

HALTON URGES RESIDENTS TO BE PREPARED FOR EMERGENCIES

In recognition of Emergency Preparedness Week (May 5-11), Halton Region is encouraging all residents to create an emergency kit that can help them stay healthy.

"We all have a role to play in preparing for emergencies," said Regional Chair Gary Carr. "By taking steps that can keep you safe and healthy during a crisis situation, you help ensure first responders can focus their attention on those in immediate need.

Remember, emergencies can happen at any time-plan ahead to help protect yourself, your family and your community."

Recommended steps to take to prepare for emergencies:

- Know the risks close to home - be aware of weather conditions and potential hazards that could lead to an emergency in your community.

- Make a plan for how you and your family would evacuate, communicate and stay safe during an emergency.

- Get or make an emergency kit that contains essential supplies that will keep you and your family (including pets) safe during an emergency.

Personal emergency kits should include identi-



Nikki Wesley/Torstar

Halton Regional Chief of Emergency Management Ralph Blauel, Paramedic Services Chief Greg Sage, Regional Chair Gary Carr, Halton District Police Service Chair Stephen Tanner, and Oakville Fire Chief Brian Durdin promote the emergency kit, which should contain identification and essential supplies to keep your family (including pets) safe in a "shelter in place" (stay indoors for at least 72 hours) emergency or evacuation. For details go to halton.ca/beprepared.

fication and supplies for all members of the household, including older adults, people with disabilities and pets or service animals. Kits should include anything you might require if first responders ask you to "shelter in place" (stay indoors for at least 72 hours) or evacuate.

Notifications of nearby emergencies may be sent out through alerts to your landline phone and mobile device. You should also monitor local media (using a crank radio in the event of a power outage), police, fire and government web-

sites and Twitter feeds for updates and instructions during a crisis situation.

"Our partnerships with first responders, relief organizations and other levels of government help keep Halton ready to respond," said Halton Chief of Emergency Management Ralph Blauel.

"When you update your emergency plans and kits, we also encourage you to think about how you would stay up-to-date."

For detailed information about what to include in an emergency kit, visit www.halton.ca.



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