

Health board off hook for flood repair costs

A water leak that evicted nearly 30 patients from the Prince George Detox Clinic Friday has caused damage to the three-month old facility in the hundreds of thousands, says a health board official.

Michael McMillan, chief operating officer for the Northern Interior Regional Health Board says that while insurance company adjusters, health board employees and the original building contractors were still surveying the damage this week, preliminary estimates put the figure at several hundred thousand.

"It will either be a warranty claim or an insurance claim," says Mr. McMillan of the damage to the detox clinic which opened in September. The health board, he adds, doesn't expect to incur any repair costs.

A sprinkler-system pipe in the attic of the Alward Street clinic burst just after midnight Friday, spilling between 2,000 and 2,200 gallons of water down into the bottom floor and causing damage to ceiling tiles, a stairwell and the flooring, says Mr. McMillan.

Patients were evacuated quickly to different areas of the Prince George Regional Hospital where they continued their usual treatment programs, but were able to return to the clinic by 4 p.m. that day.

"This isn't something we would have wanted to happen," says Mr. McMillan. The flooding was an unexpected dry-run for the health board's procedures for evacuating the facility. "It did highlight that we have a good response to something like this ... It was a fairly big undertaking but it went fairly smoothly."

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