

APNS Post Trauma Services: Brief History and Context

J. L. HOWES, PH. D., R. PSYCH.

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APNS Post Trauma Services Committee

- **Small group of dedicated psychologists came together to address the need for psychological preparedness and readiness in the event of a disaster. (e.g., aviation accident; natural disaster; Westray Mine Disaster).**
- **I want to acknowledge the work of all the members of this Committee over the years, and especially the tireless work, vision, and advocacy of Dr. Charles Hayes.**

APNS Post Trauma Services Committee

- **During the late 1980s and the 1990s the Committee worked with Emergency Measures Organization (EMO): Nova Scotia concerning:**
 - ❖ **The psychological impact of Disasters (Major Emergencies) on victims, survivors, family members, and emergency responders.**
 - ❖ **The need for an agreement to activate an APNS Disaster Volunteer Network in the event of a major emergency.**

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- **The APNS – EMO (NS) Memorandum of Understanding for Post Disaster Psychological Services** was signed on February 3, 1998.
 - This was one of the first agreements of this type between a Provincial EMO and Psychological Association in Canada.
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APNS – EMO (NS) Memorandum of Understanding For Post Disaster Psychological Services

- **Major Emergency Defined**
- **Victims Defined**
- **Pro Bono Services to be provided**
- **Membership in APNS Disaster Response Network**
- **Role of EMO**
- **Committee Activity and its Responsibilities to APNS**
- **EMO: the activating agency**
- **Included a Major Emergency Response Protocol**

APNS Disaster Response Network

- These were up to 60 Psychologists listed on the Network in the years after the MOU was signed.



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- **Response Protocol Formally Activated Once: Swissair Flight III Disaster (September 2, 1998).**
 - **EMO (NS) and their delegate for psychosocial disaster response, Department of Community Services:**
 - ❖ **Consulted us many times (e.g., 9/11; Train derailment; Seniors Apartment Building Fire)**

**DISASTER
RESPONSE**

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- **We contacted EMO (NS) to review/update the MOU in early 2008.**
 - **Two Committee members completed the Emergency Management Training (Stage I) in 2008.**
 - **Before the MOU was reviewed, DHW took over the psychological response to All Hazards Disaster Service provision (approximately 2010).**
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