

## Fear in the News (a Play)

Character list:

- **Suzi Ivanov** – anchorwoman
- **Karl Frechette** – cameraman
- **Lucie Lalonde** – reporter
- **Brad Nandapala** – reporter
- **Simon Handel** – producer

*It is 5:53 on Wednesday morning. The crew at CBTv are in the studio, preparing for their first news broadcast of the day.*

Suzi: [Sleepily] Hey, could someone get me a coffee, please? These early shows are so difficult for me. I need to start doing the morning news.

Simon: [Hands Suzi a coffee] Here, drink this quickly, Suzi. You are on the air in ... six minutes.

Suzi: Thanks Simon. What are our top stories this morning?

Simon: The usual – a car accident, an increase in taxes ...

Suzi: So nothing “new” about the news today.

Simon: No, not really – [Simon’s phone rings. He picks it up.]

Simon: Hello?

Lucie: Simon, it’s Lucie. This is urgent! There is a guy on the Champlain Bridge **threatening** to jump off! The police are on their way and traffic is starting to back up – this is a major story!

Simon: Lucie, that’s great! Do you have a camera crew there? We will need some video.

Lucie: I have my own camera, but you should send a crew down here as soon as you can!

**Smart**

**Words**

**anchorwoman** =  
the person who  
“hosts” the  
television news

**threaten** =  
to announce an  
intention to do  
something

**lead** =  
the main story title

**cop** =  
a policeman

**footage** =  
video images

Simon: No problem! [He hangs up.]

Simon: Suzi, there is a change in headlines – the new story **lead** is, “Suicide Jumper” – get ready to – [the phone on Simon’s desk rings again].

Simon: Hello?

Brad: Simon, this is Brad. I am on Boulevard des Forges – a bomb just went off in a building down here. There are **cops** everywhere and they are clearing the area.

Simon: Wow! Great story! Do you have any video?

Brad: Karl is taping as we speak. Karl?

Karl: [speaks into the phone] Simon, I have video of the smoke coming out of the building, the **cops** on the scene, I have people on the street looking scared ...

Simon: That sounds great! Brad, find a few people to interview. Try to get them to talk about how they feel if you can. We want as much emotion as possible. People love that stuff.

Brad: O.K., I will do that right away!

Simon: [Hangs up, looks at Suzi] Now we have two top stories: “Trois-Rivières Bombing” and “Suicide Jumper.”

Suzi: Which one do we do first?

Simon: The bombing, of course. First of all, we already have better video **footage**. Also, bombs are scarier than suicide jumpers. The suicide jumpers just inconvenience traffic; the bombs could really hurt someone. The bomb has more emotional impact – it leads!

Suzi: Sounds good – how much time do we have left?

Simon: One minute left until we are on the air.

Suzi: I’ll be ready!

**THE END**