SUPPORTING PEOPLE
Hastings™
AND OUR COMMUNITIES

HASTINGS COUNTY

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE



KNOW YOUR HAZARDS.
BE READY TOGETHER.



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MESSAGE FROM THE WARDEN



Thank you for taking the time to review the important information in this Emergency Preparedness Guide. Community resilience begins with each of us, and Hastings County is committed to helping residents plan ahead and stay safe during any emergency.

The **Hastings County Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG)** is a dedicated team of professionals that supports emergency response efforts across our 14 member municipalities and two separated cities. During large-scale emergencies, the MECG coordinates essential services, supports emergency responders, coordinates emergency social services, and works closely with partner agencies to ensure municipalities receive the assistance they need.

Preparedness starts at home. Every resident has a responsibility to plan ahead so that you and your family can remain self-sufficient during an emergency. Being ready allows emergency services to focus first on the most urgent needs. In addition to preparing your emergency kits, we encourage you to connect with your neighbours and explore how you can support one another before, during, and after an emergency.

When each of us takes part in emergency readiness, we strengthen our entire community. While a disaster may disrupt our daily lives, it does not have to diminish the quality of life we value here in Hastings County.

BOB MULLIN, WARDEN
HASTINGS COUNTY

KNOW THE RISKS, REDUCE THEM TOGETHER

EVERYONE has a role to play in emergency preparedness.

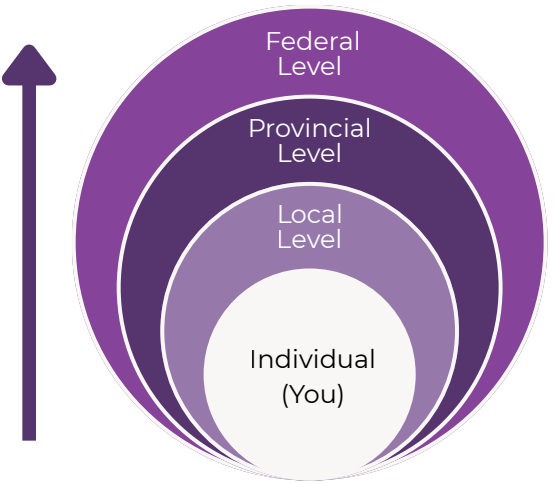
Individuals and families should have an emergency kit with enough supplies to last **at least 72 hours.** Each household is responsible for creating an evacuation plan—one that identifies a safe place for all family members, including pets, to go. Residents should also understand the hazards in their area and take steps to ensure their homes and cottages are properly prepared.

Municipalities must maintain an **Emergency Management Program** (as required by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act) and an **Emergency Response Plan** to deal with large-scale emergencies. These programs ensure residents are informed about local hazards and have the tools they need to prepare. During an emergency, municipal resources focus on protecting **critical infrastructure** - such as roads, water, and hydro - and responding to those with **immediate life-safety needs.**

This Emergency Preparedness Guide will help you understand and meet your responsibilities before, during, and after an emergency.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS STARTS WITH YOU.

YOUR SAFETY BEGINS AT HOME.



HOW YOU CAN PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES

BE PREPARED!

Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do **before, during, and after** an emergency. Take time as a family to create a plan and discuss how you will prepare for the hazards most likely to affect your home. If you live alone, develop a plan for yourself and share it with neighbours, friends, or others who may be able to support you.
This Guide provides the information, checklists, and templates you need to help ensure you are **ready for any emergency.**

MAKE A PLAN

Keep a list of important emergency phone numbers in an easy-to-find location. Place a copy in your **'Ready to Go' kit**. Choose a friend or family member who lives outside your area to act as your emergency contact in case you are separated from your household. Make sure every family member has this person's phone number—include a copy in purses, wallets, briefcases, school backpacks, or save it in electronic devices such as cellphones, tablets, or laptops.

Consider including a simple floor plan of your home that shows **exits and escape routes** from each room, along with the location of your **'Ready to Go' kit.**

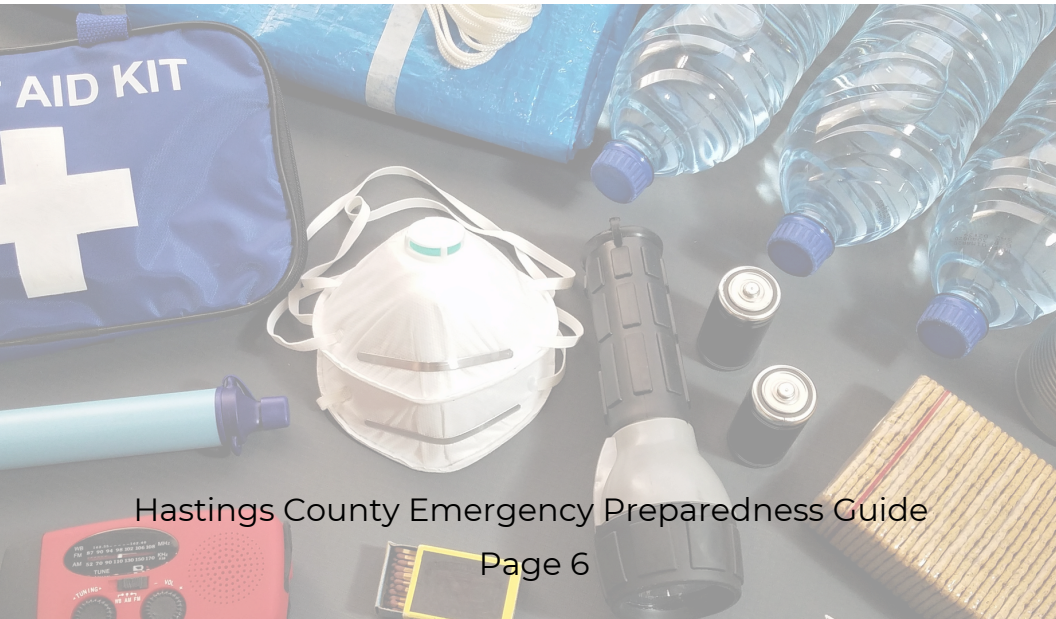
Don't forget your pets!
Have a **Pet Emergency Kit** prepared and keep a list of pet-friendly hotels, kennels, veterinarians, and friends or family who can take your animal - or who you can stay with - if you need to evacuate.

PREPARE YOUR KIT

Make sure your home has enough supplies to keep you **self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.** In addition, prepare a **"Ready to Go" kit** with the essentials and important information you will need if you must evacuate quickly. You should also have a **Pet Emergency Kit** for your animals, and ensure your vehicle is equipped with a **Car Survival Kit** in case you become stranded or need to travel a long distance during an emergency.

KNOW YOUR HAZARDS

Make a list of the hazards that could affect you, your family, and your home. Contact your local **Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC)** to learn about the top risks in your area. Once you know the hazards, take steps to **prevent, mitigate, and prepare** for them. Understanding your risks - and planning ahead - will help your family stay safe, confident, and calm during an emergency.



72-HOUR SURVIVAL KIT

Food & Water

- 3-5 gallons of water (4 litres per adult, per day)
- Canned or freeze-dried foods
- Manual can opener
- Instant drinks and juices
- Water purification tablets

Don't risk your life by stopping to collect belongings - evacuate immediately.

Warmth and Shelter

- Tent/Trailer or other shelter
- Wool-blend blanket or sleeping bags
- Emergency reflective blanket
- Lightweight stove with fuel or camp stove (OUTDOORS ONLY)
- Hand and body warm packs
- Poncho or rain protection (a large garbage bag works in a pinch)

Tools and Equipment

- Pocket knife or multi-tool
- Flashlight, lantern, or candles plus windproof / waterproof matches
- Shovel, hatchet, or axe
- Sewing kit
- Nylon rope and duct tape
- Basic cooking utensils
- Battery-powered or crank radio (with extra batteries if available)
- First aid kit
- Pen / pencil and writing pad
- Whistle for signaling
- Hand sanitizer
- Water resistant duffel bag or tote to store all supplies

Special Items

Keep copies of important family documents in a waterproof, fireproof, portable container for quick evacuation.

- Passports
- Health cards
- Drivers' licences
- Birth certificates
- Bank account and credit card numbers
- A small amount of cash
- Extra house and vehicle keys
- Photos of family members *(helpful if separated during an emergency)*
- Games, toys, and comfort items for children
- Cell phone, charger, and car adaptor *(keep devices fully charged whenever possible!)*

‘READY TO GO’ KIT



Change of clothing



Copies of ID, insurance papers and important documents



Toiletries (toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, deodorant, & shampoo)



Cash



Spare keys



Extra medication and copies of prescriptions



Copy of important phone numbers (family, work, daycare, vet etc.)



First aid kit



Flashlight with spare batteries



Non-perishable snacks and some bottled water or water purification kit



CAR SURVIVAL KIT

- Shovel
- Sand or kitty litter
- Traction mats
- Tow chain
- Compass
- Cloth or roll of toilet paper
- Warning light or road flares
- Extra clothing and footwear
- Emergency food pack
- Booster cables
- Blanket (special “survival” blankets are best)
- Duct tape
- Matches and a “survival” candle in a deep can (to warm hands, heat drink, or use as emergency light)
- Ice scraper and brush
- Fire extinguisher
- Extra windshield washer fluid
- Fuel-line antifreeze
- Road maps
- Flashlight
- First-Aid kit



PET EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT

- 72-hour supply of food, bowls and can opener
- 72-hour supply of bottled water
- Blankets/towels (more than one in case they get soiled)
- Small toy
- Leash, muzzle, harness
- Litter pan, litter, plastic bags and scooper
- Pet carrier for transportation
- Medical records, especially proof of vaccinations (most boarding facilities will not accept pets without proof of current vaccination records)
- Medications and pet first aid kit
- Current photo of pet in case they get lost
- Information on your pet’s feeding schedule, behavioural / medical concerns and special boarding instructions
- List of boarding facilities in your area, hotels/motels that accept pets, and friends and relatives that you and your pet can stay with (pets are generally not allowed inside emergency shelters designated for people, with the exception of service animals such as guide dogs)
- I.D. tag (microchipping also recommended)

DO 1 THING

Prepare for emergencies by doing one thing each month:



January - Make a Plan

Understand what puts you at risk from disasters and take steps to lower your risk.



February - Water

Have 72 hours (3 days) worth of water stored for your household.



March - Sheltering

Know how to respond safely when instructions are given to evacuate or take shelter.



April - Food

Have an emergency food supply that will meet the needs of your household for three days without outside help.



May - Work, School & Community

Make sure the people who count on your are prepared for a disaster.



June - Unique Family Needs

Be aware of and prepare for your family's unique needs.

DO 1 THING

Prepare for emergencies by doing one thing each month:



July - Family Communication Plan

Have the ability to communicate with family members during a disaster.



August - Get Involved

Make your community stronger by getting trained and getting involved.



September - Be Informed

Make sure everyone in your household can receive, understand, and act on information received in an emergency.



October - Power

Be able to safely meet your basic needs during an electrical outage.



November - Emergency Supplies

Remember important items that may be overlooked when leaving your home in a disaster.



December - First Aid

Be prepared to give first aid while paramedics are enroute.

ALERT READY: STOP. LISTEN. RESPOND

Alert Ready is Canada's national emergency alerting system, designed to deliver critical and potentially life-saving warnings to the public. Alerts are broadcast through television, radio, and LTE-connected, compatible wireless devices to ensure they reach Canadians quickly during emergencies.

The Alert Ready system is a collaborative effort involving federal, provincial, and territorial emergency management officials, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Pelmorex, the broadcasting industry, and wireless service providers. Together, these partners work to ensure alerts are issued immediately and that Canadians receive the information they need to take action and stay safe.

Check your phone's compatibility here: alertready.ca/wireless/

For more information about Alert Ready including frequently asked questions, visit: alertready.ca/

Follow Alert Ready on X and Facebook for the latest emergency information and preparedness tips.



ALERT READY
EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM

USING TECHNOLOGY DURING A DISASTER



We rely on technology more than ever to stay connected with family, friends, and colleagues. With a click, we can share information instantly. During a major emergency, these everyday tools become vital for staying informed, reaching loved ones, and accessing help. Here are practical tips for using technology effectively in an emergency:

Stay Connected Wisely

- Use text, email, or social media first—they use less network space than calls.
- If you must call, keep it brief and share only essential information.

Manage Busy Networks

- If a call fails, wait 10 seconds before retrying to avoid adding to congestion.
- Cordless home phones need power and won't work in outages; keep at least one corded landline phone.

Prepare Your Devices

- Keep spare batteries or a backup charger in your emergency kit.
- Consider solar, crank, or car chargers for long outages.
- If you don't use a cell phone, include a prepaid calling card.
- Save battery by dimming your screen, using airplane mode, and closing unused apps.

Keep Contacts Updated

- Regularly update key numbers and emails for family, neighbours, schools, work, and insurance.

Plan Ahead

- Save your family's meeting place in your phone's map app for quick access.

HAZARDS IN HASTINGS COUNTY

These are some of the hazards that can affect communities across Hastings County, along with simple steps you can take to stay safe.

POWER OUTAGE

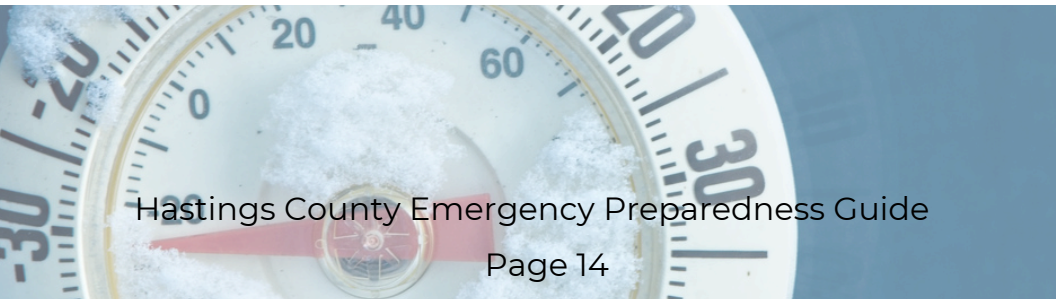
Risk: Outages can cause unsafe temperatures, food spoilage, loss of communication, and loss of use of medical equipment.

- In winter, drain pipes and shut off the main water supply during long outages.
- Turn off major appliances so they don't turn on unexpectedly when power returns and cause power surges.
- Keep a corded phone or non-electric communication option.
- Limit opening the fridge and freezer.
- Never use barbecues, camp stoves, or generators indoors (carbon monoxide risk).
- Use candles safely; flashlights are safer.

EXTREME COLD

Risk: Extreme cold can cause frostbite, hypothermia, and dangerous travel conditions.

- Dress in layers and stay dry.
- Cover your face and mouth outdoors.
- Take breaks when shoveling.
- Tell someone your route when travelling; keep a vehicle kit and fuel.
- Use indoor-approved heating devices only.
- Keep flammables away from heaters; avoid overloaded outlets.



TORNADOES

Risk: Tornadoes can cause severe wind damage, flying debris, and life-threatening conditions.

- Go to the basement or an interior room on the lowest floor (bathroom, closet, hallway).
- Stay away from windows and exterior walls.
- If outdoors, get inside immediately. If you cannot, take cover in a ditch or low area and protect your head.

EXTREME HEAT

Risk: Heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

- Stay in the shade and use SPF 15+ sunscreen.
- Wear light, loose clothing.
- Drink water often; avoid alcohol and caffeine.
- Limit strenuous activity.
- Never leave children or pets in a vehicle.
- Check local updates for cooling centres.
- Check on high-risk people (children, seniors, those with health issues, outdoor workers).

THUNDERSTORMS

Risk: Thunderstorms can bring lightning, strong winds, power outages, and flash flooding.

- Get indoors. If not possible, crouch low away from tall objects - don't lie flat.
- If no shelter, use a ditch or low area, watching for flooding.
- If on the water, get to shore immediately.
- Avoid electrical equipment and plumbing—lightning travels through wires and pipes.
- If in a vehicle, stay inside with windows closed.

FLOODS

Risk: Flooding can damage property, block roads, contaminate water, and create dangerous currents.

- Move valuables and furniture to higher levels.
- Close basement windows and doors.
- If water rises quickly, go to higher ground.
- Avoid driving through flooded roads.
- For updates, visit www.ontario.ca/flooding

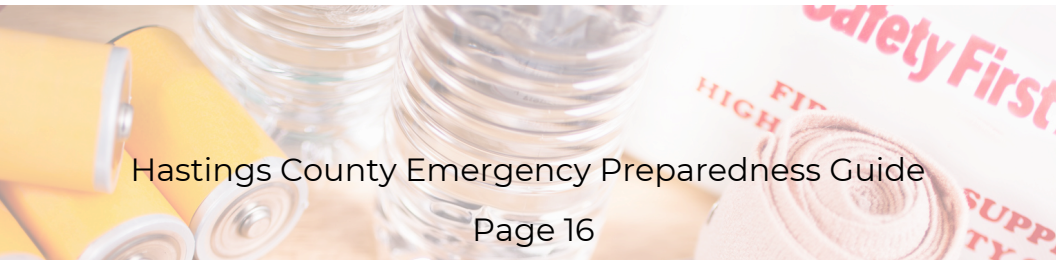
HEALTH EMERGENCIES

Risk: Health emergencies can affect large numbers of people and may involve illness outbreaks, unsafe food or water, or other public health hazards.

Southeast Public Health is a key resource during health-related emergencies, including disease outbreaks and food or water safety issues. They work closely with local emergency planners, hospitals, and paramedic services.

Phone: 613-966-5500 or 1-800-267-2803
Website: southeastph.ca/

- Check your local public health website and trusted sources for updates, alerts, and safety information.
- You can also subscribe to **emergency alerts** for timely notifications.
- For weather-related health risks (heat, air quality, storms), visit theweathernetwork.com or use their app for mobile alerts.



RECEPTION & EVACUATION CENTRES

Reception / Evacuation Centres
Reception centres provide short-term support and information for people affected by an emergency.

Evacuation Centres provide all the services of a reception centre, plus short-term lodging for people who cannot return home. They may offer sleeping areas, basic supplies, and additional supports until it is safe to leave or alternate arrangements are made.

When You Arrive
- Register so staff can confirm your safety, help reunite families, and determine needed supports.
- You may need to show ID and sign in/out.
- A wristband may be issued during larger or overnight responses.

Services Available
- Registration & family inquiry
- Emergency information updates
- Light refreshments
- First aid (HQPS Paramedics)
- Personal supports (e.g., counselling, shelter)
- Basic pet supplies or help arranging safe care

Safety and Conduct
- One controlled entrance/exit for safety.
- No smoking indoors; outdoor area provided.
- No alcohol permitted.
- Security or centre staff will be on-site.

Community Partners
May include Hastings County Community & Human Services, HQPS, Public Health, Canadian Red Cross, Salvation Army, local volunteers, and the Humane Society.

ABOUT HASTINGS-QUINTE PARAMEDIC SERVICES

Hastings–Quinte Paramedic Services (HQPS) responds to over **30,000 emergency calls each year**, providing dependable care across Hastings and Prince Edward Counties. Our paramedic bases operate in **Bancroft, Madoc, Stirling, Picton, Quinte West, Tyendinaga, and two locations in Belleville**, with an additional post in **Tweed**.

Our team includes more than **170 dedicated professionals**, including **Primary Care Paramedics (PCP), Advanced Care Paramedics (ACP), and Community Paramedics (CP)**, supported by strong logistical and administrative teams. We also maintain specialized capabilities - such as **tactical paramedics and remote-access teams** - to ensure we can reach patients in even the most challenging conditions.

HQPS is committed to delivering **high-quality, patient-centered care**, and continues to adopt innovative tools to support effective emergency response across our communities.



PREPARING FOR THE ARRIVAL OF PARAMEDICS

- Remain calm and get organized
- **Unlock and open the front door** – paramedics look for easy access into the home. Preferably use entranceways without multiple stairs or narrow passages.
- **Turn on the lights**, inside and outside of the home.
- Ensure your **house number** is clearly displayed.
- Whenever possible, **vehicles should be removed** from the driveway.
- **Clear a path** to the patient.
- **Secure any pets.**
- Extinguish any smoking materials.
- **Gather** all patient **medications** and/or lists of medications.
- Have the patient's **Ontario Health Card** ready.
- **Gather** all pertinent **medical info** – i.e., past medical history, allergies, DNR (if applicable).
- **Be ready to leave the home** – In some cases paramedics may require a family member to accompany them during transport: e.g., a child or baby







THE ROLE OF HASTINGS COUNTY IN AN EMERGENCY

NON-EMERGENCY SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES

Hastings County supports its member municipalities and the separated cities prior to an emergency by participating with them and supporting them in exercises, training, public education / awareness initiatives. The County is also required to conduct its own training and exercises for the Municipal Emergency Control Group (MECG) as well as developing and delivering public education and awareness information.

EMERGENCY SUPPORT AND ACTIVITIES

In the event of a single municipality activating their emergency plan, Hastings County provides support by sending representation from Hastings-Quinte Paramedic Services and Community and Human Services as part of municipal emergency plans.

In the event of a large scale, multiple municipal emergency situations, Hastings County will activate its MECG to provide assistance and support by coordinating resources, liaising with provincial and federal partners through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), non-governmental stakeholders and providing County services to the municipalities as requested, such as paramedic services and emergency social services.

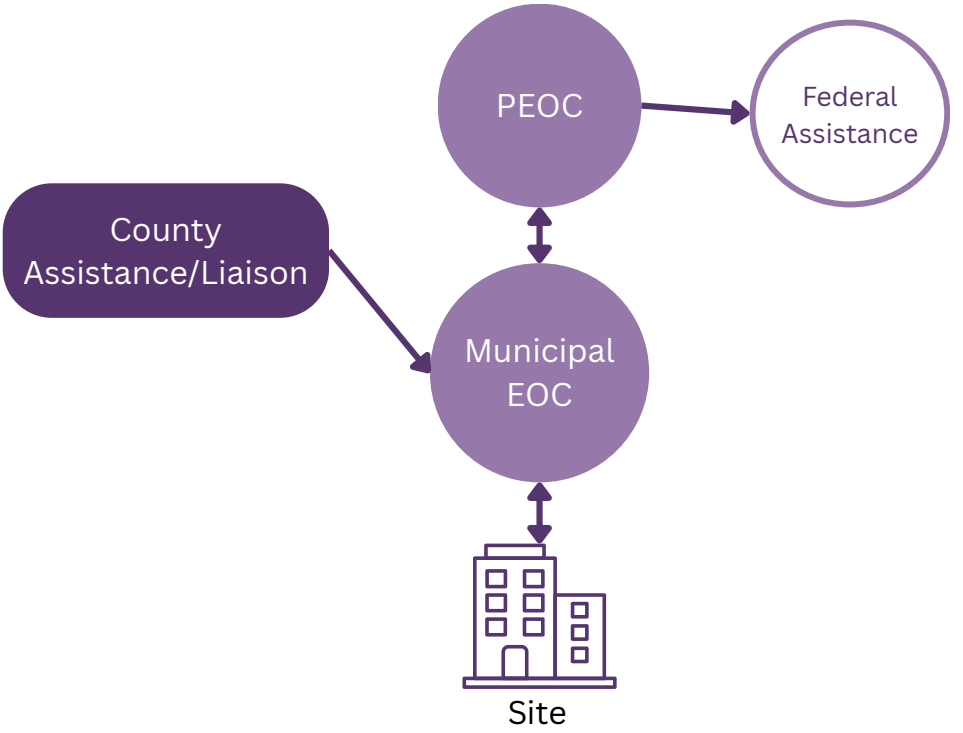
REQUEST A PRESENTATION

If you would like to **request a presentation** on personal emergency preparedness or learn more about emergency management in Hastings County, we're here to help.

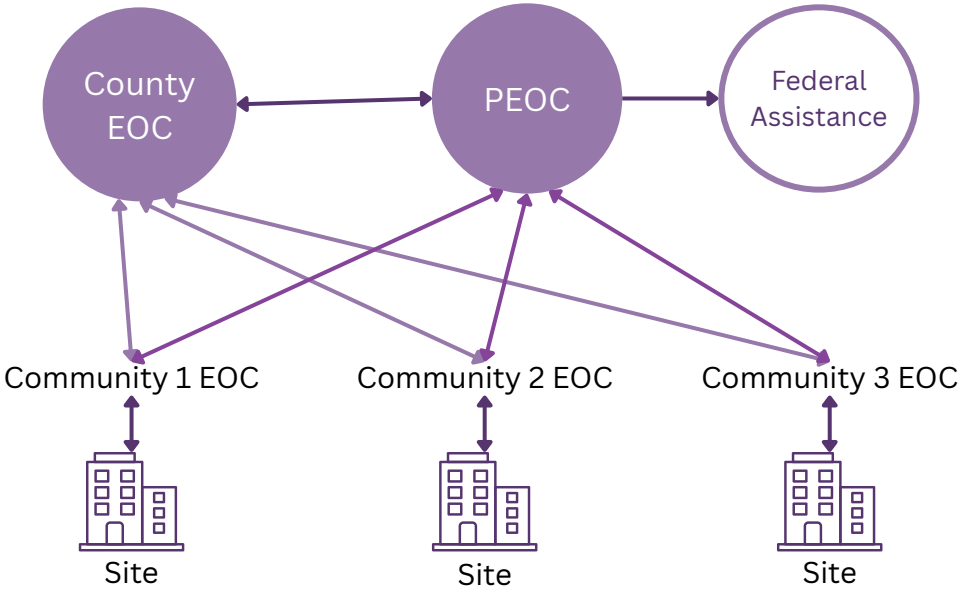
Please contact **Nathan Dudley, Superintendent of Emergency Management and Community Program Development**, at:

dudleyn@hastingscounty.com
613-403-2547

SINGLE COMMUNITY DECLARES



MULTIPLE COMMUNITIES DECLARE



FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN TEMPLATE

The goal of a family emergency plan is to ensure your household can remain self-sufficient for at least 72 hours and stay connected, organized, and able to reunite quickly, especially in the event of an evacuation.

Out-of-Area Contact (A person far enough away so as not to be affected by the emergency - someone each member of the family can call or email in case of emergency. Name: Address: Telephone: (home): (Work): (Cell): Email address:	**Temporary Accommodation** (a place where your family will be able to stay for a few days in case of evacuation). Location: Telephone: Email address:

Emergency Meeting Place (A place for your family to meet if you are all in different locations when your home is evacuated, such as work or school)

Location:

Alternate Location:

Give a copy of this plan to each family member, your emergency contact, child's school etc.

Family Contact Information:

Family Member	Usual Weekday Location	Contact Information

Special Health Information:

Insurance/Security Company Contact Information:

'Ready to Go' kit Location:

Separate location for pets to be cared for (if required) and contact information:

Pet Emergency Kit Location:

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT:

Hastings County
hastingscounty.com

Hydro One
hydroone.com/power-outages-and-safety

Ontario Emergency Management
www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-management

Canada Gov. Get Prepared
getprepared.ca

Ontario Gov. Flood Information
ontario.ca/flooding

The Weather Network
theweathernetwork.com/en

Southeast Public Health
southeastph.ca/

Canada Gov. Weather Index
weather.gc.ca/index_e.html

MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION

Town of Bancroft: 613-332-2442
Information: bancroft.ca/town_hall/emergency_preparedness__safety

Township of Carlow-Mayo: 613-332-1760
Information: carlowmayo.ca/departments/emergency-services/

Municipality of Centre Hastings: 613-473-4030
Information: centrehastings.com/living-here/emergency-preparedness/

Town of Deseronto: 613-396-2440
Information: deseronto.ca/

Township of Faraday: 613-332-3638
Information: faraday.ca/

Municipality of Hastings Highlands: 613-338-2811
Information: hastingshighlands.ca/living-here/emergency-services-and-preparedness/

Township of Limerick: 613-474-2863
Information: limerick.ca/services/emergency/

Township of Madoc: 613-473-2677
Information: madoc.ca/departments/emergency-planning/

Municipality of Marmora and Lake: 613-472-2748
Information: marmoraandlake.ca/emergency-preparedness

Township of Stirling-Rawdon: 613-395-0214
Information: stirling-rawdon.com/living-here/fire-and-emergency-services/

Township of Tudor and Cashel: 613-474-2583
Information: tudorandcashel.com/departments/emergency-services

Municipality of Tweed: 613-478-2535
Information: tweed.ca/emergency-management-c346

Township of Tyendinaga: 613-396-1660
Information: tyendinagatownship.com/living-here/emergency-services/

Township of Wollaston: 613-337-5731
Information: wollaston.ca/living-here/emergency-management/

City of Quinte West: 613-392-2841
Information: quintewest.ca/community-services/fire-emergency-services/emergencypreparedness/

City of Belleville: 613-962-2010
Information: belleville.ca/en/home-and-property/emergency-preparedness.aspx

County of Hastings:613-966-1311 x2500
Information: hastingscounty.com/communities/services/emergency-services

SUPPORTING PEOPLE
Hastings™
AND OUR COMMUNITIES

Contact

Hastings County
235 Pinnacle St.
Belleville ON
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(613) 966-1311