



Quick Tips to Get YOU Prepared!

1. Be sure everyone in your household knows ***where to meet up after an emergency***. Designate two meeting places: one should be a spot right outside your home and the second should be in your neighbourhood if you are not able to remain in or return to your home.
2. Have an ***emergency contact person outside your home area***. In some instances, it might be easier to call long distance than to call locally after a disaster. Take some time now to contact a friend or family outside your home area and see if they will become your emergency contact person. Share that persons' contact information with everyone in your household. During an emergency, you can call this person and they can share with other family where you are, how you are and how to get in touch with you.
3. Make ***emergency contact cards*** for everyone in your household and be sure they carry them at all times.
4. Have a ***'wired' telephone*** in your home. During an emergency situation, cordless or cell phones may not work.
5. Don't forget to look after your ***pets in an emergency***. In the case of evacuation from your home, remember most emergency shelters will not allow pets. Your pet should not be left behind. Be sure to have alternate arrangements for your pet in case of an emergency.
6. Go through your calendar and mark at six month intervals, ***reminders to review your emergency plan, your preparedness kit*** and have the conversation with your family about what to do if an emergency situation arises.
7. Parents – ***teach your children how and when to call 9 1 1.***
8. ***Talk to your neighbours*** about how you could work together during an emergency. Find out if anyone has specialized training and knowledge or equipment (i.e. generator) that could be helpful during an emergency. Make arrangements on how this knowledge and equipment will be shared. Decide who will check on elderly or disabled neighbours.



9. **Check your first aid kit** on a semi-annual basis. Replace any expired or soon to expire items and those that are getting low on quantity. Be sure your first aid kit reflects any changes to health status within your family. Also, include any necessary first aid items for your pets.
10. **Assemble or review your first aid kit and emergency preparedness kit in your car.**
11. When storing **water in your emergency preparedness kit**, remember to include enough for pets and personal use as well as drinking.
12. **Read information** on Haldimand County's website, on Emergency Management Ontario's website (<http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/home.html>) and Government of Canada's Emergency Preparedness website (<http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>). This information will assist you to prepare.
13. During an emergency, it's best and easiest to use bottled water for drinking and cooking. However if that is not available, and you have concerns about the purity of the water, there are some **simple water treatments** you can use.
 - a. Filter & boil – filter the water through a clean cloth or coffee filter to remove particles and then boil for 1 minute – cool before using.
 - b. Chlorinate – add 2 drops of liquid chlorine bleach per litre of water. Use only plain chlorine bleach; no bleach with scents or other additives. Let stand for 30 minutes before using.
 - c. Flood water is NOT usable – it may be contaminated with chemicals which the above treatments will not address.
14. You may be required to turn **off your utilities** in an emergency situation. Know where all utility shut off valves are located and have appropriate tools hands to the locations. If you turn off the gas, only a professional can turn this back on. Do not attempt this yourself.
15. In an emergency situation, you could be required to **stay home or to evacuate your home**. Be sure you have emergency plans for both situations and kits appropriate to each.
16. **Floods** are the most common of all natural disasters and can happen in any season. In a flood, to be safe, always head for higher ground and stay away from all flood water.