

COMMUNIQUE



Emergency preparedness for the social services sector

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries urges local social services agencies to be prepared in the case of an emergency. The recently passed provincial Bill 56 defines emergency to include dangers caused by disease or health risk. As leaders in the sector with responsibilities for program partici-

pants, agencies have the responsibility to be prepared and have emergency plans for service continuity. The purpose of this bulletin is to begin the preparation process.

To help agencies in their preparation, the Social Planning Council will be hosting a workshop on **September 26th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.** (more details to fol-

low). At the workshop, a panel of local experts will share information on emergency preparedness and attendees will have the opportunity to dialogue with others on best practices for local plans.

For more information and to register, please see our web site www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org.

Why prepare?

Disasters happen more often in Canada than people think.

Do you remember any of these events?

- 2005 Fergus Tornado
- 2004 Peterborough Flood
- 2003 Blackout
- 2002 BC Forest Fires
- 2003 Stratford Floods
- 2001 Sept 11/2001 Tragedy
- 2000 Walkerton Water Crisis
- 1998 Ice Storm (ON, PQ & Maritimes)

Whether at home or at work, ensure that you and the people around you know what to do in a disaster. **Nonprofit agencies need to be working with staff, volunteers and program participants to prepare.**



Region of Waterloo Public Health releases first phase of pandemic plan and web site

News Release-Region of Waterloo (April 27, 2006)— The first phase of Waterloo Region's Community Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Plan was released today. This first phase of the plan outlines how Region of Waterloo Public Health, in collaboration with com-

Tool kit for pandemic influenza planning

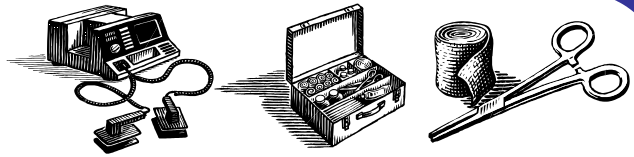
The Region of Waterloo and the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade recently launched a 'Tool Kit' for business continuity should there be a pandemic outbreak. Check this web site for more information:

<http://www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca/en/businesscontinuity/businesscontinuity.shtml>

munity stakeholders, will begin the work necessary to ensure Waterloo Region is prepared to respond to an influenza pandemic. ...*snip*. Check this web site for more information:

www.waterlooregionpandemic.ca.

Personal preparedness —are you ready?



Emergencies and disasters can happen at any time. Utilities can be out, roads closed, and crucial supplies unavailable. In a large scale emergency, such as a severe snow storm or long power outage, there may be a need to care for yourself and you family for up to three days before power is restored or supplies gotten.

Emergency Survival Kit

It makes sense to prepare for the unex-

pected. Everyone should be prepared to take care of themselves and their families for up to three days in the event of an emergency or disaster. For example, it could take that long to clear roads due to a severe winter storm.

The following are recommended guidelines to assist you in gathering items you should have on hand. Everyone in your family should know where these items are stored.

Finally, if you are ever in an emergency situation, **Don't Panic!** People have survived three days without water and three weeks without food. Your home can take three hours or more to cool off completely in the winter.

Checklists - Think of any special needs your family might have and include any other items you would need. For some suggestions go to the following web site:

<www.wrern.ca>.

Personal preparedness course

The Canadian Red Cross offers a 2-hour Personal Preparedness course to help individuals and families prepare themselves, so they can be self-sufficient for the first 72 hours following a disaster. The Personal Preparedness Program can be scheduled either at your location, or at the Canadian Red Cross Branch in Kitchener-Waterloo, Cambridge or Guelph. This is an excellent training opportunity for anyone over 14 years of age: families, co-workers or other groups. Go to <http://www.redcross.ca/article.asp?id=000286&tid=025> for more information.

Social services emergency response plan (SSERP)

When citizens are forced from their homes during an emergency, the Region of Waterloo's Social Services department is ready to help with its Social Services Emergency Response Plan (SSERP). The aim of the SSERP is to outline a plan of action for the efficient deployment and coordination of services, agencies, and personnel to provide the

earliest possible initial response to meet the survival needs of vulnerable individuals during and after an emergency.

These basic survival needs include shelter (reception or evacuation centers is needed), feeding, clothing, personal services (including emotional supports) and registration and inquiry.

The work of Emergency Social Ser-

vices within the SSERP is done in conjunction with many other partners within the community, such as, but not limited to, Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army, St. John Ambulance, Humane Society, Amateur Radio Clubs, and other human service oriented agencies.



"We have a terrible tragedy here."

—then Ontario Premier Mike Harris responding to the Walkerton, Ont., water crisis, May 2000. Eventually seven people died from drinking contaminated water and hundreds suffered from the symptoms of the disease.

Excerpt from *CBC News Online*-(updated Dec. 20, 2004)

What is emergency management?

Emergency Management is necessary to improve public safety and security through the creation of disaster-resilient communities. This is accomplished by structuring programs based on the four pillars of emergency management: mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.



What are emergency management programs?

It is mandatory for all jurisdictions in Ontario to have Emergency Management Programs ([Emergency Management Act R.S.O. 1990, c.E.9](#)), which is regulated by [Emergency Management Ontario](#) (EMO), a branch of the Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services. In addition to the Regional Emergency Management Program, each area municipality also has a Program to develop prevention/mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery

initiatives for their own distinct community.

The Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) in Waterloo Region work together to provide efficient, effective and timely emergency management programs, such as: joint training exercises; designated talk groups; and training in WebEOC (emergency event management software). The Community Emergency Management Coordinators with jurisdiction for Cambridge and North

Dumfries are:

[Region of Waterloo:](#)

Marg Verbeek,
Manager of
Emergency
Measures

[City of Cambridge:](#)

Doug Tennant,
Deputy Fire Chief

[Township of North
Dumfries:](#)

Marvin Bossetti,
Township CAO



Web sites of interest



For more information, please see the following web sites. Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMCs) in Waterloo Region have cooperatively launched a new Web site – Waterloo Region Emergency Management at www.wrem.ca. The goal of this Web site is to increase awareness and educate residents about emergency management (mitigation/prevention, preparedness, response and recovery) in Waterloo region. The new site links all Emergency Response Plans, identifies the top 10 potential risks for Waterloo Region, and gives practical tips for personal preparedness such as preparing an emergency survival kit. It has something for everyone, with teacher resource information, interesting and informative links, fun interactive games that test your knowledge on emergency preparedness and children's activities. It's never too early to learn about emergency preparedness. If you think that emergencies don't happen in Waterloo Region, have a look at the history book page.



Other links...

National Be Prepared Not Scared pdf document

<http://ww3.psepc->

[sppcc.gc.ca/info_pro/self_help_ad/pdfs/be_prep_e.pdf](http://ww3.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/info_pro/self_help_ad/pdfs/be_prep_e.pdf)

Public Health Agency of Canada (Emergency Social Services falls under this area of Health Canada)

<http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ep-mu/index.html>

New Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (3rd reading was on June 13/06 and the Act comes into force as of today, June 30/06)

http://www.e-laws.gov.on.ca/DBLaws/Statutes/English/90e09_e.htm

Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) website

http://www.mpss.jus.gov.on.ca/english/pub_security/EMO/about_em_o.html

Ontario Association of Emergency Managers

<http://www.oaem.ca>

Environment Canada - Up to Date Weather Warnings

http://meteo.ec.gc.ca/warnings/warnings_e.html

Environment Canada - Weather Warnings specifically for Southern Ontario

http://meteo.ec.gc.ca/warnings/son_e.html

General info for emergencies and persons with disabilities

[http://www.jik.com/disaster.html#General Information](http://www.jik.com/disaster.html#General%20Information)

More info for emergencies and persons with disabilities

<http://www.preparenow.org/prepare.html>

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada website

<http://www.psepc-sppcc.gc.ca/res/em/cdd/search-en.asp>



Emergency preparedness workshop

September 26, 2006, 7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

This workshop will include information on:

What are the current risks?

- What are Regional and City plans for emergency responses?
- How do you plan and prepare your agency for emergencies?
- How you can assist your community and your program participants in a time of emergency?
- How can you, your staff and volunteers prepare personally?

To register, go to

www.socialplanningcouncil-cnd.org.



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The SPC promotes the "democratization of data" to build a healthy community with active citizens involved in multi-sector networks and accessible organizations that work together.

The role of the SPC is to collect, analyze and openly share data on: community trends; demographics (current and projections); and best practices (local and beyond).

The Social Planning Council of Cambridge and North Dumfries is located in downtown Cambridge. Our office hours are Monday to Friday, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

WWW.SOCIALPLANNINGCOUNCIL-CND.ORG