



PRESS RELEASE

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

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Prepare a Family Emergency Plan

Dufferin – The windstorm that pounded Dufferin County and most of southern Ontario last week is just one example of the need for creating a family emergency plan according to Dufferin County’s Warden, Paul Mills. With electrical power out to thousands of Dufferin residents along with damage to buildings of all shapes and sizes the winds gusted to about 92 kilometers per hour at the peak of the storm. “The warning issued by Environment Canada advised that wind gusts could get up to 110 kilometers per hour, had that happened the damage could have been much worse” said Warden Mills.

Coincidentally May 6th-12th is Emergency Preparedness Week in Ontario and Warden Mills is asking that everyone take a few simple steps to better prepare their households, workplaces and schools for an emergency.

“Knowing the risks is the first step to being better prepared” said Warden Mills. Every year the County of Dufferin conducts a Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment to determine what the most likely risks are to the community. “Through the HIRA process we are able to anticipate what could happen and better plan for how we will respond” Mills stated.

“Once you know the risks you can prepare your plan” says Steve Murphy, Dufferin County’s Emergency Management Coordinator. He further stated that “knowing the contact information, safe locations, evacuation routes and items required in advance of an emergency greatly increases everyone’s safety and reduces stress”.

The third step is to assemble an emergency kit with everything you will need to take care of your family for 72 hours. “An emergency kit doesn’t have to be an elaborate undertaking and much of what goes in one is already in your home” said Murphy. “Items such as water, food, medications, clothing, blankets, flashlights and batteries are likely already on hand, it’s just a matter of gathering them up and keeping them in one place” said Warden Mills.

If you are going to invest in anything emergency preparedness related this month Murphy recommends a battery or crank powered radio. “Staying informed during an incident is crucial

to everyone's wellbeing" he said. "A crank radio that also has a USB charger for your mobile device is the first disaster tech item I suggest" Murphy stated.

For additional information about preparing for emergencies and family emergency plan templates Warden Mills recommends the following resources:

<https://www.dufferincounty.ca/residents/emergency-services>

<https://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca/english/beprepared/beprepared.html>

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

Warden Mills also suggested that service clubs, schools, and other groups can contact the County and request an emergency preparedness presentation or workshop by emailing emergency.management@dufferincounty.ca or by calling 519-941-2816.

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For more information, please contact:

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