

Lauren :

Around town here I like to be involved. One of them is the chair of the [inaudible 00:00:04] of Wheatley, [inaudible 00:00:05] aside from that, I also, when the first [inaudible 00:00:11] happened, I started a fundraiser that raised almost \$10,000 for our food bank and our frontline staff that was at sea. [clapping 00:00:20] Thanks goes to the community for that, the community support is amazing. Obviously, after the explosion happened, I wanted the [inaudible 00:00:32] that fund me knowing that the support would be much, much more, and it was, we are at over \$225,000 donated to the community for businesses and people displaced from their homes. [clapping 00:00:44] So thank you to all of you that donated, thank you to the community for your support.

And that's what brought us to have this partnership with Chatham-Kent and Family Social Services. Because what we were finding, was we didn't know how many were displaced from their homes or businesses. We didn't know all the names of them, we couldn't contact them to get money to them. So we reached out to Chatham-Kent and we ended up having this wonderful relationship with them, where they would meet with us. It started out every day, Monday to Friday, at 9:30 every morning. And then it went down to three days a week. Now we're down to two days a week, but through that partnership, we've been able to locate, we're pretty sure, everyone displaced from their home or business, get them a case worker and get some cash in their hands to anyone that has filled out the application for the community fund, which came from all of the community donations.

So, the thing with the meetings was, we wanted to also form a committee that would properly and fairly distribute this money. We weren't sure, we had requests coming in for insurance deductibles. We had stuff coming in for a car that's in an Auto-shop that they can't get, that they now need to rent a car. To families that didn't have a crib for their baby girl. There's been a lot of needs. So we've been very happy to facilitate that and get some cash to everyone's hands.

At this time, I want to thank Erica Remick and Kim Grant. Erica Remick is the president of the BIA, Kim Grant is the treasurer for the BIA. But they're so much more than that. [clapping 00:02:47]

So here's how this meeting's going to go. Each person on this panel is going to get a chance to introduce themselves, their role, whether it's within Chatham-Kent or the province. After that, they're going to explain any sort of up to date information that they can give and provide, after which any questions of yours that are not answered. We're going to ask each of you to come up, stand in line along the bar. If there's more than five people there, please wait for one person to come up, ask a question, then go sit down, just so that we keep in standards with the distancing as much as possible. And at this time I want to thank Chatham-Kent for being here and anybody else that can be here. We're having a bit of an issue getting the Skype going but I think that Amy is still working on that. But you're all here and we want to get this going so we can get some things done. I will pass it off to our Mayor.

Darrin Canniff: All right.

Polly Smith : Sorry, could you pass the mic to...so people can hear?

Darrin Canniff: Want to me to pass it? Here.

Polly Smith : Thank you.

Darrin Canniff: Thanks Lauren. I appreciate you putting this meeting together. Communication is so important, I know we've heard from various people that we're not getting communicated enough in different ways. This is a great way to get there, you've got everybody here, either here or people online, that's good. We want to make sure that each and every one of your questions is answered. We want you leaving here tonight with all the information that you wanted. There may not be all the answers, but we're going to provide you with whatever we can tonight. That's the purpose of this. So Lauren, thank you, you and your team for putting this together. This is very important. We physically get together for this. I'm the Mayor of Chatham-Kent and from here, I'll pass it on so everybody can make an introduction. Then we get started with a presentation.

Melissa Harriga...: Great, thanks Darren. Hi everyone, my name's Melissa Harrigan. I'm one of the municipal councilors elected from Wheatley, adopted into Wheatley. And I sit on the BIA as well, as your local representative there. I just wanted to share with everyone that I am really feeling for you and with you and all of Council has shared with Mark and myself, that they are supportive of Wheatley. So, things that have to come to Council for decisions, I'm conveying a message that the all 18 elected officials are supportive of Wheatley and are looking forward to help us rebuild Wheatley. Once we understand more what's going on here and what the future looks like.

Mark Authier: Thank you. I'm Mark Authier also the other member of the Council for your area. Melissa said about everything that I was going to say. So I'll just pass on to the local government.

Jennifer Barton: Thanks Mark. Good evening everyone, my name's Jennifer Barton. I am an Assistant Deputy Minister with the Ministry of Northern Development Mines, Natural Resources and Forestry. Also, happy to be here, I've been here a number of times in the last few months and met a number of you already and looking forward to trying to answer your questions tonight and provide as much information as I can on behalf of the province.

Polly Smith : Thanks Jennifer. Hi, it's Polly Smith. I'm the Director of Employment and Social Services with the municipality of Chatham-Kent. It's my team that has been helping with emergency assistance, housing accommodations and other urgent needs in the community.

Don Shropshire: Good evening my name is Donny Shropshire. I'm a Chief Administrative Officer for the municipality. So, we've been working on this series of challenges since June. We're here to answer your questions tonight and hope to give you the assurance that we are here to support you until our community is fully back together. And everybody in this room, I know is also important to each other and supporting each other. And you are also an important part of that rebuilding process and we're going to be with every step of the way.

Thomas Kelly: Hi, good evening my name is Thomas Kelly. I'm the General Manager of Infrastructure and Engineering Services for the municipality. I'm one of the engineers for the municipality who's been working on site on this problem. The other is my colleague, Ryan Brown, and together with the province and some external consultants, one from Ontario, one from Alberta, we've been trying to develop solutions for the problem. Thank you.

Chris Case: Thank you. Good evening everybody, my name is Chris Case and I'm the Fire Chief of Chatham-Kent.

Lauren : Okay. Who wants to give the most recent update? Thomas? Are you ready?

Speaker 1: [crosstalk 00:07:40] Jennifer?

Jennifer Barton: All right. So it looks like I get to start us off here tonight. As I said, I'm really pleased to be here. I have been here a number of times and it's been a real pleasure to work with some of the folks that are up here at the front. And as I said to get to know all of you. I've pulled together some notes because I want to make sure I give you the most detailed update that I can. So I'm going to work through my notes when we get into the technical update.

I did want to just begin by commending to the town of Wheatley, it's residents, the businesses and the municipality on the resilience and the sense of community that I've seen on all of the visits that I've made to town here. It's been incredible to see how you've come together, the collaborative efforts that have been made by many wonderful citizens, the group that Lauren's working with, that she mentioned earlier. It's just amazing to see neighbors helping each other, people dropping off winter clothes donations, delivery of Thanksgiving dinners. So many have loaned their time, their resources to help those displaced residents and their neighbors in the community. I had the chance to stop in at the Village Resource Center today, saw things in action there and it really truly is inspiring as an outsider coming in and seeing all the efforts.

Today I wanted to provide an update on the investigation, into the source of the gas leak and the cause of the explosion as well as options for next steps in the investigation. I'm going to start off by saying, I don't have all the answers tonight. I may have to take some of your questions away if we're not able to answer them. And we are still in the midst of the investigation. So we won't likely be able to tell you everything that you want to know tonight, but my

commitment is over time, we will get you those answers and we will be able to tell you everything you want to know as we go through the investigation.

Over the last several weeks, the external technical consultants have been working to identify the source of the emissions and the potential pathways. This work has involved leveraging local community knowledge, reviewing archives and databases, conducting surveys, geophysical mapping, soil vapor work, and, and gas monitoring. And as a result of the investigation, the team was able to identify three areas of interest in the area near where the explosion was. We refer to them as APECs or Areas of Potential Environmental Concerns. So you're going to hear me use that word "APECs" a few times. And again, it just means an area that we're interested in looking more into.

The investigation began a few months ago now with the development of work plan to investigate the source of the leak and the cause of the explosion and to advise on mitigation or remediation options. The investigation does involve a number of different steps, so there was a data gathering and review phase, we then moved to geophysical surveys, source and pathway analysis, soil vapor surveys and then we'll move... When we get through all that, into those mitigation or remediation options that we're hopeful, we'll get to quite soon.

To guide all of the investigation activities, there was a detailed Health and Safety Environmental plan that has been developed, in consultation with the municipality. We've... I can't say enough how important your public safety, the safety of all those people who are working at the site is. Safety has been our number one priority as we work through every detail, every step of the way. The safety plan does include continuous coordination with Chatham-Kent Fire Department. And I'm sure you're going to hear from Chief Case later on. And we have to deal with changing conditions, controls, and procedures and different events and activities that are happening at the site. So the safety plan is continually updated and all with the purpose of keeping everybody in the room as safe as we can.

After our review of some of the historical data, information from local residents and the geophysical surveys, as I mentioned, we identified three areas that we consider potential environmental concern areas. So those APECs that I spoke about earlier. APEC one, this is the area where the gas was observed coming from the ground. The location is adjacent to the explosion site behind the...what you guys call the "pope" and Wheatley Hotel and includes the reported potential location of, I think, what locals call a historical dairy well, that may have been at the site.

APEC two, this is the reported location of the decommissioned Tate Well, so this is a well-known well we knew about, it was on record. It's known as well zero-zero-zero-nine-eight-one. It was located based on ground-penetrating radar and electromagnetic geophysical surveying. So we know the exact location now of that Tate Well, and I'll talk a little bit more about that in a minute. And then APAC number three, this is the area where there was a vent located on the

corner of the municipal parking lot near Elm street. So I know you guys all know the geography really well, but that's the third area of interest that we're looking into.

In terms of the results of the investigation for these three areas, so first of all, for APEC one, which is that area in and around the "pope" and the Wheatley hotel, APEC one was investigated by installing four gas probes. Of these four probes, one detected elevated gas levels and a gas sample was obtained at that site and sent for analysis. APEC two was investigated by digging a trench and the decommissioned Tate Well was located in the middle of the municipal parking lot, elevated gas readings and gas flow were observed at that site. So we saw bubbling coming up from the ground in the trench that we excavated. A temporary gas vent was installed over top of the bubbling gas and monitoring of the vent continues to happen daily. And we have seen some elevated gas levels of methane gas in that area and a sample has been obtained and sent for analysis.

APEC three was investigated by Hydrovac and there was a short pipe found embedded in some of the fill or the back fill materials in that area of the ground. The pipe has since been removed and the hole was also Hydrovaced to a depth of about nine feet. Gas was detected one day after that work, but regular gas monitoring since, has not detected any gas above trace background levels at that APEC three. Analysis of the gas samples taken from both APEC one and APEC two indicate that the gas source closely matches gas from a producing natural gas well in the region, neither of the gas samples obtained had concentrations of hydrogen sulfide.

So there was wasn't h₂s gas that was found, but there was gas found in both APEC one and APEC two. To date, hydrogen sulfide has only been detected near APEC one during gas leak events. So you'll know there was about four gas leak events that we know about and have recorded. And that was the time that gas, h₂s gas was detected and it was accompanied by flowing water. The source of hydrogen sulfide could be an unidentified gas source, or it could be gas from that APEC two, that Tate Well, that could be making its way along a subsurface pathway and interacting with a sulfur-rich water source that causes a reaction, creating that hydrogen sulfide gas that we're so concerned about.

The investigation team is currently preparing to move forward with the next phase of the investigation, which is to confirm or refute the presence of any lateral pathway between APEC one and APEC two. So the "pope" and then the Tate Well, which is in the middle of the municipal public parking lot. The hope is that if we can identify that there is a way that gas is migrating between the two sites, that will help with the investigation and help understand what our next steps need to be. To identify any sub-surface infrastructure that could be acting as a pathway for gas, excavation will take place both at APEC one and APEC two. So you'll see some more work happening on site to complete that piece of the investigation.

In preparation for potential mitigation activities, the well casing for the Tate Well, so that's APEC two, which is in the middle of the municipal parking lot, will be extended to surface level so that the well can be safely worked on during the mitigation stage of this project. So we do anticipate, we've seen gas at APECs two, and we will be working on that well, to make sure that that gas doesn't continue to leak out of that well. The investigation team is currently working with sub-contractors, the municipality and the province to develop detailed work plans and to update the Health and Safety plan for all these activities to be undertaken in a safe... A very safe way. Work also continues with the municipality to plan for potential mitigation options based on the results of the investigation. So as soon we know exactly how we want to mitigate, how we want to move forward, we want to be ready to do that. And so we're working with the municipality on what the next steps are for that plan, so that we can move forward quickly, as soon as the consultants finish their work.

So it is complicated. It is complex. I know it's taking a lot longer and anybody would like, but it is a very methodical process that they have to work through. And they are looking at everything. They are not leaving anything, no stone unturned, as they work through this process. And again, with your safety and the safety of the workers at the site in mind. Maybe I'll stop there and hand the mic back over and I'm happy to answer any questions later on that anybody has.

Chris Case:

Thank you, Jennifer. So as you just heard that we're dealing with quite a risky situation on the site, all I can tell you from the start is that the evacuation zone is adequate. We've had that confirmed by our experts from Alberta. And when we had the fourth gas event early on in October, which occurred at 4:10 in the morning, we were able to confirm that the gas was not traveling off the site, which I'm sure will come as a great relief to those who are still living very close by to the site. What we are doing right now is we continue to have a presence on site of fire and rescue personnel and up to about two weeks ago, we still had the provincial hazmat team stood by. They have now been replaced with hazardous materials experts from the oil and gas industry, such is the nature of the work that has to take place.

And I can tell you, it's a complex operation and the discussions around the safety plan go on day to day. I'm going to leave it there just to set the scene that we have the risk managed at this point. The work continues. And I'm going to let my colleague, Thomas Kelly, pick up with the engineering plan.

Thomas Kelly:

Thank you everyone. So we're fully aware that there's been quite a strong request that, "can we get back into our homes?" And I wanted to assure you, Jennifer mentioned it, we're trying to work as quickly as we can to get this done, but it's a very dangerous situation that we're dealing with, the gas that we're dealing with. And we want to make sure everything we do is safe. Likewise, with this plan, safety is the top priority. So the next slide, please.

So just to give you an update on the status, and I hope everybody can see it, and I'll try to read it if you can't read it. So right now, as we all know, the hydro is off

on all the homes, but also the water main valves now have been shut off at the curb for every single one of all the homes, all the buildings, all the businesses in the evacuation zone. Therefore there's no actual water pressure into the home right now.

Also, our building services, our experts, our chief building official, who has been on site as well. And he's currently conducting structural evaluations on the property and really determining what buildings are safe to enter and which are not. So, very simple category, red means it's unsafe to enter, green means it is safe to enter. And we do have a number of homes, unfortunately there, that are in the red category. Just to explain some of the technical challenges that we've had in order to provide this access to you, is that, we all are very aware that the gas leak has a history of intermittent and very unpredictable flow. So, if we go back in history, we were June 2nd, July 19th, August 25th, and then October 8th. So it's been about every 40 days or so. So, you can fully expect, we're anticipating potentially, another flow sometime mid-November.

Now, we have taken some mitigation work, which Jennifer described, with some natural venting. So this is really important to our study. We're wondering now, if the venting that we have in place will actually mitigate these flows of every 40 days. So that's an important milestone we're monitoring right now. The other thing that's really important in the oil and gas business, is wind direction. And certainly, the wind changes every day, but that's something we monitor because you essentially, you don't want to be downwind, you always want to be upwind on anything that's going on up there.

So, as Jennifer mentioned, we have high risk activities planned we're working with the contractors and some of the sub-contractors, and she used the term "excavation", which is basically digging into the ground and removing some of the earth. So we're trying to take that next step to determine the gas leak, that's going to be going on in the next six weeks or so.

And anytime that we're doing that work, it is very dangerous. And we would not want anyone more than we need on that site. Having said that, there are opportunities where it is safe. So our goal is to start to schedule appointments with each and every one of you, when we determine it's a low risk time. And I hope you can appreciate that's going to be varying and we have a plan and that's what I'm going to explain to you.

So to minimize all these risks too, is that we would like to take the approach that you get in, you grab your belongings, and then you get out. And just as an approximation, we'd like to see if, when you get that access, that we try to do everything we can and limit it to one hour. Again, remember the intermittent flows, remember the unpredictability, we're going to bring you into a safe environment, but we would prefer that we get in and out as quickly as we can.

So the next slide, the needs. And what we've heard, and this is a plan still in development, and I'm interested to see if I've missed anything here, but the

winterization, first of all. So again the water is shut off essentially, but we want to drain the water lines in the house so that they don't freeze. Number two, there's a few pools out there, we want to winterize the pools. And is there anything else that you may be thinking of that needs to be winterized as well? It is our plan, and again, our process here is that we're trying to minimize the number of people on site. So, it would be our plan that we will hire the contractors who can winterize your homes, and then secondly, close your pools, and we would pay for that, so that would not be at your cost.

The second thing is, we know that you want to get into your homes, you want to get into your businesses. We've had a number of requests for, can I get my personal effects? Can I get my winter clothes, laptops, photos, things that are really important to you. So, that's what we're planning on in that one hour time period, and also any specific paperwork, I just put some examples here. You might need your taxes from this year or insurance deeds, estate planning. Start to think about that now and think about where those documents are in your house, so again, you can limit the time. The one thing that we've had a request for, is for folks to come in and start to clean out their fridges and their freezers and maintenance, move furniture, things like that. That is something that we're really highly not recommending at this time and not permitting, so I hope you can understand the reasons why.

So, the first step of the process, you'll be receiving a call from case managers, and that's my colleague down at the end, Holly, her team will be contacting you. We have all of your contact information, as well as the businesses, everyone located in the evacuation zone. They're going to ask you a series of questions. First of all, are you interested in gaining access, is the first one. And they'll go through a complete list of questions, many of which I'm going to describe here shortly. Properties that pose a risk as well, that have already been deemed "red" by our CBO, they will also call you and let you know about that as well and unfortunately, because it's just not safe, you will not be allowed into that particular building. We know a lot of you have pets. I certainly enjoy pets as much as anyone, but unfortunately, we're trying to keep them out of the evacuation zone.

Again, trying to think of everything. We will have a staff on site in the P-A-W-R, the Pet and Wildlife Rescue, they've agreed to essentially babysit your pet, while you go into the zone, if you need that type of assistance. And once we retrieve all this data, then we're going to start planning and we're going to start to determine the schedule of who goes first and what the priorities would be and who needs access the soonest.

So step two, is the legal part of course, you knew it was coming. And basically, we're going to be handing you a document that just simply states that you're going to allow us on your property, to gain access. And our whole point, I'm going to describe later, is that we want to go in your building before you do, to ensure it's safe. We're going to do that with some real experts in the field. And we need to have your key in order to do that. So this document's going to cover

that we can enter your home, acknowledge that there are some risks for this entry, if access is possible that we will...when you do enter, you will agree to leave at a certain time. And then that the work that would be done by those contractors, that you agree to that as well.

And I know that some may have concerns about that, but again, we're trying to limit the number of people on site. So this will be open to all residents, certainly who own a home. We're trying to limit it to two people. And certainly some of you may not be able to do that, and you can delegate someone to do that and that's part of that agreement, you'll specify..."this is a person I agree to come on-site and into my home."

We also ask that only people who can self evacuate would take on this process. So certainly, we understand that everybody wants access, but if we have an emergency that the Chief has described, we need to get out of there as quickly as possible. We all know the dangers. So we're asking that anybody who does come in, is mobile and can get...leave the zone very quickly.

Insurance adjusters have a number of requests for that, and again, based on the principle, we're at this time, we're not allowing the insurance adjusters on-site. We're limiting it to a certain number of people, and it's all about safety here. We just want...we don't want any more than we have to on-site. And lastly, you're going to have to entrust us with your keys, but that's the intent... is really...on the next page, on step three. Step three, is that, before we allow you to go into your home, you can imagine your home has been sitting idle, without hydro, without any type of air ventilation, so it's going to look quite different than what you remember it. And you're probably going to smell a lot of things, rotting food and so on.

So, the first thing we want to do is go in with our air-quality experts, also a police officer and a building expert. So, this is a building expert that we've had, who's done his preliminary assessment on the outside. Now, he's going to go on the inside, he just wants to make sure it's safe. So, they're going to go into your homes, probably only spend about 10 to 15 minutes, but basically that step is there to ensure that when you enter the home, it's going to be safe and there's no hazards. If it is deemed safe, that's when you're going to qualify for the appointment and it will be scheduled, and the winterization services, we hope to schedule those at the same time. So imagine you get this call, you have a pool and you want your water drained as well, we're going to try to schedule.

PART 1 OF 5 ENDS [00:30:03]

Thomas Kelly:

And you want your water drained as well. We're going to try to schedule and that's going to be the challenging part for us, is that to get all of those services at your home, all at one time. And we understand that sometimes a pool may take three or four hours to drain and to actually close out. It would be our preference that, for example, if you have a lot of your pool equipment in a shed, you would just trust us to lock it up afterwards. And again, you would only

spend an hour on site. So if the other side, unfortunately, if there are concerns, if our air expert has gone in there and said, there's a lot of mold in this home, what will happen is that we will take that evidence, we'll send it to a lab for analysis, again, all about safety.

There may be an opportunity. You can enter your home, but you'll have to wear personal PPE, personal protection equipment to mitigate those hazards. And if the issues still remain and even PPE won't do the job, unfortunately your home will be entered in as a red zone. So, that's the intent and if we encounter that, we will give you a call. We will tell you this is what we found, we have some concerns. It may take you longer to get into your home, but certainly it's our absolute goal that you can get into your homes for a period of time to capture some of your most precious belongings. So the fourth step is, the follow up. So from our initial, our staff being, going into your home, looking at what needs to be done, is it safe? The case manager then takes that data and they'll call you.

And if it's green status, they'll advise of a nearby meeting place. We think that will be the fire hall, it may change. We just want you, therefore we will tell you a time, say on Saturday at 10:00, please be at the fire hall. And we will come with our vehicle, most likely a pickup truck, and we will pick you and your partner up, and then we will drive you to your home. And then you'll have your hour to collect your belongings. You'll take your belongings that you need, put them back into the truck, and then we will drive you outside the evacuation zone. So that's the way it's going to work. And then from there, you'll transfer them back into your car that's going to be parked at the fire home.

All of these appointments, back to my original slide of we've got some technical challenges. We have to schedule these when there's no work being done on site. And it's all for safety and all for good reasons. Right now the work plan that Jennifer described it changes as we discover things. So we will give our schedule to the case managers, we'll give them some time slots. We just ask for your patience, depending on what we find as we work through the problem, you may get a call that says, "Sorry, we've got to change your time." But again, our intention is really to get you back in your home. So as I mentioned earlier, as well, that when you go into your homes, this is your pride and joy, and it may not look at all how you left it. And we want you to be ready for that. It could be certainly the... I talked about the smells, it may look terrible. You may have rodents who have broken in all of those things.

We will have case managers, as well as some of our counselors, available to help you through that as well. So we tried to think of everything. And my last slide is questions. I don't know if we want to take the questions now, but I just want to let you know this is a plan that we've thought through very carefully. I hope you can see that. We may have missed some things and we're open to adjustments as well. So hopefully... Do you want to take questions now?

Lauren:

Yeah.

Thomas Kelly: Okay. And the questions can be actually on anything presented. It doesn't have to be on that.

Speaker 2: [inaudible 00:34:04]

Lauren: The question might come up. We do suggest that there's only five people there at a time. I'll try to bring mic here so that everyone outside can hear.

Thomas Kelly: You got it?

Lauren: Yeah. Okay. Come on.

Speaker 3: So I actually have a question for Jennifer. When you mentioned about the air pack one and two, our house is right next to that, which is the 14 Elm. Right now with the rumors going around, that the fence is down and this is down. I don't even know what the hell is going on. And what is the worst case scenario when you guys dig up that? It's very next house, right to the parking lots. So definitely we're worried about it.

Jennifer Barton: So I can start and happy to hand it over to municipality as well. So right now at the moment, all the work that is taking place is on the municipalities properties. So there's been no work take place beyond the fence. I'm not sure to be honest, if the fence is down or not, the municipality may be able to answer that. But if we do start to require to do work more broadly, you would be engaged in that process.

Chief Chris Cas...: Thank you. So, one of the biggest challenges we've had is you don't know where the gas is that caused the initial leaks. So we've had methane gas and we've had hydrogen sulfide gas. We don't know where it is, and we don't know how big it is. And so when you ask a worst case scenario, if it's really close to our other properties, then there could be an additional risk. That's part of the reason why things have to go so methodically and slowly, and we wish we could do it a lot faster, but that's part of the issue. So we're trying to rule those things out. Worst case scenario is there might be other properties outside of the current area that's deemed to be unsafe or not really safe to go back in and re-enter. The attempt that we're trying to make is to go through based on the experience of the best experts we have.

And we've got some great people that the province is brought in. We're going to try and make sure that we do whatever we can to mitigate or remediate any of this stuff so that you actually is safe and you feel comfortable going back into your home. But the challenge right now is, we actually don't have that information yet. And as soon as we do, we'll share that with people and just see, we try to go through this step by step. But that's the worst case scenario. The step that we might say, it's not safe to re-occupy some of the buildings next to where the explosion is or where we find the gas. And that's what we're going to try and identify. People that have lived here for a long time, know that we've

had a number of explosions on the same site. There was another explosion that destroyed the building in the 1930s, very close to Elm street.

And it was on the corner. We had another explosion here, right? So we're going to try and go through, identify the site. We want to fix that this community is going to feel comfortable rebuilding, but we don't know yet. So please continue to work with us. As soon as we have an answer, we'll make sure that we share it. Then the municipality would be looking at long term planning support and we're not going away. You're our citizens, we'll be here to support you. But when you ask the worst case scenario, it involves a larger space than just that parking lot. So, that's something we're going to have to work through. Hard message, I'm sorry.

Lauren: Sorry. I just want to make sure that answered your question. Yeah? Okay.

Speaker 4: Thank you. I am one of the fortunate residents that have not had to be evacuated, and I appreciate you guys coming in and doing the work that you are. I feel though that we would be much farther ahead if this action would've been taken in June. Okay? And to piggyback your comment about the explosion in 1930, there was actually three, 1932, '34 and '36, in the same location. So I mean, that was a long time ago. Why we do not have any answers up until 2020? That's a good question, correct?

Speaker 5: Yes.

Speaker 4: So again, I appreciate you guys coming here. This is fantastic. And you know, the municipality and the province is here to help everybody out. That's great. The municipality and the province had an opportunity to do this in June and you did not. There was no sort of monitoring system or anything that was put in, in June. Wasn't quite done, but that's cool. Go ahead.

Chief Chris Cas...: Thanks. So we've asked ourselves that question a number of times as well. Okay? To be fair. So I can tell you when we had the event occur in June, we reached out. A gas well is not something that a municipal government has any experience with or expertise in. So we are going to school, including things like finding historical pieces. We did reach out to the province, the province stepped up and offered to provide gas monitoring and support. We started gas monitoring on the site, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, every 15 minutes doing what we could do to try and protect the community. And that was with primarily our volunteer fire services and some contracting services from a company called HSE. So that went on for three weeks on the 28th of June. We also had, by that time it had been a month and we were saying, "What do we do next?"

And we reached out to a number of engineering companies, to the provincial government in multiple ministries. And we said, "This is what we've done. What else could we do?" And the advice we received in June was, do not go inundate.

This could be a one time only event and it could have been building up for years and then you could never come back again. At the time, I don't even think we knew about the 1932, '33, '35, events. So we went back. We did hear about it in June, but people started coming forward with information. But I can tell you, I wasn't born then, I didn't live in the area.

Speaker 4: Neither were we.

Chief Chris Cas...: I get it.

Speaker 4: But we knew about it.

Chief Chris Cas...: You may have. It came up for us in June and we started looking, the provincial government was there. They showed us that there was some records as well with respect to the wells. So we did start looking at things, but at the time in June, we were told that you should not go in and disturb the ground. That's why we didn't do it. The best advice we got when we had the second event on July the 16th, and we had the additional release. Obviously it was something that was going to be recurring and it had to be dealt with. That's when we went back to the province, Jennifer and her team have been working ever since that time to try and find a way to have a solution for this. And the planning started back after that second event.

And we were going to school as well. What's very unusual in Ontario is, to have a gas leak of this nature that occurs in a very built up, urban area, was unique. Most of the time, our friends in Leamington, as Dave would tell you is, we've had two similar gas leaks in Leamington, but it was in a farmer's field, right? So still dangerous, but not nearly the same sort of risk that we're talking about. So that's why it didn't happen in June, it started in July. When the explosion occurred on the 26th of August, it was work on a way to try and find a team to come in and mitigate it. So that's the answer to your question. That's why it didn't happen then.

Speaker 4: Okay. That was great, thank you. So another question I have to actually piggyback that gentleman there. So you are turning off the water, which is great, that's fantastic. What about the gas? Are you turning the gas off at the homes? The utilities that these residents are continuing to pay, is that going to be retro pay? The property taxes that the individuals have to pay, is that going to be retro pay? So I mean, you guys are putting a lot of money into this and that is fantastic, but there's a lot of money out there that's getting spent that is not going to get paid back.

Chief Chris Cas...: If you'd like to pass the mic then we'll answer the question.

Speaker 4: Okay. Well, I'm done.

Chief Chris Cas...: My colleague reminded me one of the other... To your first question, I'm sorry. One of the other situations we had in June, the leak also occurred on private property. So in, in the province of Ontario, part of that responsibility goes to a private landowner. In fairness to the property, we had two properties where the initial gas leak occurred in June. One was the former site of the [inaudible 00:43:34], the other was adjacent to it in between the two buildings where they built the new motel. There was another gas leak there on private property. We don't necessarily have any right to go in and just sort of dig up the private property, right? That was part of the other piece, unless there's an immediate risk to people's lives and safety. So that was another consideration with respect to the gas and the water wells, the gas company, the water company, have all said no costs.

That was shut off since the evacuation order was put in place. There's no cost for that. There was another motion by council, as Council [Harrigan 00:44:12] said, you received a lot of support from all the council. That basically there's the tax issue. It basically said, there's no penalties for taxes. We're looking at the overall package of support can be provided to people and we're trying to provide you with the maximum amount of support. That includes the support from the provincial government, from the municipal government, and also from people's private insurance.

This is, to the best of our knowledge, there's no one sort of seen at fault. I think everybody's kind of looking around and saying, who needs to pay the bills and who's doing it? That will eventually get worked out, but it's not like someone did something wrong or whatever. This is something that's been around for 65 years plus since the wells were tapped. So we're trying to work through that, but the costs that you're talking about are very real. And we tried to find ways to make sure that those don't happen and there's no more additional financial hardship on people that are already suffering enough. I do appreciate your questions.

Speaker 4: Well, what if there is more money? The property taxes, you're going to try not to incur any more costs, you're going to try to do this. You need to do it. Are we going to get our property taxes back? What about the homeowners that live here? And they want to sell their homes?

Chief Chris Cas...: So thanks for asking the question, but what we tried to focus on right now is making sure that people remain safe, that there's not out of pocket expenses. And whether it's the work that [Lauren 00:45:47] and the community are doing to raise money to do this, or the money that slowed, the municipality spent a few million dollars already. We're not trying to get rich off of somebody else's hardship. We're trying to provide a variety of support, but there are still a lot of unanswered questions about what's going to be insured, what's not, and the scope of the insurance. So all levels of government and the community itself have been trying to help one another. And we're trying to do everything we can, we are not trying to have a hardship on that, but we just tried to do it

systematically and make sure that we're covering off people's immediate needs as well.

Speaker 6: Lauren, I have a question from social media, if I may?

Lauren: Yeah. Do you want to do it on the mic so they can hear it outside?

Speaker 6: Thank you. I just have a question that has been posted from Julie on social media. I believe this question is going to either be for Jennifer, maybe Chief Case. Do you believe that there is a realistic expectation that more homes may eventually be evacuated during the digging and inspection of the explosion area?

Chief Chris Cas...: I didn't hear the question.

Lauren: Jennifer? Sorry-

Jennifer Barton: Sure. So, great question and thanks to Julie online for asking it. At this point, we don't expect that we have to change the evacuation area as Chief Case mentioned earlier. But I think one of the important things that a number of people have said, as we go through every step of the investigation, we find out new details. We find out where the gas is coming from, and we adjust the safety plan based on that. And there's safety meetings and safety discussions happening daily. So at this point, I'm hopeful that we don't have to displace anybody else and the evacuation zone does not need to change, but your safety will be our number one priority. And if it does, we will quickly come and chat with you about what needs to happen. So hopefully that helps answer Julie's question.

Alyssa: Thank you. I'm [Alyssa Lucky 00:47:55]. I'm actually the parent of a young couple that bought a house on the street. So I'm here on behalf of my son that can't be here tonight. A couple questions, the main thing, first I want to say thanks for everything that everyone's done, especially strong and the community's been great. My son's family was one that never went to anybody. So we expected after two weeks, we'd probably go back and it didn't happen. So then we thought, "Oh, we got to do something," right? So what did we do? We called the insurance company. It's not going so well. So first off they said it was an evacuation, there's no coverage, there's coverage for explosion. So they're kind enough to think about giving my son a 30 day courtesy of housing for the maximum of \$3,000.

Also if I asked certain questions, because my kids are young, so I'm here to help my kids. So I had the main questions. So what happens after 30 days? Well, that's not their problem right now. So there's not even looking at it until they can enter that home. I said, "Okay. So if you're saying it's evacuation and not explosion, my son has lost windows and doors, cracks. We don't even know what else, because he was evacuated immediately along with his family that

was there." Their thing is, the first opportunity that they get in this house, so which is maybe they'll qualify and get in this house. They are to board the windows immediately, or there's going to be for sure, no coverage. That's the first thing they said, this is all state insurance. Secondly, I said, "So what happens to all the damage from the weather coming through the windows and stuff that are broken?"

Well, they have record that my son remembers that there's broken windows. So, that's from the explosion. What happens from the evacuation, the weathering afterwards, they have no idea. So bottom line, it's been a big run around. So we've contacted the case worker, they've been great, like I said, we were a family that never went to anybody. And so they ended up every... All the community, I don't know, everyone's got a little bit of money, it's great. It helps out, whatever. But at the end of the day... So this hour that he might get, he has to board the windows, or it sounds like his insurance is going to be void from any weathering damage, any critters that go in, anything. We asked it all. And the reply is, it was not the explosion that caused that. So those, I guess, are the big concerns for the long haul for a young family that's here. Our grandson's first day of school was at his grandparents house instead of him. It affects everyone.

Thomas Kelly: So thank you for that input. When I started my presentation on the plan, I said it was still a work in process. So I don't know if you could leave your name at the end, but we are looking at what we can do in that one hour, including giving you help to remove your belongings and hire additional labor. In my mind, I didn't know that. And if that's a common condition-

Alyssa: I have it in an email.

Thomas Kelly: Maybe you could forward it to us because we're... I'll take that back and see what we can do. Okay? Thank you.

Chief Chris Cas...: So part of the... The lady with the green on, part of the reason we've been doing what we've done with respect to how the support gets done, we've heard a couple of concerns from people that their insurance company has been very difficult to deal with. So in our mind, the insurance does have some responsibilities, right? So if they don't pick certain things up, part of the areas that we might be able to provide additional assistance is to channel some of our money where the insurance is not going to do their work and we do some other work.

So if there's going to be some things that we're trying to work through, we're not by any way shape or form, walking away from this. We're here to provide support. But if you leave your name and contact information, your address, we can take a look at boarding up windows as well. That's something that has been done at a number of the residences. So that's something we can certainly do.

Alyssa: Okay.

Chief Chris Cas...: But if you have a concern with your insurance company, please make sure your case worker knows that, because we have been working with the Insurance Bureau of Canada and their adjudicator, the person that sort of oversees that, and we've been told that there is an expectation they treat people fairly in this situation.

Alyssa: Actually I forgot one more thing they said. It's one year. The claim is one year from the date of the explosion on the 26th. So [inaudible 00:53:03] in a year?

Chief Chris Cas...: Understood. Okay, thank you.

Lauren : Hi, my name is Stephanie. I am a resident currently in the evacuation zone, my husband and my two small kids have been out ever since. So I really appreciate you guys being here today to talk to us face to face, although mask, but whatever, we'll call it a win, about the real issues that we are actively dealing with right now. I know all this stuff about what happened before and what's going to happen next are big issues, but we have super big issues in terms of our day to day lives right now that, so we really appreciate you talking to us about that. And on that vein, I think my question is much more practical. I just want to know about this plan. When you said that houses are identified as red and green and you had some houses already identified as red, but then you also said that people are going to go into the homes and possibly identify those homes as red at that time.

So I'm just curious about how the houses that have already been identified as red, have been identified as red? A secondary question, sort of related. So on top of all this, right? I have a full-time job, my husband has a full-time job, I have two small kids in school and daycare, and we've been dealing with insurance and rental and moving three times and utilities and you know, a sleepless child, blah, blah, blah, blah. So when we go into our homes though, there's no hydro, so therefore no light at certain times of the day. And with the daylight savings time creeping up on us next week, that really limits the time that we can go into our homes and on top of the already limited timelines. So I have some very real concerns about my absenteeism from work, my husband's absenteeism from work, and making this happen in a very practical way that does not already add extra stress to our already incredibly stressful lives.

Thomas Kelly: Thank you for the question [inaudible 00:55:10] So there was a lot of echo, but I think your first question was with regard to, there are some homes, primarily, it's say, the area around the explosion. As you can imagine, those are designated as red. We're still working through that process. And there is a-

Lauren : From the outside. They were identified as red, not on the inside.

Chief Chris Cas...: Correct.

Thomas Kelly: On the outside, correct. So our goal is when you give us that access and give us your key, we'll go in there and make sure it's safe for you to go. So what would be an unsafe condition would be, extreme amount of mold, another one could be the ceiling has fallen in or something like that. So once we determine that, we will call you though. It is our goal to get you into that home. So we're going to look at mitigation options too. So, I mean, can you wear a mask? Can you wear a respirator? What can we do to get you in there? That's our ultimate goal. Does that answer your first question?

Lauren : Yep.

Thomas Kelly: Okay. And on the access. So the access must be done during the day because there is no hydro, right? And this is where our friend, the case workers, will do a fantastic job. I'm sure there's some of you who could come in Monday to Friday sometime they're during the day, but there's going to be some who can only come on Saturday and Sundays, right? So we're going to work with you on that. So that's going to be some of the questions they're going to ask you. Okay. When are you available to come in? We're going to work with you on this.

Lauren : Great, can you hire babysitters [inaudible 00:56:45] they're adorable. They're animals and they're adorable. [crosstalk 00:56:49]

Jennifer Barton: I can take away.

Thomas Kelly: My friend, [inaudible 00:56:59] Smith. Do you want answer that? Or-

Speaker 7: Thanks. That was actually a great question and I think we're joking about childcare, but we do have childcare.

Speaker 5: Can you please stand up?

Speaker 7: Sure. Childcare is part of the community human services. So, if we could find a location then that might be a possibility. So thank you for bringing that up. We'll take a look. [crosstalk 00:57:28]

Ms. Lewis: Hi everyone. My name's Jennifer Lewis. I am a third generation oil and gas producer here in Ontario, and we control about 85% of the Ontario oil and natural gas production. First of all, I wanted to say, everyone here, I'm not from this community, my partner is. I feel extremely badly for you and everything you're going through and I can't believe it. Our, obviously, business has been affected by this and the stigma [inaudible 00:58:20] to what is going on immediately and there's an oil, gas, and salt resources library, where he looked up and found the three potentially orphaned wells that were in this parking lot. And we sent that to government, which is great. And everyone has been doing their best. And I truly believe that, to bring this to a resolution. But my main question is, so this is affecting our daily business as well in that there's negative

publicity and we have landowners concerned about the safety of the wells, which are all up to MRF standards.

And everything that we're doing, we're doing as safely as possible in trying to respond well. We submitted a proposal, we have plugging rigs, and we have the ability to sort out the situation. My brother actually, it's a family business. I'm third generation, my grandfather started it. I work with my mother and my two siblings. My brother plugged wells up on Manitoulin Island for two years with wooden casing and similar [inaudible 00:59:46] issues. And we've submitted these proposals and we do have the ability to deal with this, as do other companies in the industry. And we're not saying we want the business, we're busy enough, but what we're really wanting to ask is once the problems have been.

PART 2 OF 5 ENDS [01:00:04]

Jennifer: Really wanting to ask is once the problems have been identified, which we believe they should be close to, there is a timeline associated with remediation and abandonment and we're just wondering A: how much time you're planning for that? Because in theory for three Wells like this, it should be four months kind of maximum, but other companies quote longer timelines. Once the situations identified and B: that will take us into early next year and we're just wondering what your thoughts are on that?

Speaker 8: Thank you.

Jennifer Barton: I don't know, they're all looking at me, so maybe I'll try and answer and then pass it over if somebody else has more to add. So thanks Jennifer for the question. I think you've said a lot of things that I would echo in terms of the experience and the knowledge that exists with a number of companies who are able to do their remediation work. So, we are planning for that and we will be working with companies who we've worked with in the past and I'm not sure exactly which ones will be the ones we go with. So there's a process to get us there and we'll work through that process. So I think you'll see us get there. In terms of timeline, I think it's a little bit harder to answer that question until we have the final results from our expert consultants on site.

So we're feeling like few weeks away and what I'll say to you is there's nothing that I'm not sharing tonight that I know at this point. So as soon as I know information, we're happy to be able to share it with you; and as soon as we have a better sense of the timeline, we're more than happy to share that with everybody in the room. So, I'm not putting a firm timeline on things. We are working as quickly as we can. The results of the investigation now are really going to determine what those next steps are going to look like and what the timeline associated with those is going to be. But you have our commitment. I know the municipality every day is reminding us about the urgency and everybody's very focused on getting everybody back to their homes as soon as possible. So it will move as quickly as it possibly can.

Larry Franklin: Hello, my name's Larry Franklin. I'm here today [inaudible 01:02:46] line of question. It looks like you've done a lot for safety and whatnot. The only problem I have with that is a lot of the questions that were asked. It may be we're going to want to think through it. You've had two months. How come these questions cannot be answered? Did you not think of them? I'm just curious as to why you've had too much, you don't have an answer to these questions.

Jennifer Barton: So, I might be able to take a stab.

Larry Franklin: Okay. Let her answer the question.

Jennifer Barton: So again, I'll just say, I can't speak for everybody at the table and I'm happy to pass it down to municipal as well. The results of the investigation sort of determine next steps. So did we think we'd be still sitting here back in August? We had hoped not, but as they go through the investigation, as they detected gas at one of the apex I talked about earlier, that does add time to the investigation; and so there's lots of people working and you've heard sort of all the different supports that people have talked about. Lots of people working on what are the next steps; and really I'm here and I know others are here tonight to listen to you to hear what some of your needs are and to take those away and see what we can do. So that would be my perspective is it's just been a process and as we work through the investigation, different things and different needs as we go into a new season, different needs are starting to come up and we're hoping to be able to address those as we go throughout the process.

Speaker 9: Thank you. I would also say that this is like no other animal that you've ever dealt with, and that it's gas. It's explosive the same time we're dealing with H2S which is a poisonous. So it's a very methodical step by step process. We've even brought experts in from Alberta who deal with it on a regular basis to help us evaluate, ensure the safety and day by day, we are getting closer to the solution, but it's not something that you can go in there with a backhoe and start digging up. What can happen is worst case that you have essentially a geyser of gas come out, you could have another explosion, you could try plugging it and only find it goes to another area.

It's a very important step by step process and it's unfortunate it can't be done faster, but we're going to do it safely. That's what we're doing. So we're being very careful. We spend a lot of time on safety plans, all of our contractors coming in, we're always looking at, okay, what if this happens? What could occur? And trust me, we know what can occur. We can have an explosion. So everything we're doing is to ensure that nobody else gets hurt; and it just takes some time to do that. Thank you.

Speaker 10: Right. We're going to go to [inaudible 01:06:08]

Speaker 11: So we're just trying to be fair for those that we're unable to attend tonight. So we have another question. This is for Michelle on Facebook. Could the town video chat the homeowner, just show them their homes for the first time that they enter the home; especially for the older individuals who are not physically capable to do so?

Speaker 9: Thank you for that question. That's another one I'm adding to the list. I'll probably need to check that we can even do that to be honest. In this day and age, it's taking video of a private residence. We would probably need your approval to do that. That form, I talked about that our legal team is creating. It's a possibility, so I'm not ruling it out. I just need to check with some of my experts on that. Thank you.

Speaker 12: Petition on the door.

Speaker 13: Did you have another question?

Larry Franklin: Sorry, I wasn't finished up before. What I wanted is what's number one in the priority list? You're doing all sorts of safety and all that. What about the gap?

How come a specialist wasn't brought in right away? Like these people that were just before me, that's what they do, and they're local. How come they were never, nobody like that was ever commissioned because as far as having two months, I can't believe it. I worked in the oil fields for a long time. We didn't even have two days if we had a problem with stuff and it had to be solved, and I'm talking on here in the lake, on the bottom of the lake. So how nothing has been done about the gas in two months, I'm puzzled. Yeah.

Chief Chris Cas...: So there was an expert brought in as early as June. There have been experts working on the problem ever since. So there has [inaudible 01:08:42] Golden and associates is the name of the company, they've got a worldwide operation. They're experts in the oil and gas industry. The individual engineer that we brought in from Alberta actually, literally wrote the regulations for Alberta, has had over 35 years of experience dealing with this work. The work is going as quickly as possible. Sir, the frustration that you are feeling about not getting an answer, we've felt every day since June the second. We are working on this. This is the top priority for the municipality. We are concerned about the safety of the citizen. We've said that many times, but we also are trying to find a way to get to the answer so that we're not repeating what happened in 1930s, where we have another event. We're trying to get this done so people can get safely back to their homes.

Larry Franklin: Okay.

Chief Chris Cas...: So I understand your frustrations, sir, but we're sharing it and you telling us that you wish it was faster. I can't speed that up. I'm sorry. We really have been doing that since June.

Larry Franklin: You said Somebody told you.

Speaker 14: [inaudible 01:11:06] and your town exploded?

Speaker 15: Ms. Please.

Chief Chris Cas...: If you'd like to come to the microphone, we'd be happy to answer your question with respect to the events in June. In June, when they had the first event, we did speak with not only all of the ministry staff that we could reach and consult with in the province, but also with Golder and other people. We had several people from university of Windsor that are also involved in gas exploration. We reached out and said, what can we do? Please understand this is not part of our core business. We were going to school and we were saying, please tell us what we can do. In June, after the one event, they said, leave it and see what happens; and that was the event. We said we monitored the gas for a month and after a month, we said, there was no reason for us to be able to keep people out of their home because it looked like there was no immediate risks.

After the second event, that was a big time game changer; and that's when things changed dramatically in terms of trying to step things up. So ever since June, we've been asking the questions, and we've had experts in the field. This is something we're going to school on and we're on receipt. We're trying to do this as quickly as we can.

Larry Franklin: Okay. You said that someone recommend you do not dig?

Chief Chris Cas...: In June, they said do not dig after the first attempt. That changed in July, and that's when that change indirection occurred.

Larry Franklin: Oh, okay.

Speaker 13: Thank you. I guess there's another social media question.

Speaker 16: Pardon me.

Speaker 11: Thank you Lauren.

Speaker 16: One question.

Speaker 11: On social media Jane writes; we live on hillside, very close to Wheatley school. During this digging and further investigations; can you assure the town and parents that staff and students are completely safe at that school. Chief Case, perhaps yourself?

Chief Case: Thank you.

So immediately after the explosion, those of you who live just outside of the area will have been receiving a visit from a firefighter or a member of the municipality. A plan was formed so that we could do a fast evacuation if one is needed and that included, engaging with the local schools and some of the local care homes. So if anybody feels like they need more information, then we're happy to give that. What we want to be able to do is that in the event, the unlikely event, that we have to extend the evacuation because if something appears that we were unaware of, we want people to be ready, but we have been in contact with the schools and the local care homes to make sure that they are part of the plan. That's one of the reasons why we operate the command center in the library, 24 hours a day, that there's always someone there to initiate that plan. Should it be needed?

Speaker 13: Thank you.

Steve Ingore: My name is Steve Ingore. I am evacuated. I'm not here to thank you for being here because you should be here. Okay? Every one of you because you're very responsible for this and you know it. Don't look at us and say, we're frustrated because you just don't even know what it's like. Okay? You don't know what these people and myself and my family are going through. When you're enjoying your little Thanksgiving dinners and everything, everyone here was rallying together to take food out of each other. We don't need your thanks. We need you to do action. We need you to get things done. You're now hiding behind the safety. There was no safety for three months.

Speaker 17: Great.

Steve Ingore: Okay. You have three months and now there's no trial. Everything safe this, safe this, we're urgent, we're urgent. There was no urgency. There was no safety. There was no plan.

When I ran out on the street, there was nothing but mayhem. There was no police. There was just four folks in Wheatley running around wondering why they live in this life, and that's what we're living. It's a nightmare and you do not know. So, don't tell us how frustrated you are. You're just doing your job and you're being paid for that and we expect the job to be done better, to be honest. It's frustrating we've seen certain things on the screen, we can't get refrigerators out. Let's have some common sense to this whole approach. Work with the insurance companies. There's people here from the insurance industry that would work with you. Get those refrigerators out. We're now talking months here. We've all heard it. You're pushing back. You're ruining our homes, which will have zero value, which you're taking taxes from us on; you just keep coming at us with all these things that you say that you're doing, but you're doing nothing.

There's lots of plans and we know all what's behind this, it's money. Who's paying for this; and this has been the underlying thing. And again, maybe

supposition, but is it the Ontario government? Is it CK? Everybody's worried whose budget.

Okay? It's time. All that BS got put aside and you all started working together. Why isn't there an expert? You say there's experts. Why isn't there an expert talking to us tonight? Nothing against you personally, but we need to hear it from the horses mouth. Them saying, this is what's happening, and this is how you correct these kind of things and this is what it will take in the way of time. We cannot put on lives on hold. Look at these people. We don't want to be doing these meetings every two months and you've given us excuses. It's just pathetic. We're not going to put up with it. You've ruined our town and it's time you build it back up again and did something about it.

Speaker 17: Right!

Steve Ingore: Okay. I don't have a lot of questions apart from you questioned yourself and asked yourself why you put us in this position. Okay. Thank you.

Jennifer Barton: I don't think you had a question. It was just a comment. Just a comment.

Speaker 13: Okay, moving on.

Melissa Harriga...: Can I have the mic please? Yeah.

Speaker 13: Thank you Melissa.

Melissa Harriga...: Hi Steve. The answer that I'm going to give you is not good enough.

Thank you. Absolutely, and I will say as an elected official, who has been working with heroes in this community, I am feeling deeply. But I'm not living it, and I know that and I acknowledge that, and I want to tell this whole room and the town of Wheatley that I feel for you as an elected official. I also want to acknowledge that in conversations that I've had with the municipality, that Don, that Thomas, that their team have done nothing, but say, how can we do more? How can we get the province involved? Who are the experts? Who needs to know?

I don't want anyone to guess what the problem is, dump concrete on it, and 60 years from now, my grandkids who could be living in Wheatley have the same darn problem again. So when people are talking about the method that they're taking, it's because we need to fix this town and regenerate it, for good, not just for a year, not for a month, not for a generation, forever. Because if Wheatley is going to come back and build back stronger, then we need to take these steps; and I am so sorry that it is disrupting your lives in so many ways and I can't imagine, I truly can't, but I can say that we're trying and that the work that people are doing, staff, volunteers, elected officials, volunteer firefighters is with true heart. It's not because we're looking for a paycheck. It's not because

there's bonuses. Trust me. I've learned quickly as a counselor. There's nothing that lines your pockets to do this job at all.

And we need your feedback and we appreciate it even when it's hard to hear. So thank you for saying what you said to me.

Jim Oakley:

Hi, my name's Jim Oakley. I'm with Essex insurance. Hope that's a good thing. What that young lady said was true about in a policy the 30 days to a maximum of 3000. Thankfully our company did not take that stance.

And hopefully with your help you can talk the other insurance companies into doing the same thing to help these people. A couple concerns I have as an insurance adjuster; I represent quite a few people in this room is: you're saying, you're going to give them an hour to go into the house. Not everybody's going to want to. There could be some psychological damage in that, it could devastate them. So I guess if my first question is: can they assign their adjuster to go in? And with that being said, why can we not bring our own contractors into winter risings houses with one of your officials that have to be on site anyway? Allow us say, Hey, next Tuesday is a safe day. I'll bring in two, three contractors I use and we'll go through every one of our insured's house with one of your officials on site, for safety, allow us to winterize the house ourselves. Because you are going to winterize them and next spring, when there's leaks from frozen pipes or whatever might happen, should that happen, you've now accepted that liability to do all the repairs caused by that.

My other question is basements. Basements are flooded right now, I have a few insureds that have a few inches of water, just stagnant sitting down there. Are you going to A: pump them out before they freeze and start popping foundation blocks? If you do pump them out, do you have a plan on going back weekly to inspect, to make sure there isn't any more water in the basement? Because you may pump it out today and it might be back next week and then it's frozen and again, we have foundation issues. During that hour of allowing our contractors in there to winterize the house and get everything prepped, make sure windows are sealed, so rodents don't get in. We should be allowed to take that fridge out and that freezer because that stench.

I mean, maggots and flies. I see it all the time for other different types of claims. That smell is now getting into all the soft fabrics, into your furniture, into your flooring, into your clothes and everything's going to be a complete right off. So for the sake of 10 minutes to put that fridge or freezer on a cart and drag it out of there, you could be saving a lot of money and damages. So I guess that's my comments and I'd really like the opportunity to work with our insureds to do what's right for them.

Speaker 9:

Thank you. Thank you for the comments. When we came up with the plan, first of all I said in my presentation "or a representative". So I fully understand if you do not wish to go into your home, you can send a delegate, and that can be anyone. So that answers that first question. So that's fine. Your other

suggestions are good suggestions it's something we went through, but the issue for it would be nice if you insured every single home and then the plan would work. Our concern was we could have 15 different companies and trying to schedule that would be a nightmare. We actually thought we were doing the residents a favor by saying, we'll take care of that. We'll do that. You don't have to worry about it, you don't have to pay for it. So I'm on receive mode for that as well.

Based on the advice of our fire group too, is that when you say we'll take a fridge out, well, now you've got to bring an extra truck in. Now you've got to bring two extra people. So our intent was one vehicle in, load it up and get out. Again, it was all based on safety. That was the logic behind it. I'm going to take your suggestions though, we're going to think about it and see if it could work. But what you described is a lot more people, a lot more variables, right? And your folks, your contractors might be different and operate different than other contractors. What we wanted was some consistency. People who understood the situation, who could do the job and again, it was all about safety for us.

So I will take your suggestions. I'm going to talk to the chief about it, see what he thinks about that, but you can appreciate that we don't want people in that zone who don't know what they're doing. We don't want additional vehicles in that zone. What you described is really adding to the complexity of the problem. I'm not ruling it out. I'm saying that's what we came up with based on our safety plan. So thanks for your suggestions.

Jim Oakley: I mean, it's really not an extra vehicle. That truck has a trailer on the back of it to throw that fridge in. So there's no extra stab, no extra vehicle, same people in there. And the contractors that we use are restoration professionals that do this for a living. So, if I have 20 residents here, again, give me two days, give me a day. I'll blitz it as long as you've got a staff member for your safety stuff, we'll blitz it. In, out. No question, and it'll save everybody time, money, and give a lot of people some comfort.

Speaker 9: And thank you for the suggestion. In my mind, what's turning right now is how many companies are like this? So when we do the interviews with you, Polly's group is going to handle those interviews. My thought is, we're going to ask those same questions about your insurance and if they're making the same offer. So that's something you could do tonight. What the gentleman just mentioned, ask your own insurance company those questions, and maybe we can work out a plan on that. Okay. Thank you.

Speaker 18: Yeah. Hi, my name is [inaudible 01:25:00]. I'm a local lifelong resident here in the Wheatley. And to reiterate, appreciate your efforts. All you've been doing here. I do have a question though, spent a lot of years in communication and Mr. Strap, I understand that you spent 24 years as the national director for the Canadian red cross disaster team. So quite qualified to know the importance of communication with our residents. Which comes to my question: why has there been no photos, videos, diagrams, charts, bar graphs, pictures of the giant laser

beams and all the ground penetrating technology and all that stuff? And the secrecy behind, we can't even see it. We can't see anything. We don't know what these houses look like inside. Mr. Kelly made reference to a pending environmental disaster it's which we're approaching. Maybe not in those words, but seriously, that's what it's become. So my question is where are the notes from the CK emergency management plan? Every director supposed to take daily notes. Why isn't that daily communication like CK police do on Blackburn every day, and photos. Is there aliens on the ground, maybe?

Just lightening it up.

Chief Chris Cas...: Hi. So I didn't hear the last part you were alluding at.

Speaker 18: Maybe there's aliens underground.

Chief Chris Cas...: So with respect to the communication, I'll tell you that every disaster that I worked on, the communication is a big deal. It's a really big deal. We have been ramping up communication since June.

Thank you for the information Mr. Kelly, for people of the work site. With respect to homes, that's a matter Mr. Kelly's also reviewed, but with respect to the showing what people have, that's something we can think back and see if we can share with you. But the information, what we've tried to do, is that we've talked to business owners and say, if you've got a question, you've got a case worker, they'll deal with individual issues. Same thing with Polly and her team with respect to case workers, and we'll do the daily updates. I regularly have. There's people in this [inaudible 01:27:32] security, there's concern, whatever it is, and you get an immediate response.

So I take your point, but if you have a question I ask you to please send it through. We've also got on our main website or calling municipality directly. We will get back to you with a direct answer. One of our frustrations is there's lots of information that circulates as rumors or people are providing information that they really shouldn't be for talking or on an occasion we've had some people going in to take some pictures. This happened back in July, where they were going onto a site where God forbid they didn't get blown up. So I take your point about the pictures. We'll try and do something on that front. But if you have specific questions, please write to us, I'll answer the calls myself. We've got a team of people that are prepared to do that. We are trying to get you information out and we're trying to do it as efficiently as we can.

Speaker 13: Okay. I'm going to go outside. Sorry. There're some questions over.

Speaker 19: Hi there. I have a question about the security guys that we have guarding our town. Several of them have been caught sleeping on the job. I am a business owner in downtown Wheatley and we're very concerned about our buildings being compromised and yet the police can't go in because it's a hotpot.

Speaker 20: There's water right?

Speaker 13: Did you hear it? Did you get a marker?

Melissa Harriga...: Yeah, we heard it. We need the mic.

Chief Chris Cas...: We need the microphone back.

Okay. So we do have a member of the police services that's online. I'm not sure if he can hear the question. You had some problems with that. But every time we have found a security staff person has been sleeping, they have been terminated. Absolutely not acceptable. We'd ask that you contact call or chat, Kent police services. They will take immediate action. The reason they are there is because you recognize people are not at their homes to protect your property and that's why they're supposed to be there, is to do that, and if they're sleeping, they can't do it. Completely unexceptionable.

Speaker 21: Why aren't the police allowed to go in.

PART 3 OF 5 ENDS [01:30:04]

Chief Chris Cas...: Totally unacceptable.

Speaker 22: Why are the police allowed to go in? They have the door open on our buildings. They said they couldn't go check it themselves because cops are there.

Chief Chris Cas...: The police need your permission to go in into a property, unless they believe that there's actually a break-in or something along those lines. They need your permission, they just can't go into people's property.

Speaker 22: We've been giving, they had permits.

Chief Chris Cas...: If you have a specific, I'm going to come over and I'm going to ask you to write that down for me, that specific piece. But what I've been, because I dealt with one of these last Friday night at about seven o'clock, I had a gentleman say it was kids on the roof next to the wall bank, and that was a concern. He had the apartment next door, I talk to him directly. So I'll deal with those as quickly as can be. But contact, if you have any concerns about somebody being near your property please, or the security guards falling asleep, that's a call that goes directly to Chatham-Kent Police Services. I'll come and get your information and thank you.

Erica: Hey Don, it's Erica, I probably don't need this on. Hey Don, it's Erica, I want to follow up on that. So calls have been made to the CK Police, and nothing's been done. So I just want to echo again, but this business owner has said that there are millions and millions of dollars in the assets uptown right now, that are literally being watched by people sleeping. CK Police needs to be back on this. I

understand it's expensive. I've got way too much, a lot. Everybody has way too much. It's unacceptable. It's unacceptable. You got to spend the money. You have to spend the money. Spend what you can, okay. Spend what you have. Hey, because if it doesn't, if nothing happens here with the police, you know me, I can go a little higher.

Speaker 23: [inaudible 01:32:08] from Walker street Over in foster going into the properties. We've had it. It is historical. It's been going on forever, and it's even more now.

Speaker 24: It's easier now.

Erica: There's just so much to lose guys. And for people to be in their car sleeping, it's absolutely unacceptable. And I'll just stomp my feet a little bit louder if I have to, because it's just... You have police here tonight. I know they're not being paid as much as they would be if they were had been sitting in their car up there, I know the hours aren't as long, but I'm a little more concerned up there than what could happen here Tonight to maybe these folks. I see the police here. So I think they need be protecting our assets uptown as well. Thank you.

Speaker 25: Point taken, thank you.

Speaker 26: While, I make my way, I think this question, is a convenient question for Jennifer? People want to know, is there an opportunity to access Federal Funding?

Jennifer Barton: Well, it's not really a Jennifer question. I mean, I can speak on behalf of the Province.

Speaker 27: Our MP is here.

Jennifer Barton: I hear the MP is here. I'm happy to turn the mic over if he'd like.

Dave App: Thanks, I'm Dave App and I have the honor to represent this great community. And thanks to Lauren for bringing the evening on. The question that I believe I heard it is, what is the Federal Government doing or are there opportunities there? So let me start with this two things, first of all, I care. Second of all, our office has been monitoring the situation, basically, since the get-go, since the first week of June. Thirdly, as a Federal Government on the bigger picture we have to wait until the process that you've heard about comes to a fruition and conclusion that you've heard from Jennifer that is working on that. Believe me folks, I will be there doing what I can once we know what that is. So that is unfortunately what I have to do as the Federal Government right now. I am lucky, I'm not displaced. I live in Mead and I should be in Iowa right now asking the question why the Abandoned Works Program doesn't apply to Ontario. I will be asking that.

Speaker 28: Was that a... [Inaudible 00:04:53].

Okay, so I want to cycle back here to the question about communication. You said about rumor spreading and there was a couple of media releases about rumors and I, really just have a hard time with that because the thing is, is that properly informed individuals?

Speaker 29: They spread rumors?

Speaker 31: Yes.

Speaker 28: I'm going to say that again; properly informed individuals do not need to spread rumors. There is no room for speculation when people are properly informed. And I have to say that when you say that when you say-

Speaker 31: Oh they do want emails.

Speaker 28: They don't want emails that say like nothing is in them like-

Speaker 31: I'm sick and tired of...

Speaker 28: Emails that say there's no further messages to communicate today because the fact is that there is. And I'm going to provide an example for you. I've heard all this wonderful information, other things that were going on site and it filled my heart with happiness.

But I challenge you that in those emails, you should have said something like "We continued on site Today, we dug a trench." Right? Or if nothing happens, you could say "Nothing happened Today. The rain was bad and we couldn't work Today." Or like "We were gathering data Today, so we were at our computers." There is no reason why you can't provide a little bit of information in each email to let us know that you are doing something. Because that information fills our hearts, and we know that mental health right now for all of us is a really big problem. And this is one small thing that you can do to help us feel better. And it hurts none of you. It hurts none of you, it is a simple task for you to do. Continue your everyday emails, but fill them with actual information, because we know, we heard today, something is happening every day and when it's not, you can tell us why it's not.

Jennifer Barton: So I think it's a great comment, I'm happy to collaborate with the Municipality and we can look at what's possible. To set expectations, I don't want to take our time away from our experts in terms of actually doing the investigation, but I think there is lots we could get over and fill some of those emails with. So we'll work with Don and his team and see what we can do.

Speaker 31: Thank you.

Crystal Tan: Right? So I got told I wasn't following the rules, so I'm following the rules. What I find really interesting is that you guys are taking notes about all of the things

that people are saying that should be happening. Why are you taking notes? This should be happening. You should be like, yes, we are doing this. Yes, we are doing that. And in regards to the sleeping security guards, my husband actually, I'm Crystal Tan, and my husband is Chuck Tan. Some of you know who that is, some you know who I am. And he had a suggestion, which I thought was really, really smart. Why don't we get some of the residents of Wheatley, who actually care about this town, to sit and guard the houses that are being broken into that. That items are getting stole from. Why don't we have somebody who actually wants to be here that will be there and will pay attention?

Speaker 33: We don't know you. You are a loser. Why would I have a stranger guard my home instead of a cop? [crosstalk 01:38:23] Seriously? No thank you. Sit down.

Speaker 26: Does anyone want to... [inaudible 01:38:42]

Douglas Walker: Hi everybody, my name is Douglas Walker, I'm owner of Walker Tech and Mechanical in town. I'm not going to raise my voice. I just want to reiterate, first of all, I want to thank the Deputy Minister for being here. We very much appreciate your presence, I heard a lot of good things about you. You are a go-getter and that's the first thing I heard from the local people. So we are really fortunate to have her here. So thank you for being here. I just want to reiterate. What I heard you say is that we have Apex One, Two and Three has been mitigated to a greater extent. So we have to find the pathways between Apex Two and Apex One. In my mind that's about 75 feet. Am I close? Right. So we're looking for pathways from Two to One, but the complication is probably at what depth is that occurring, am I correct?

And there in that line, that's the complicated thing. It's not 10 feet. It could be 200 feet. It's probably around 600 feet between four and six. So, that's the issue, and if we could just get that 75 feet, if we could just get over that hump, then we'd have some hope. So we're really counting on your team and just answers. I mean, I we can't go back. We can't fix what happened. It happened.

Speaker 34: What other pathways is there?

Douglas Walker: Pardon me?

Speaker 34: What other pathways could there be?

Douglas Walker: Well, that's what they're looking into could be one, could be 10, could be at this depth or that depth, and they have the technology to do that. I think the real frustration is when you drive by every single day and you see nothing. And the fellow who's in communications, that was really brilliant.

If you open up that line of communication, show the pictures of what you're doing, and then people say, wow, things are happening here. But every time I don't know about you and every time I drive by...

Speaker 35: There's nothing happening... [crosstalk 01:41:02] I never see anything.

Douglas Walker: I look away. I try not to drive downtown. It's just, it's just too overwhelming. I try not to go downtown. I go the long way around. Anyways, for number One to number Two, we're counting on you. As soon as that's done, then we can mitigate the risk. Then things are going to happen, but not until then. Until then we have this plethora of issues and security and emotions, and nothing's going to resolve itself until we get through that step. That's all we got. That's what we really need. If I got that right, 75 feet, I know it's not that easy, but we're counting on you. Thank you.

Jennifer Barton: [inaudible 01:42:00]

Thank you for the question and the very kind words I'm here because I want to be, and because as someone said earlier, it's absolutely part of my job and we all know we need to be here and move the investigation forward. We do, we have hired, we've mentioned a few times, we do have technical experts on site. So we have folks who do this kind of work on a regular basis and they continue to sort of work through that detailed, methodical investigation. I'm not sure if you had the Apec numbers right, but you're right, it's about, I don't know, 50 to 75 feet between the Municipal parking lot and the Pog Building and the, we know that there's gas in the municipal parking lot. We know that there was gas in the basement of the Pog at, before the explosion.

It's about figuring out, is the gas traveling across that 75 feet that you're referencing. Is there another source of gas? I think that's really what the investigation is looking at right now, is there another source of gas closer to the Pog that we're not aware of? Maybe this old dairy well that people have told us about? That's what they're looking for now. In terms of the depth, I've talked to our expert team about the question around depth. The team has been using ground penetrating radar and Electromagnetic Surveys to kind of find and identify any sub-surface features that maybe of interest for the investigation. So they're doing all that sort of work. They've also talked a little bit about the depth and I'm not a technical expert, so I don't... And we will bring them. Somebody mentioned that earlier, we will bring the technical experts, when they get to the end of the investigation.

We're happy to have them answer questions for you and make sure you have all the technical details that you want. But the belief is based on some of the Geological work that they've done, that they're going down right now, as far as they need to. If there's no results from that piece of the investigation, then they'll have to determine whether there's more they need to do. But at this point they believe they're doing the right steps to figure out either how that gas is migrating or whether there's another source of gas they need to find and identify.

Speaker 30: Is there a pocket underneath Wheatley or no? A pocket of gas? [crosstalk 01:44:18] or a well? ... [Crosstalk 01:44:22] through the old Town?

Jennifer Barton: There's the gas we know of gas wells. They were dug in the late 18 hundreds. They were decommissioned in 1965. There is still there, that's absolutely certain. It's how it's making its way to the surface that we're trying to figure out.

Speaker 30: But you don't know where it's coming from this gas?

Speaker 36: Correct.

Jennifer Barton: Yeah.

Speaker 36: I know there's wells there yes, but you don't know where they're tapped into?

Jennifer Barton: What reservoir are in the ground, I don't have that detail here, but our technical experts, as I said, have done some of that Geological Surveying. They may be able to talk more about that when we bring them to the table.

Speaker 36: Okay.

Janet Hannigan: Hi, I'm Janet Hannigan. I live in the gated community of Wheatley. When we talk about insurance and people being displaced, it's heartbreaking looking in my backyard and not seeing my neighbors and seeing how dark our town is. When I went to Nest, the person who parks in front of my house, daily 24 hours a day, about what happens when they see people walk through, they're instructed to call the police. By the time the police come, that person is, who knows where?

There is access to the gated community, which I feel awful that I'm complaining about this because I am in my home, and so many of you aren't, that there are people coming through. So the idea that having a police officers there, by the time they can get through and around the zones to whatever the point and whatever the cutoff, it's insufficient. There are people that are walking through those areas. One of the things that struck me, and I know you're doing this for safety, is you talked about getting insurance would be a nightmare to organize how many insurance companies you may be dealing with. Please know, these peoples are having nightmares every single night. It's well worth the effort to find out who their insurance companies are to support them. Thank you.

Speaker 37: Okay. Any other questions from anybody?

Multiple Speake...: [crosstalk 01:46:48]

Speaker 38: Regards to your steps 1, 2, 3, 4, can you give us any kind of timeline when this can start? Tomorrow would be great.

Thomas Kelly: Thanks for the question. So we have already mapped out that set of questions in the calls that we're going to take place. I have to say after Tonight though, we need to go back and look at that. Because of the suggestions from the insurance expert. So that's what we're doing. By the way, our plan was it wasn't going to

cost you anything to do that, we thought that was a good plan. I need to review that with the team, especially with respect to safety, but it was our original plan to start those calls by Friday and early next week to start those interviews. That was the plan. Again, what I said in my presentation, those one steps one through four, anything we do has to be coordinated with the work that's being done on site. So if there is some excavation being done on site, we can't touch those days, and so on. So the process, again, 1, 2, 3, 4, and the first couple of steps is really getting...

Becky Lamb: Hello. I'm Becky Lamb, married to the Mayor of Wheatley, Buggy. My question is I went in my basement, oh my, I got in three times. Every time I went in, I just stood and cried. And the last time the fellow was so awesome, he helped me put everything up on high beds so that my... I have a sewage pump. So you guys have water, I got shit. And it's coming up because it was already coming up, in the basement. It's going to be an environmental disaster. It was really bad when we went in, the fireman, Warren Dust, he said, this is very bad. I still managed to save stuff by putting it up on the couch, thinking I was going to go back in the house. I don't want my tent. I want to go in my house with my husband. That's my point there.

Thomas Kelly: Okay.

Thank you. So this is the process that we are following, you will give the authorization of who you want to go and allow that, for everybody, you can see that, not every, we don't have one recipe that works for everybody. During our questionnaires, we're going to ask that question. You want to have your insurance company accompany you, or even to manage the winterization. That's two questions now, a different path than where we're going. Again, I need to talk to my colleague in charge of safety, but I've taken that feedback and those are the questions we're going to ask. So we may have lots of variation, but we're trying to work with you, so you can get into your home properly. Thank you.

Becky Lamb: [inaudible 01:50:13] ...my ponds are full of fish. Koi. Koi fish. I mean Koi fish. I didn't bring them. We already had to go back to get the cat. I couldn't bring my poor fish so they're all in the pond. I mean they're probably eating each other by now, but I'd like to if I can save some of them ... [inaudible 01:50:30] But [inaudible 01:50:31]-

Thomas Kelly: So the question is about fish, she has fish, and can she retrieve those fish? Those are the special conditions. When you meet with that case worker, you have a list prepared, please, and say, this is what I want to do when I enter my house. And we're going to try to work on every single one and try to make it right for you.

Becky Lamb: I drove to Winterized Pools.

Thomas Kelly: No, no, we're not.

Becky Lamb: They sell generator loan extraction pools.

Thomas Kelly: Yeah, we're, that's what we were...

Becky Lamb: Okay. So, but got a lot of lines too and everything, right? You're going to get a qualified company to...?

Thomas Kelly: With pool and do the winterization at home, the answer is yes. And that's another, it would be a self-sustained unit they would have with generators to allow them to do that. Thank you.

Becky Lamb: Thank you.

Greg Fisher: Okay, Greg Fisher. Hi. I don't live in, I live outside, just outside the evacuation zone. Nice work. Lots of work. I mean, you guys do work. It's maybe not enough money. There's not enough people, there's not enough hire. You know, you can only hire what you have money for. Should be more people, more money. Getting things from your home, why not sooner? I don't know why a month of June, July, the explosion was in August, right? August. But why not after August at the next September, October? I don't know why we couldn't have had every day people going into their home and get the fridge empty, get the food. Wouldn't that have saved the insurance company tons of money? Of mold and [inaudible 01:52:19] ...But that's passed. I thought it should be going on. If it was my house, I'd why can't I get in there?

You only have so many people scheduling, it's a nightmare, but get more people, get more money. I think there should be more money to hire more people, so that every day, all these last two months could have been five, 10, a day going in and be their house, look at their house, getting a couple hours. You say danger, but... we could sign a waiver, I don't mind going into the house. These firemen, you guys are all walking around and it can't be, you guys are there and that's good you're there because you have to be there to take care of business. But it can't be that, there's days when there's no gas, so why couldn't we go there? That's passed, but in the future, I hope that there's more scheduling, more people, more money from somewhere, Federal, Provincial, whatever, to get the money, write the cheque.

Somebody's got money somewhere to hire more people, things go faster. That would just... The guards, the security people. I just think they should be roaming around. Suggestion. They should not be sitting in the car, like at the car. Because the guy can walk 10 houses right through the alley, right past the guard. The guard should be moving, walking around, more guards maybe because you can hear that they're scared of their property, I think there should be more guards and roaming like at night with flashlights. I think if there's four guards, now there should be 12 because there's millions and millions of dollars and they're worried.

And if I have to evacuate... yeah I figure it out if there's a danger, but I would hope that when the danger's gone in days or a week, I could get into my home and get some more things out, clean the fridge. I hope there's more people, I hope you get more money, more people because this is disaster. And we know on the government, somebody could just write a cheque, give you guys all the money to people. It should be happening. More money, more people. It's a disaster. It's bad.

But those are just suggestions, I appreciate the work.

Chief Case: Thank you for the comments, sir. Immediately after the explosion, let's not forget that the firefighters on the scene were your Wheatley firefighters. And one of the biggest problems that I had, was to try and stop them letting people in, because they wanted to let anybody in. They wanted to generally help.

But we had to make a decision about safety because we still don't really know where this gas is coming from. And that's always been the issue. You may have heard me say that before. We don't know what's happening. And I really don't like that. But at any point up to now, when someone has said, I really need to get in for documents, for medication, to get my pets, we have tried whatever we can to do that in a safe manner. And I hope that people have had that opportunity afforded to them.

What Thomas is trying to do now, is to make it much broader, make it a bigger issue because you can imagine if everybody showed up to go into their property at once, that's an unmanageable situation. We're really just, and again, it isn't a safe situation on site. We're really just trying to keep you safe, keep the people working on the site safe and also keep our Fire Fighters and Police Officers safe. We're not trying to be awkward. We're just genuinely trying to make sure that people can get into homes for what they need when need and to do it in a safe manner. And we appreciate your co-operation.

Speaker 32: I would just like to personally thank the firefighters for all they've done for us, since this started. They have been the best and we couldn't say enough for them. Thank you.

Stephan: I'm Stephan. I live on Elm street. We're just outside of the evacuation zone. Now you guys talk about going to school and learning and all of this. Okay, that's fine to go to school when you're a child and you learn stuff and you have lots of time, you got your whole life. The expert walked out of here about hour ago. Jennifer Lewis, who does this for a living and says that that could be taken care of in four months. Well, it's been four months, so why she's been blowin off with repeated requests of meetings. This could be fixed by now.

Jennifer Barton: Unfortunately Jennifer has left. Let me say a few things about my knowledge of what her company does. Jennifer's company is experts in going in what we identify, what the source is and they do actual remediation work. So we've

worked with them before they plug wells. They do it across Southwestern Ontario and the ministry has done lots of work with them.

My understanding is Jennifer's company is not the experts in trying to figure out what the source is. We believe we have brought the right experts to the table. As Don mentioned, we have a consulting company known as Golder and Associates. They perform work around the world. They have an office based in Burlington and we've been working really closely with them essentially since late June. They've been working with us and they're the ones leading the investigation on site.

We've brought a second consulting company in, TL Watson from Alberta. They are providing assistance to Golder, but also providing specific advice around safety. They're working with Chief Case closely on the safety plan for the municipality and just providing general advice to how the project moves forward. Anything we've missed any, other details that we should be considering. We do believe we have the experts on site and if Jennifer was here, hopefully she'd agree with that. Her expertise again is in the plugging, once the identification of the issue has been found. She does the remediation and mitigation work.

Tim Fisher: Yeah, Tim Fisher. Just had a question on H2S (Hydrogen Sulphide) monitors. Out of the evacuation zone, say within maybe 50 yards or a hundred yards, I know it's advisable that homeowners should probably get their own, because let's be honest, that's really what saved lives that day, the monitors themselves. Is it possible for Chatham-Kent or the Provincial Government to maybe fund those people, pay half or the full price either one? Just to give them some insight to know that they're safe, because like the fire team said on the one Zoom meeting, it's a highly unpredictable gas that comes in at high volumes. And when you have a contained space with a sort of ignition that could get a little scary. So is there a possibility...

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Speaker 39: With a source of ignition that could get a little scary. Is there a possibility for H2S monitors to be supplied to the homeowners within a reasonable distance outside the area that's shut down now?

Speaker 9: Thank you for the suggestion. That's one that we'll have to take back. I think the question was, certainly the monitors exist, you can buy them, we actually supplied early on some references of where you could buy them. If you're looking for some funding requirements, I need discuss that with the province and internally as well. We can take that one back just case.

Chief Case: In answer to your question, if it offers some reassurance, what I'm seeing right now is there is a stack that's on the actual basement of the former pole building that has a H2S detector in it. There's H2S detection around the site where work

takes place and there's also boreholes that have been placed in the ground around the evacuations to give us that.

To offer that little bit of reassurance, I'm reassured by the amount of gas detection going on right now. In fact, one of the questions that was asked previously is, why is your hydro cutout, but we've got hydro to the library? Well, the answer being is that the library's the command unit for what's going on on the site. That is where the gas detection people sit 24 hours a day monitoring the gas levels.

When we have the gas release early on in October, the very first thing we do is to put gas detection on in that area to make sure that the first responders are safe. So looking to at the way that the wind traditionally goes, there's not a huge risk to that side of the site, but there's always a risk. We have to have that hydro on because that's, what's keeping the gas monitors going so that when the gas does come, we're immediately notified and the response time when that happened was minutes. We already had firefighters on scene, and then we brought in the gas detection people.

Robyn: There is a gas well. We live right behind you. The library is right behind our house. There was a well years ago that I think the fire hall kind of exploded [inaudible 02:02:18] I don't know if you're familiar with that? I'm sure it was an explosion, I don't think it was a fire but I heard it was an explosion.

Chief Case: I keep learning things I don't want to know. I didn't know that, but I will look into it. What I can say is...

Robyn: Yeah. Look into that because I know when we were there, but I know that we did hear that's where the old fire was [inaudible 02:02:40] and they had an explosion. Now, I don't know if it was fire, gas and I don't know what happened, but we did hear there was an explosion there.

Chief Case: There's lots of Wells, as you all know, we've all seen the map.

Robyn: Yeah, I just wanted to give you a heads up on it.

Chief Case: And you've probably seen, those of you who live on Chestnut, would've seen firefighters and people coming knocking on your door saying, can we check? We've been going around trying to check all these wells because my main concern is the integrity of the evacuations. I want to make sure that, that is safe. That's the first question I asked when I pick up the phone in the morning and the last one I asked before bedtime. Is the evacuations all safe? I'll take that back away. One thing I...

Robyn: Yeah, look into that. I've been like what's behind her house? [inaudible 02:03:26]

Chief Case: Robyn, I just received a message from the expert from Alberta, who's watching this online and she did say that she'd been working extensively with the lady who left. She said she thanked her for her help, so they have been engaged with that company trying to do the research into this well, I just started off with that as well.

Robyn: Yeah.

Speaker 40: Yeah. Thanks chief Cooper offering that. I should say that our experts have reached out to not only Jennifer's company who was here earlier, but a number of companies that work in the area, as well as the Ontario Petroleum Institute, which Jennifer's a part of. They're all working closely together. There's been lots of input, lots of offers of support, particularly from the sector to try and do whatever we need to do to move the investigation along as quickly as possible, so thanks for mentioning that and absolutely the sector has been really wonderful in terms of offering support.

Howard Weber : Good evening, Howard Weber. I know there's been a lot of discussions dating back to establishing a temporary town. Bringing in mobile structures for both residences and businesses to establish on whether that's still being pursued and any potential timelines around that.

Jennifer: In regards to housing, my understanding was that, and I think Dawn can probably speak to some of the temporary structures, but what I can talk about is what we're doing instead. We're working with people for kind of longer term rentals that are a few months in length and we want anybody who requires that say, you're staying with family and it's at its limit and the hopes is that it will just be a few months, so we're working through looking at everything from Airbnb, there's quite a variety of local people who've also reached out to say they have rentals from Leamington, primarily Lemington, but also just on the general area. One of our staff is matching families with housing.

Chief Chris Cas...: So when the premier is here, he did pose the idea that we could actually have a number of trailers brought in both for businesses and also for accommodations, the emergency management for Ontario [crosstalk 02:06:03] look for the trailers and what they found was actually very, very basic trailers, something that was available in the quantities that we needed and it was when we looked at that compared to the other alternatives that included looking at Airbnbs, hotels, motels, and so on, we felt that the quality of the accommodations also was much higher not doing the trailer idea. It was something that was investigated and it was dismissed because it was not the quality I think they would've been happy with. They were relatively small and they were not very well appointed and the type of accommodations we could find locally, even if it meant going to Leamington, Kingsville and Chatham, that was deemed to do better, but that was definitely looked at seriously, but we discounted it for that reason.

- Jennifer: Dawn, I just thought of one more thing. We did pull all of the people that we were able to reach about their choices, of what type of housing they would prefer in the interim. So that also was deemed as not a priority by the people that we were able to speak to.
- Brittany : I'm Brittany, we're one of the lucky people evacuated. You're talking about all of these houses that are deemed green or red, and then you're going into the houses and again, deeming if they're green or red. I'm just wondering for those houses that are deemed red inside because of mold, structural damage, whatever, what is the plan for those homes after?
- Speaker 9: Thanks for the question. So as far as your accommodations go, that would still be through our social services. We're going to continue that service as far as what happens to your home, that really needs to be worked out with your insurance group. I can't give you any other response than that. Thanks.
- Steve Marshall: Hi, Steve Marshall. I'd much rather be at this bar in a different scenario. Steve, great points. I think my thoughts are right along with you. I'm just so excited to be back [inaudible 02:08:42] and to Chief Case, thanks to your firefighters. You point out the maps with the gas Wells. Everyone here is probably seen and possibly seen before the explosion and during meetings, Mr. Shire said they could be up to 200 meters away. Correct? I'm just wondering to the experts points of having three APEC points. Now, can we have an updated map that maybe isn't 200 meters away?
- Chief Chris Cas...: Thank you. When Jennifer's ministry actually had records of where the wells were dug, those records when the wells were dug, I believe 1895 and 1896. The ministry's records said that they were located in this spot on the map within 200 yards. If you think about drawing a circle of 200 yards around where we believe the welds occurred, that's where we were paying. It was really helpful after we had some of the community meetings, people did come forward and say, I know someone that used to work in that area, or there was a well that was used as a dairy barn and that was where this was located.
- We had people coming up that had historical or direct knowledge of it and that information was then fed to the group. Then they went and used the type technology that Jennifer talked about to actually find the wells has something to do with it but we haven't actually tied the gas that was released, it was both H₂S gas or hydrogen sulfide, and also methane gas. There were the two gases we talked more about the hydrogen sulfide.
- Oh, I'm so sorry, sugar. Pardon?
- So the 200 meters that's gone, we basically can put a pin on the map and say, that's where that well is.
- Speaker 41: Do we get an updated map with three impact points?

Speaker 40: Yeah. So we do have a map that outlines the three apex that we're looking at. I don't know that there's any reason why we wouldn't be able to share that. So I think when we take away that question from earlier about talking about daily communication or getting more communication out, I think we can consider that as one of the early things to share if it's of interest.

Sorry.

Richard Wakefie...: Okay. Richard Wakefield. I believe Golden associates were in charge of the gas at the time of explosion and what was being done to prevent it, to prevent it from exploding? What is being done today? [inaudible 02:11:49] Explosion.

Speaker 9: Thank for the question. You referenced something out at the pioneering, is that correct?

Richard Wakefie...: Pardon me?

Speaker 9: You referenced something at the pioneering as well, is that correct?

Richard Wakefie...: No. older associates were the ones in charge at the time, right? When the explosion occurred?

Speaker 9: Yes.

Speaker 40: No, he was asking who was monitoring the gas?

Richard Wakefie...: It was supposed the experts. Now they're still being the experts down there. We did have an explosion. What was being done to not have an explosion to prevent an explosion? Like prevention, fire prevention, only explosion prevention, what was being done and what is being done today to prevent another explosion?

Speaker 9: Okay. So this monitors, yeah. So first of all, the explosion itself is, has been thoroughly investigated by fire Marshalls office and that report has not been released at this time, or if it's not completed yet, is it?

It's not completed yet. The question is when will it be ready? We don't know yet. [inaudible 02:13:08] So the second part of the question was what's being done now? All of the boreholes that Jennifer spoke of, we have a system in place that is capturing any gas emissions from there and then essentially venting it, so that's what we talked about that I mentioned every 40 days or so we have a very large gas emission from the drain. We're very interested to see now with the venting that we have in place, if we're going to see that again. So the answer to your question is there's currently on the wells that we know are emitting, there is a venting system in place that is keeping everyone safe. Thank you.

Barb Carson:

Hi, I'm Barb Carson. I wanted to talk to Mr. Kelly. I'm just wondering when you're talking about red zones and green zones, I asked you on September 25th, if we could our [inaudible 02:14:16] homes and close our pools. How many homes that now will be in the red zone are there because we didn't do that then? You had told us that you were going to get in touch with us and we haven't heard from you. Now it's November. So how, how many of those homes are that in the red zones wouldn't have been had we done this in early October when we knew you told us at that time that we'd be out for six months? So all we wanted to do was take care of our homes. I hope that you'll be flexible when we're working with the insurance people, because it is a bit of an insult for you to say, you're doing a favor to us because these are our homes.

And we have been asking you to let us take care of them. We understand that we need to be out and we will accept that we'll do what we need to do for our communities, but you haven't been getting back to us about letting us take care of our homes. Now our insurance agency wants to help with that and we need that done. So I hope that you will be flexible with that. I just want to make that request and as far as the library goes, the electricity is on for your convenience. It would've been very convenient to be able to just run a generator and close my pool. It's a bit unfair to say you need that electricity on, in the library. I need my home to be okay. Okay. So as long as we're understanding each other, please be flexible.

Speaker 9:

I'll start. And I think chief case wants to say a few things. So we have been looking at this home reentry for some time. We mentioned the 25th. Again, it's a very dynamic situation because what we also reported was on October 8th, we had another gas emission. So it was just impossible to even consider people coming in. So now we've done more work. Jennifer described that work, described the apex zones. We described the venting, right? We feel, we know a lot more about this. This is why we're even considering it and still we don't know everything there is to know.

We're still discovering every day. It's all about risk. And our concerns after September 25th were very, very valid, right? We had an emission on the eighth and if that would've occurred while you're at your home, while doing your decommissioning of your pool, that would've been a disaster. So those are the things that we are weighing with every request that comes in, it's all about safety for us and, and safety for you and safety for the people on site. Now we're in the situation where we're trying to make this work and you can see the detailed plan. We've got some revisions to do to it. That's, that's what we're trying to do.

Chief Case:

I'll respond to the comments about convenience as you know, firefighters and first responders, they operate out of their vehicles. What comes out of the vehicle is the amount of monitoring equipment. That's there to keep everybody in this room safe. I wouldn't say that it's a convenience, what I would say is that's the main thing that's currently keeping the area safe. We actually have a higher level of gas monitoring around that area to make sure that that doesn't

become impacted. So the firefighters have been on site there now since well, since the beginning, 24 hours a day, your firefighters.

The fact that they can sit in the library doesn't really cause them much comfort. They're actually in the gear on the truck, right by the site. So I hate to pick you up, but it isn't a matter of convenience. That's the thing that's keeping me reassured that we are keeping you safe right now, man.

Barb Carson: Understood, Sir. And please, I don't want to say anything about the firefighters. They've been wonderful. They've been wonderful to us. I just, the flexibility hasn't been there for us and it's a little great.

Chief Case: And I can understand, I can't imagine what you're going through. And one of things that I have had is our firefighters come to me going, we want let more people in chief, so I'm the person who's been saying no, so I apologize, because if I left it up to the firefighters weekly, you'd be back in your houses at times. I mean that in the nicest possible way. They're your friends and neighbors and they don't want see you hurting.

Barb Carson: We just want our home taken care of.

Chief Case: Absolutely. I appreciate your comment, ma'am.

Chief Chris Cas...: Some of the comments that people made about the red zone and the green zone, but the areas that were currently in the red zone are those that were in very close proximity to where the explosion occurred. And there were structural damage. You've seen a lot of the pictures already. It's not hard to figure that out, right? The other thing that might cause something to go into the green or red zone is we don't know what the results also of that explosion was. We saw the fireballs going out in one direction, we don't know what happened on the ground. I talked to Whit, when he first identified the gas on in June and he heard an explosion, he went down to his basement and he could smell the gas. He's a really smart guy. He's got a degree in chemistry as well.

He recognized. He found out what the gas readings were that we took outside of the building afterwards, he said, I'm really lucky i'm not dead. Part of the reason we have to go in with those gadgets on, as Thomas explained, before you enter your homes or before an insurance adjuster enters the homes is we want to make sure that there hasn't been another pathway for the gas to go into somebody else's basement. That's the sort of thing that we would want to make sure before you go in that's what would cause to go into the red zones there. But right now there's no, there's none of the homes or houses outside of that immediate perimeter that are currently in the red zone, but we're going to make sure that, and I think Mr Kelly's plan is trying to make sure that you're going to stay safe when you bring your homes.

Kelly Bruner : I'm Kelly Bruner. I'm one of the evacuees. Our house was appraised from the insurance adjuster and after the explosion, all right. And our house value was way more than what it was before. It was way more, who's going to cover that cost if we cannot go home or if I do want go home? Cause my wife and I, we don't feel safe going home anymore. Who's going to cover that cost?

Speaker 40: Real estate value prior to the explosion.

Kelly Bruner : Exactly.

Chief Chris Cas...: I'm not going to pretend to answer for your insurance company. We believe that there're some responsibilities there and you've heard from one adjuster that's already here today saying, Hey, we haven't taken some of that position. We don't have answers to the question as to who's going to be responsible for that. What we've seen right now is there's a combination of insurance coverage.

We've had different orders of government stepping up to write some financial support, but there is no clear place where I can look and say, that's the person that's responsible that support, that doesn't exist. Part of the reason, again, that we have been working methodically through what type of financial support we have, we're trying to figure out where the gaps are going to be and how we can actually provide that support. We don't want to leave people hanging. We're trying to find a way to help that out, but there is no answer to that direct question as of today.

Speaker 40: So just to add to what Don said, I think we also want to be a little bit careful. I don't think we're at that point yet where, you know, we've determined that nobody's going to be able to go back to their homes. So I think we want to let the investigation happen. We want to see what the results are. We want to understand how we can either mitigate or remediate what the problems are and then if we get to that point where there are challenges with some homes, I think, you know, as the municipality and the province have been working so closely together already, we will continue to work closely together. I can tell you that we're connecting pretty much every day. I talk to Don, I think more than I talk to my own family. Sometimes we are collecting and trying to understand and working with the social services folks, to really understand what the needs of those displaced residents are.

And the things you're talking about are absolutely on the list. I don't have any specific details to share with you today, but I can tell you that the province is committed to continuing to work with Chad and Kent and to work with you specifically. And I do hope that in the near future, we'll be able to come back and talk to you about how the province is able to offer some more support, so more to come and as we collect the needs and understand exactly what those concerns are and hearing lots of them tonight and making lots of notes about them tonight, we do hope we'll be back quite soon and be able to answer some of those specific questions for you.

Speaker 42: I think this will probably be our best question of the night. Talking with Don earlier, he has been quite committed to having continuous meetings with our community. So we discussed that they should be getting some more information. They think in the next two to three weeks, as soon as that happens, we'll be having either another in person or a virtual meeting. And we'll be sure to keep everyone up to date on everything. I'll continue to share through the office citizen site, any updates that I get through the website that you can sign up for, and I'll continue to advocate for all of you as I have tried to do my best.

Bob Smith: I'm Bob Smith. I just have a question for after, God forbid, anything happens again. The last time I got in my car and drove the arena, I couldn't get there. If something does happen again, is there a location we should go? I was stopped to go to the arena. I don't know if that's a fire thing or a police thing?

Chief Case: Thank you for your question, sir. I appreciate the opportunity to tell you. One of the reasons why we have a command presence on site 24 hours a day is because the engineers have got the monitors going. When it did happen in early October, the wind direction, the amount of gas coming out of the ground, we actually knew what was going on. So we were able to say, we don't need to evacuate any further, first question, do we need to evacuate any further?

No. We deployed people around the scene in the event that we do, that will depend upon the wind direction, because we don't want to send you into harm's way. So the knock on the door will come and you'll be told you need to leave and you need to go that way. That's the plan that is in place. I sincerely hope we don't have to do that because one of the reasons somebody suggested very early on with the best intention, should we have a siren? And when the gas comes, we set the siren off. Now, first of all, it's going to scare the light out of everybody and then people are going to be running in different directions and not knowing where to go. We want to be able to get to the point where we can say that area of the map, those people need to leave based upon the engineers recommendations, go and knock on the doors and point them to the right place.

So that work has been done. That was the reason why municipal staff came and visited everybody. In fact, they visited nearly everybody in weekly. It was a massive operation to try and make sure that, that connect was made and if there are people who have got vulnerabilities or people who have got mobility issues, we should know about them now. If you think there is someone who lives close to the zone, who we haven't spoken to, who would need extra help, that's when you tell us because we would then send EMS medics to that address to help them. That plan is in place and that's one of the reasons why we can continue to have firefighters 24 hours a day, seven days a week working on site, sir.

Speaker 42: Okay. Thank you everyone for being here. Thank you to the representatives that were here today. We look forward to seeing you more in the future and anyone that has.

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