



PRESS RELEASE

County of Dufferin
55 Zina Street
Orangeville, ON L9W 1E5

For Immediate Release: May 2, 2017

Emergency Preparedness Week

Dufferin – Emergencies can and quite often do happen in Ontario and the first step in being prepared for a catastrophic event is to know the risks according to Dufferin County’s Warden, Darren White. “While we all know that tornados happen in Dufferin County from time-to-time there are more frequent and potentially more dangerous hazards that also exist.”

To ensure they know what to prepare for Dufferin County conducts a thorough Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment using a provincial model to determine just what risks residents of Dufferin face. The results of this assessment are used to create the Community Risk Profile.

The most recent Community Risk Profile shows the following to be the top 10 hazards in Dufferin County:

1. Severe Winter Storms
2. Ice Storms
3. High Winds
4. Tornados
5. Power Outages
6. Flooding
7. Severe Summer Storms
8. Extreme Cold
9. Transportation Incidents
10. Hazardous Materials Spills

Once you know the hazards you face, you can start creating your plans for how you will protect yourself, your family, your home and business from those hazards.

Warden White went on to say that “everyone needs to know what their plans are during an emergency and the best way to ensure that they do is to practice them just like you do your fire escape plans in your home.”

Emergency Preparedness Week is a nationwide campaign to encourage families and businesses to prepare for emergencies both large and small. The campaign runs from May 7th – 13th 2017 and here in Dufferin County there will be workshops offered (see below) to help people prepare

Hug-a-Tree and Survive is an AdventureSmart program that helps lost children survive in the woods. It teaches children 5 and older not to become lost in the woods, and what to do should they become lost. This program is ideal for children who spend time in rural areas and those who plan on hiking, camping or spending time at the cottage. This free interactive program is being offered on Monday May 8th from 6:00-7:00 pm in Grand Valley at the Community Centre; on Tuesday May 9th from 6:00-7:00 pm in Orangeville at the Edelbrock Centre and again on Wednesday the 10th from 6:00-7:00 pm in Shelburne at the Mel Lloyd Centre. For more information or to register for the Hug-A-Tree and Survive program please email emergency.management@dufferincounty.ca

CANWARN Severe Weather Spotter training will be provided by Environment Canada meteorologist Geoff Coulson on Tuesday May 9th, 2017 at the County Courthouse beginning at 7:00 pm. Participants are taught how to recognize severe weather and how to report their sightings to the meteorologists at Environment Canada. This program is very valuable for those who work or play outdoors when bad weather can present challenges.

To register for the CANWARN training program please email Geoff.coulson@canada.ca

Dufferin County will also be participating in the Office of the Fire Marshal and Emergency Management's #PrepareYourSelfie campaign this year. This campaign encourages people across the province to take a selfie with their emergency plan or emergency kit items and post it to social media using the hashtag #PrepareYourSelfie. Those who also tag their selfie with #WeAreDufferin will be entered into a draw for some great prizes.

"We are a pretty resilient community and the steps we take now to prepare for emergencies will only help us to better weather any storm." concluded White.

For additional information on emergency preparedness you can visit:

www.dufferincounty.ca

<https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca>

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca>

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For more information, please contact:

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