

**EMERGING TRENDS IN
EDUCATION LAW 2017**
"The Beast" Wildfire
Evacuation from the Venue
Perspective

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Presented by:



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**"The Beast" Wildfire Evacuation
from the Venue Perspective**

1. Understanding the fire, magnitude and those impacted;
2. Why Northlands played a role in receiving those evacuated;
3. Lessons learned from a venue perspective; and
4. Takeaway thoughts, action items and questions.

Overview

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Part One

Overview of "The Beast"
(AKA the Horse River Fire)

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**The Critical Role Played by
Northlands**

Part Two

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Chain of Command


- Venue does not lead emergency response - venue supports it.
- Identify your decision-makers (rank), substitutes and authority. Then communicate it.
- Clearly articulate your communication cycle and stick to it.

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Basic Needs


The first 24 hours:

- ESRT brought immediate critical needs (clothing, cots, etc.)
- Alberta Health Services – medication (including addiction)
- Humane Society – pets
- Victim Services volunteers
- Phone charging stations and plug-ins

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Security

- Areas of the venue were designated secure zones – only accredited guests and limited staff could enter
- Remainder of venue provided support to resident and non-resident evacuees

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Manage Your Resources

- Only bring to site what you need.
- Establish healthy boundaries around the desire to help.
- Plan for volunteers and “do-gooders”.
- Hardest but sometimes most important words are “no thank you”.

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Media & Other Snoops

- Media was permitted on-site but not in the venue.
- Prepare for the appearance of religious organizations.
- Politicians and celebrities.

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Settling In
(Approx. Days 4-30)



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Changing Residents

- Most guests stayed only a short while.
- Those who stayed longer had exacerbating factors.

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Reality Sets In

- Shock wears off
- Depression, grief, hopelessness
- Showers and laundry
- Domestic violence
- Illness and hygiene
- Sex!

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Provincial Cash Cards & Insurance

- Distributed at the U of A
- More people able to access alternative accommodations
- Increased drug/alcohol problems amongst guests
- Increased casino attendance

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Routines are Established

- Religious worship
- Increased socialization
- Entertainment/distraction particularly for children
- Message/information boards
- School enrollment

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Comfort & Distraction

- Computer room
- Gaming room
- Kids' play area
- Mothers' Day celebration
- Community activation
- Movies in Rexall
- Urban farm and racing barn tours

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Impact on Staff

- Plan for and manage compassion fatigue.
- When your people are taking care of others, take care of your people.
- Let them cry and help them laugh
- During and after, recognize and celebrate
- BE SAFE.

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Closing Thoughts

- Nothing goes according to plan, but stick to the plan.
- Someone has to pay for all this.
- Canadians are phenomenal, resilient creatures.

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QUESTIONS?

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