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Local volunteers get word on fate of co-workers in Haiti

By **LISA TALLYN**
Staff Writer

The Healing Hands for Haiti (HHFH) headquarters in Port-Au-Prince suffered extensive damage in last Tuesday's devastating earthquake, and rescue workers were unable to rescue two people who lived in an apartment building that collapsed on the property.

The two tenants of the building are not affiliated with HHFH. One is a U.N. employee and the other a Haitian resident.

The organization's executive director, Eric Doubt of Georgetown, said a maintenance staff member of the HHFH clinic was killed in the quake when the school where he was attending a night class collapsed, and the wife of the clinic manager died in their nearby home.

Regarding their facility, Doubt said there are large cracks in the building that houses the clinic, administration and prosthetic area "and the stairways leading to them are impassable."

An apartment building on the property was completely destroyed and another heavily damaged.

Doubt said there were no staff (except for security guards who survived) or patients in the facility when the quake hit.

Two other houses on the property that are rented out were also destroyed.

He said the visitor facility was intact but needs to be checked by an engineer to determine if it's safe.

Six of the 45 staff members at the facility have been seen or spoken to since the earthquake and all are okay.

The organization is sending an Emergency Response Reconnaissance team of medical personnel to Haiti. One member was to leave yesterday (Monday) and four others today or tomorrow (Tuesday or Wednesday).

The team's mission will be to provide immediate essential first aid and wound care for injured people, provide transportation to hospitals,

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Buildings on the Healing Hands for Haiti property in Port-au-Prince lie in ruins following last week's earthquake. The property's apartment buildings

sustained major damage and two workers with the charitable group were killed.

Submitted photos



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