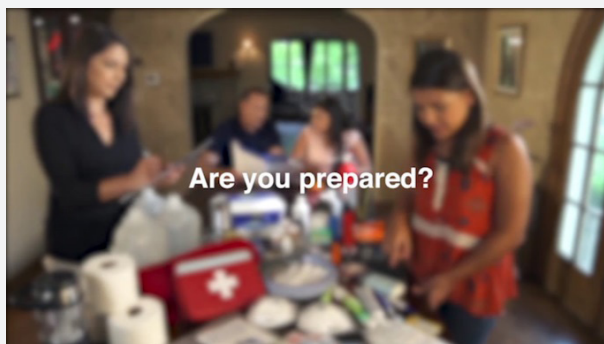


In recent years devastating natural disasters, including forest fires and heavy flooding, are showing just how vulnerable communities are to the power of Mother Nature.

Often we think that as parents, caregivers or partners we have the ability to stay or connect with our loved ones following an emergency; that is not always the case. Municipal employees may be called upon to assist in the Emergency Response and they also may be unable to return home due to traffic complications. It is important to ensure you have an Emergency Family Plan and Emergency Kit ready for your family in the event that you could not be there.



MAKE AN EMERGENCY FAMILY PLAN

- Safe exits from home and neighbourhood
- Meeting places to reunite with family or roommates
- Designated person to pick up children should you be unavailable
- Contact persons close-by and out-of-town
- Health and insurance information
- Places for your pets to stay
- Risks in your region
- Location of your fire extinguisher, water valve, electrical panel, gas valve and floor drain

Being able to communicate with family, friends and emergency responders during an emergency is critical. Keep in mind however, that everyday communication devices may not work properly during an emergency.

- If possible, use text messaging, email or social media, as these use less bandwidth than voice communications.
- If you must use a phone, keep your conversation brief and convey only vital information. Keeping calls short also saves the battery life of your mobile phone.
- If you are unable to complete a call, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion.
- Keep extra batteries or a solar charger for your mobile device in your emergency kit.
- If you have been evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, use it to forward calls to your cell phone.
- If you do not have a hands-free device in your car, stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before texting, making a call or using the device.
- Keep your contacts up to date on your phone, email and other channels.
- Note, cordless phones rely on electricity and will not work during a power outage. If you have a landline, keep at least one corded phone in your home.