



READY AND ABLE: "Taking care of your own" was the theme of a mock training exercise, in Acton recently, for members of the fire department's emergency patient care team. Firefighters cared for a "victim," a downed colleague injured responding to a simulated explosion and fire. - Frances Niblock photo

Firefighters get special training in mock Acton disaster setting

By FRANCES NIBLOCK
The New Tanner

They knew it was only a training session, but post 9/11, the adrenaline was pumping as members of the Halton Hills Fire Department's Emergency Patient Care (EPC) team raced to a mock emergency in Acton recently.

Called "Taking Care of Your Own" the EPC team exercise involved "injuries" to firefighters and civilians in a scenario of an explosion and fire in a commercial building.

Calling on their specialized EPC training the team members, some wearing T-shirts honouring firefighters killed in the New York terrorist attacks, responded as they would have in a real emergency - quickly assessing the situation, treating injuries and bringing control to a chaotic scene.

On the scene immediately after the exercise, EPC assistant team man-

ager James Paul of Acton said he was "proud and amazed" at the team's response.

Paul said there were no major mistakes, adding if mistakes were to be made, better during a training session than a real emergency. "What it (the mock exercise) really showed was their knowledge of how to assess what was wrong - their diagnostic skills - were dead on," Paul said, adding he was encouraged that training and hard work had paid off.

"We had everything from an amputation, a stroke, a heart attack and a panic attack and it was all at once," Paul said.

"We had nine patients and 13 EPC members, so that's quite a duty for them to manage and take care and prepare these people for transportation by the paramedics. Even the paramedics who observed and participated in the exercise were amazed at how

accurate the information (from the EPC team members) was."

EPC team members are firefighters - who have opted for additional medical training. Potential members are evaluated in five possible scenarios and then interviewed, with most making the team, limited by budget constraints to 20 members.

If they arrive first at an emergency scene like a car crash or other medical call, EPC team members can diagnose injuries, decide who needs the most help and can take blood pressure and other vital signs to help ambulance attendants with a head start.

"Being able to see the medical signals faster and being able to respond to them with a proper diagnosis helps victims and paramedics," Paul said, adding the team was formed five or six years ago when firefighters wondered "what else could

they do" to help at an emergency.

Paul said there is usually an EPC member on each call, and in the event of multiple injuries, an additional page could go out for all EPC members at the station to respond.

EPC team members train monthly.

Beach Report

The latest Beach Report from Halton Region Health Department show that the Acton Boathouse Beach is unsafe for swimming due to high bacterial levels. Beaches tested are selected based on swimming and other water sports.

The old Acton beach in Prospect Park and Kelso Conservation Area beach are deemed safe for swimming on sampling done August 22.

This information is also available on the 24 hour Beach Hotline. Halton residents can call 905-825-6111 or toll free: 1-866-442-5966 (ask for the beach hotline). Information is updated weekly or as conditions change. This information is also posted on the Health Department Web site at www.region.halton.on.ca/health.

Everyone Loves a Parade!



89th Annual Acton Fall Fair

Sept. 13, 14, 15

PARADE: 12 Noon Sharp
Saturday, September 14, 2002

Assembling at M.S. Bennett School at 11:00am

Theme Challenge:

"Having a Grape Time At The Fair"

ENTRY FORM

Name of Group:

Contact Person:

Address:

Phone:

Brief Description of Float (including size):

Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd

Floats to be judged on Fair Theme.

Please return this form to: Michael Arnott,
40 Maria St. Apt. 112, Acton, ON. L7J 1C7
or call Terry Foster at 519-853-0570

Halton Region

A Partnership That Works!



Yard Waste Reminder

- Effective September 1st -

Yard waste must be placed in reusable containers or paper yard waste bags.

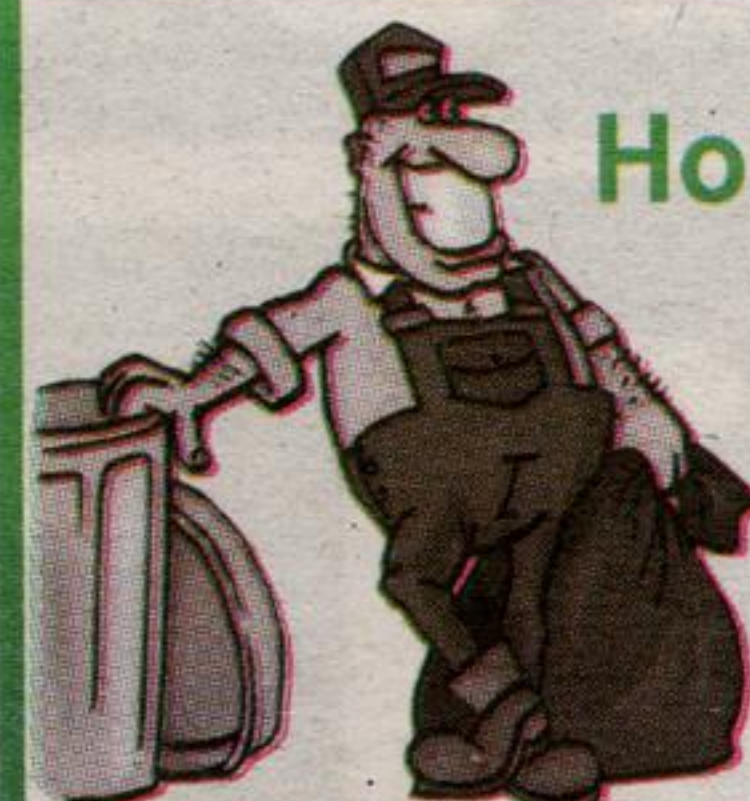
Please consider the following alternatives to plastic:

- open reusable containers (e.g. bushel basket or open garbage can)
- biodegradable paper yard waste bags (available from local retailers)
- composting
- vacuum collection program (where offered by your area municipality)

Enjoy the fruits of your labour.

The elimination of plastic bags from the yard waste program will minimize plastic waste in the landfill and improve the quality of compost we are able to offer our residents. Halton Region's fall compost give away will take place **Monday, Sept. 23 to Tuesday, Oct. 1** (Closed Sunday) at the Halton Waste Management Site on Regional Road 25 in Milton. All Halton residents are welcome to collect up to seven bags of rich, garden-friendly compost.

Call us for more information about Halton Waste Management Services.



Holiday Waste Collection Notice

Due to the Labour Day Holiday, waste collection the week of September 2 will take place the day after your regular collection day.



1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, ON L6M 3L1
905-825-6000 Toll free: 1-866-4HALTON (1-866-442-5866)
TTY 905-827-9833
or visit us at: www.region.halton.on.ca

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