

Emergency Preparedness Week May 4 – 10, 2008



by Regional Chair Gary Carr

Each May we recognize Emergency Preparedness Week, however Halton Region staff work year round to ensure the safety and well-being of the community. Our responsibilities include making

sure we are prepared in consultation with our municipal partners and the Halton Regional Police Service to launch a coordinated response in the event of a wide-spread emergency. Public education also forms a large part of the emergency management program. We emphasize the '72 hour rule' – that residents should prepare themselves to be self-sufficient for the first 72

hours of an emergency while responders are on-site, managing the specific incident.

Halton is committed to providing information on the steps individuals and families can take to lessen

the impact and stress of an emergency. The Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide is a key resource for residents. Complementing the guide is a short, personal emergency preparedness video which can be viewed on-line at www.halton.ca/beprepared.

In March, we added to our library of materials with the official launch of our new emergency management resources that focus on individuals with special needs. I'm proud to say that the materials we developed have met with wide approval from community organizations, the general public and various stakeholders. Based on a publication produced by Emergency

Management Ontario, a series of topic-focused pamphlets on the following subjects were developed:

- Hearing
- Highrise Safety
- Mobility
- Non-Visible Disabilities
- Seniors with Special Needs
- Travel Considerations
- Vision

This information was also prepared in an audio format, while the Vision pamphlet was transcribed to Braille.

Our program is designed to ensure that Halton is a disaster-resilient community ready to deal with any emergency. Each of us has a role to play and I encourage you to do your part. Access our resources and prepare now!



Launch of Emergency Preparedness Resources for people with special needs/disabilities held on March 18, 2008.

Left to right: Karen Charles, Canadian Red Cross; Alan Jordan, Halton Accessibility Advisory Committee (seated); Halton Hills Mayor Rick Bonnette; Joan Gallagher-Bell, Halton Accessibility Advisory Committee; Burlington Mayor Cam Jackson; Milton Mayor Gord Krantz; and Halton Regional Chair Gary Carr.

Major emergencies like a power failure, flood or severe storm can happen where you are.

Knowing the risks in your region, making an emergency plan and having an emergency kit will help you and your family take care of yourselves for at least 72 hours. It's as simple as it is essential.

Public Safety Canada

Did you know?

- Citizens should be prepared to be self sufficient for "72 Hours" following an emergency, while responders are on the scene dealing with the incident.
- Involving your children in the development of your home escape plan is a good way to teach them about the importance of planning for an emergency.
- Having a Family Emergency Survival Kit prepared ahead of time makes it easy to 'grab and go' if you are asked to evacuate your home
- Drivers should always carry a Car Survival Kit for assistance and comfort in the event of an emergency.
- "Shelter in place" is the practice of remaining indoors during the release of an airborne hazardous material.

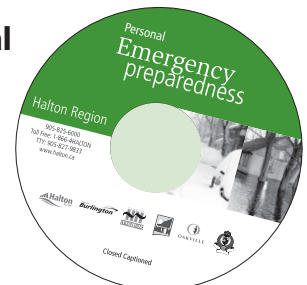
For more information, please refer to your Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide.

If you would like to arrange for a presentation to your group or organization on any aspect of Halton Region's Emergency Management Program, please contact us.

72
hours...
Is your family prepared?

Resource	Where you can find it		
	Halton Region, Halton Regional Police Service, and Local Municipal Offices	Online at www.halton.ca	Upon request by calling 905-825-6000 (toll free 1-866-442-5866) or by dialing 311 from anywhere within Halton
Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide	✓	✓	✓
Personal Emergency Preparedness DVD		✓	✓ to groups or organizations
Pamphlet Series for people with special needs/disabilities: Hearing, Highrise Safety, Mobility, Non-Visible Disabilities, Seniors with Special Needs, Travel Considerations, Vision	✓	✓	✓
Vision Pamphlet - Braille Version			✓
Audio CD (includes all seven pamphlets)			✓

Watch the Personal Emergency Preparedness Video at www.halton.ca/beprepared



May Meetings and Closures at Halton Region Headquarters

- May 7, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting
- May 19** Offices closed for Victoria Day
- May 21, 9:30 a.m.** Planning & Public Works Committee
- May 21, 1:30 p.m.** Administration & Finance Committee
- May 22, 9:30 a.m.** Health & Social Services Committee
- May 28, 9:30 a.m.** Regional Council Meeting

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