

Sixty emergency personnel take part in mock train-car collision drill



Members of the Halton Hills Fire Department— wearing self-contained oxygen masks due to a leaking train car nearby— performed an extrication during a planned emergency exercise on Monday afternoon. Photo by Eamonn Maher



An overhead view of the extrication taken from the roof of the Gallery residences on Halton Hills Dr. on Monday during the mock emergency. The vehicle, with a family of four inside, had been struck by a train and one of the front-seat passengers suffered fatal injuries. Photo by George Thomas



Firefighters shovel dirt around a grate to prevent sulphuric acid leaking from a tank car at the top of a hill into the sewer system. Photo by Eamonn Maher

A mock train derailment played out in Georgetown Monday afternoon that put responding emergency personnel through their paces and presented a real-life scenario for the various agencies to deal with.

The annual exercise, as required by the Ontario Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, involved a collision between a train and vehicle carrying a family of four that resulted in five tank cars with unknown commodities on board leaving the tracks on the CN line.

The exercise took place on Halton Hills Dr. and was monitored from the Emergency Operations Centre at the HHFD station located at the Eighth Line and 10 Sideroad.

One of the tank cars was leaking an unknown product and firefighters were posed with the dilemma of not knowing its contents, since the manifest with that information was in the engine, which was a couple of kilometres away blocking traffic at the Trafalgar Rd. and 17 Sideroad crossings.

“We learned that it was sulphuric acid leaking and we had to find out what the properties are, how close we can get and what we need to get close,” said the HHFD’s Bryce Marshall.

Along with the Town’s Emergency Control Group and support staff, outside agencies also participated including CN Rail, Halton Regional Police, Halton Emergency Medical Services, Georgetown Hospital, schools, Halton Region Emergency Planning staff and Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management Ontario.

About 60 people took part in the exercise.

At the same time, the Georgetown Hospital conducted its own surprise emergency drill that involved multiple victims.



Halton Hills Firefighters prepare to tackle a train-car leak of an unknown substance by donning protective suits and footwear before attending to the scene of the derailment. Photo by George Thomas



A decontamination area was set up complete with shower during the simulated emergency exercise Monday. At right is the tank car leaking sulphuric acid that firefighters had to contain. Photo by Eamonn Maher



David Slauson, senior manager of dangerous goods for CN Rail, addresses representatives from the various agencies and town council members about the process of responding to a train derailment at the Emergency Operations Centre on Eighth Line and 10 Sideroad. Photo by Eamonn Maher

HASSELL
AUTOMOTIVE SALES & SERVICE

45 Mountainview Road North
Georgetown, Ontario
905.877.7958

e-mail: hassellsauto@bellnet.ca
www.hassellautomotive.com

SPRING is back, and so is our **only**

9th Annual SUPER SPRING SPECIAL

- Oil & Filter and complete top to bottom check over (Excludes synthetic Oil)
- Installation of summer tires (already on rims) included.

EXTRAS

- \$5.00 Tim's Card
- Windshield Washer Fluid

\$4995

Call for an Appointment

Thursday, April 2, 2015 - The I/P - Halton Hills - www.theirp.ca Page 3