

Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility

by Regional Chair Gary Carr

Halton is a safe place to live, work, play and retire, yet emergencies can happen at any time and any place. We all need to be prepared to deal with events such as hazardous spills, power outages, flooding, and other natural disasters.

Representatives from Halton Region, the Halton Regional Police Service, and the Local Municipalities of Burlington, Halton Hills, Milton and Oakville work closely together to plan for emergencies, and to ensure a coordinated response and the safety and well-being of Halton residents.

Together with our local emergency response partners, we have implemented an extensive Emergency Management Program that incorporates prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities for most emergencies.

At Halton Region *we are prepared* with ongoing planning and upgrading of our emergency systems. Our activities include: using federal government funding to purchase a support vehicle for Emergency Medical Services, undertaking emergency exercises, upgrading our telecommunications equipment to ensure the lines of communication are able to stay open in any circumstances, and the implementation and testing of the Community Emergency Notification Service.

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. While governments at all levels are working hard to keep Canadians safe, individuals also have an

Halton Region's Community Emergency Notification Service (CENS) is an emergency telephone notification service. It will be used in the event of a major disaster or catastrophe to communicate updates about emergency conditions, what to do, where to go or other vital information in addition to what you'll receive from tuning into television, radio and other sources. Halton is proud to be joining the growing number of municipalities in Canada who have implemented similar notification systems.



important role to play in preparing for emergencies. *Are you prepared?*

With some careful planning and preparation, you can learn how to deal with emergencies and minimize the impact to your family. Residents need to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency, while fire, police and paramedics help those in desperate need. Being prepared really is your best defence.

Take a few simple steps to protect yourself and your family from all types of emergencies.

1. Make a family emergency plan
2. Prepare an emergency survival kit
3. Consider any special needs
4. Don't forget your pets
5. Practice

Emergency Preparedness Week, May 2-8, 2010, is a Canada-wide initiative to increase awareness about individual and family preparedness. The theme in Ontario this year is: *Take the Challenge*. I invite you to visit www.ontario.ca/beprepared and take the short quiz. The Challenge will be open from April 29 to May 31. Everyone who successfully completes the quiz will be eligible for a chance to win a prize. Prizes will be awarded in early June.

And at the end of the month, we'll find out who is most prepared!

Prepare an emergency kit yourself...

A basic kit includes:

- Flashlight and batteries
- Radio and batteries or crank radio
- Spare batteries (for radio and flashlight)
- First-Aid Kit
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Extra car keys and cash
- Important papers (identification, house insurance)
- Food and manual can opener
- Bottled water
- Blankets or sleeping bags
- Toilet paper and other personal items
- Clothing and footwear
- Whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- Playing cards, games
- Backpack/duffel bag (to hold all of the emergency survival kit items)
- Special needs items – prescription medications, infant formula or equipment for people with disabilities
- Your personal emergency plan

...or buy one

You can buy an emergency kit online or from local retailers.

Visit www.halton.ca/beprepared to find out how to make or order a kit, and to download useful resources such as our Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide and video. We have also published a Pamphlet Series for people with special needs/ disabilities. These resources are available at Regional and Local Municipal government offices and facilities. They can also be requested by dialing 311 or 905-825-6000, toll free 1-866-442-5866, TTY 905-827-9833 or by email through accesshalton@halton.ca.

Meetings at Halton Region Headquarters

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| May 4 9:30 a.m. | Health & Social Services Cte |
| May 5 9:30 a.m. | Planning & Public Works Cte |
| May 5 1:30 p.m. | Administration & Finance Cte |
| May 12 9:30 a.m. | Regional Council Meeting |
| May 24 | Offices closed for holiday |
| May 25 9:30 a.m. | Health & Social Services Cte |
| May 26 9:30 a.m. | Planning & Public Works Cte |
| May 26 1:30 p.m. | Administration & Finance Cte |

Meetings can be viewed at www.halton.ca

Learn more about how you can be prepared by visiting www.halton.ca/beprepared.

We welcome your feedback. Contact Access Halton at accesshalton@halton.ca
Dial 311 or 905-825-6000 • Toll free 1-866-442-5866 • TTY 905-827-9833 • www.halton.ca
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