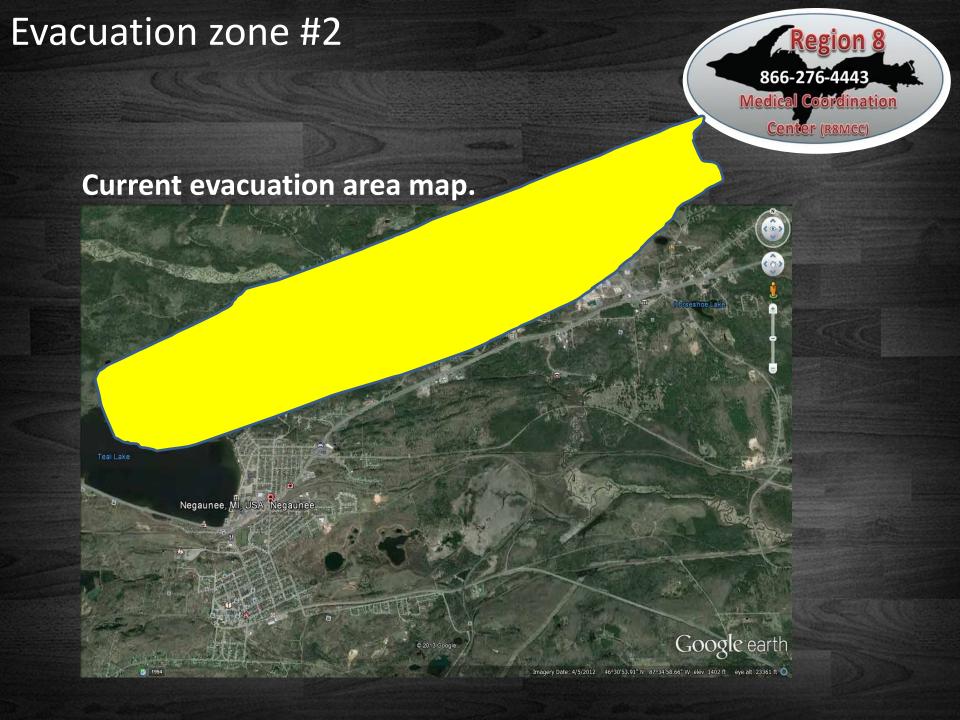
Over 300 fire fighters from 20 different departments and the Michigan DNR continue to battle the blaze. Aerial units from the Michigan Air National Guard and resources from Minnesota are en route.





The report indicates that the evacuation zone has been expanded to all properties north of US HWY 41 EAST.





Evacuation orders



Shortly after 2:30pm you receive a call at your facility from the Marquette County Sherriff's Department informing you that your facility is in the updated evacuation zone.

The evacuation is expected to last at least 24 hours depending on the progress that is made in the fire suppression activities.

The Sherriff's Department representative also tells you that Mather and MCMCF are also being evacuated as a precaution.

Tabletop Pause



Spend the next 20-30 minutes discussing how you would respond to this disaster.

When and how would you activate your emergency response team?

Prioritize your response plans.

What help would you need from outside agencies or vendors?

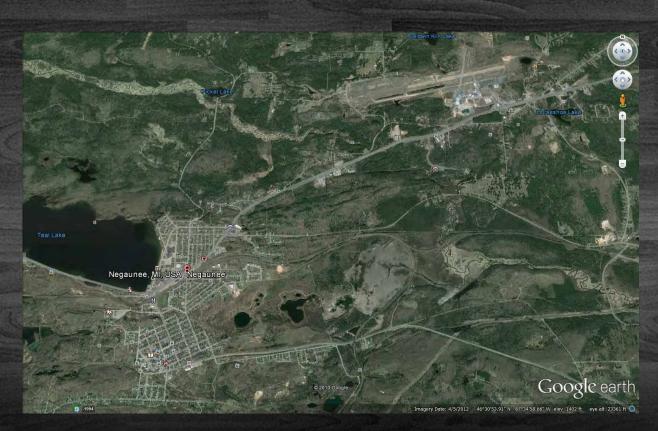
How long would it take for you to implement your evacuation plans?

Incident Command

- INCIDENT COMMANDER
- PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (P.I.O.)
- LIAISON OFFICER
- SAFETY AND SECURITY OFFICER
- LOGISTICS/TRANSPORTATION
- FINANCE SECTION
- OPERATIONS

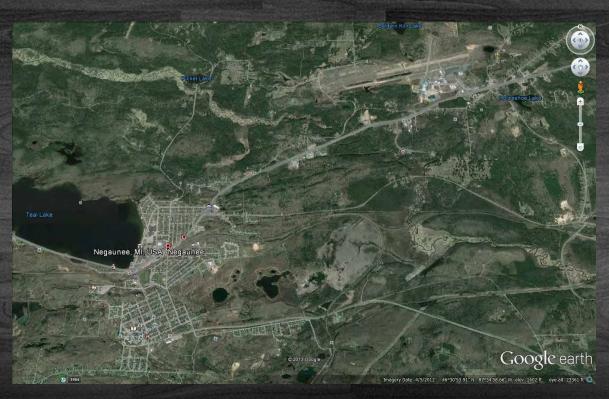


At 5:30pm WULC reports that the aerial and ground fire fighting efforts have been effective. A fire break has is holding along US HWY41 EAST extending east to M35. The fire burned 3800 acres.





Some localized fire damage is reported due to fire brands being tossed ahead of the fire. Reports indicate that there is some damage at Eastwood but that it appears to be limited to small sections of the roof.





The Fire Marshal plans to conduct a structural assessment of Eastwood Nursing Center on 08/5/2014. Until that inspection is complete the facility is deemed uninhabitable.



Tabletop Pause



Spend the next 15-20 minutes discussing how you would respond to these developments?

What are your recovery plans for disasters impacting your facility for greater than 24 hours.

- Resident care (resident tracking, medication availability, medical care issues)
- Employee support (CISM, payroll)
- Record preservation/maintenance

HOTWASH



Spend the next 20-30 minutes discussing the lessons learned during this exercise.

What were the strengths of your current emergency response plans/capabilities?

Where is there room for additional planning and/or training?

Is there information or equipment you need to help manage a disaster of this scale?



Thank you for participating in this exercise.

Gary Gustafson, Ass't Regional Coordinator
Region 8
906-231-9605
Gary.gustafson@r8hcc.org

Teresa Schwalbach, Emergency Manager
Marquette County
906-475-1134
tschwalbach@mqtco.org