

Emergency Preparedness Starts with You

For Immediate Release
3/5/2017

The Counties, Ontario - Emergencies can strike quickly and without warning. Planning ahead is a community's best defense. Every municipality including the United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry is required to have its own emergency response plan in place. SDG and our six municipalities keep the health, safety and well-being of all residents top of mind.

Natural disasters may be beyond our control, but there are ways to reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face—whether natural or human induced. Residents are encouraged to be prepared to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency while rescue workers help those in urgent need. Almost 10 000 Ontarians have emergency preparedness plans – do you?

- Emergency Preparedness Week runs from May 7th to May 13th and is a Canada-wide initiative to increase awareness of individual and family preparedness.
- The provincial theme this year is “Emergency Preparedness starts with you, Prepare YourSelfie!”. Post a selfie of yourself with your 72-hour kit at #Prepareyourselfie.
- The United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry also want to make sure that you are prepared. Visit the Emergency Preparedness Action Plan Website (<https://beprepared.emergencymanagementontario.ca/myplan>) and create a plan for your household. Make sure to fill out your municipality - they'll be tracking progress and will announce which municipality's residents rose to the preparedness challenge.
- If you visit the Counties Facebook page between May 8th-12th and Like or Share the post on the competition you will also be entered in a draw to win a pair of tickets of your choice to the Upper Canada Playhouse, Pumpkin Inferno, Alight at Night, or a family pass to the Historic SDG Jail.

Quote

“Oftentimes emergencies may seem like distant possibilities, however, these risks can happen at anytime. During a disaster, regular services that we take for granted may be unavailable for days. Preparing a kit and having an emergency plan is important and something every family can do to help take care of themselves for the first 72 hours.”

Katherine Beehler
Training and Emergency Management Coordinator
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry

Quick Facts

- Roughly 5, 000 earthquakes are recorded in Canada every year
- Approximately 85% of Canadians agree that having an emergency kit is important in ensuring that their family is safe, yet only 40% have prepared or bought an emergency kit. Complete yours online at www.GetPrepared.ca.
- One of the most destructive and disruptive storms in Canadian history was the 1998 ice storm in Eastern Canada causing hardship for 4 million people and costing \$3 billion. Power outages lasted for up to 4 weeks.
- Ontarians can sign up for Red Alerts, Emergency Information Advisories and Tornado Warnings at www.ontario.ca/emo

Contact:

Katherine Beehler
Training and Emergency Management Coordinator
United Counties of Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry
kbeehler@sdgcounties.ca