

## **WHAT TO DO IN AN EMERGENCY IN CARLETON PLACE**

The Carleton Place Emergency Planning Committee of The Town of Carleton Place has identified the five top potential risks in terms of emergencies that could occur within the municipality. While other types of emergencies can and do exist, these are the top five possible risks:

- 1. Water Emergencies**
- 2. Transportation Accident (Rail)**
- 3. Energy Emergencies**
- 4. Human Health**
- 5. Critical Infrastructure Failure**

Below is a checklist to help you and your family plan for one or all of these potential risks in our community.

### **1. Water Emergencies**

Most of the residents and businesses in Carleton Place are serviced by a municipal water system. This water system consists of a water treatment plant, a water tower for the storage of water, a water distribution system and a several pumping stations. In the event that one or all of these facilities are unable to deliver potable drinking water, it is important to know what to do and how to provide safe drinking water to you and your family for at least 72 hours.

In the event that residents of the community are informed that the municipal drinking water is not safe to drink, the Medical Officer of Health will issue a boil water order until further notice. In this situation, residents are advised to follow these instructions carefully.

It is always a good idea to store within your home an adequate supply of drinking water for at least 72 hours. Bottled water is a good way to store water or alternatively, water purification tablets may be added to clean the water. Water held in containers for more than a few months should be replenished.

Once the boil water order is lifted, follow the instructions that the Medical Officer of Health or municipality may issue regarding the running of water from your tap in your home.

It is also a good idea to keep some bottled water in your car should you be required to leave the community safely but quickly.

## **2. Transportation Accident (Railway)**

For many years the railway was the social, economic and industrial life line of the community. Although the railway no longer provides passenger service, the current railway line which dissects the municipality is a busy transportation mode for freight operations by the Ottawa Valley Railway Company.

In the event of a railway accident or a derailment, the following is a list of do's and don'ts for you and your family to follow:

- Do listen to local radio stations or local officials for information and advice.
- Do follow the instructions of local police, fire and/or emergency personnel.
- Do be prepared to evacuate your home to either the primary Emergency Evacuation Centre (The Carleton Place Community Centre) located at 75 Neelin Street.
- Do have your 72 hour emergency kit ready to go.
- Do let police or emergency personnel know if you are requested to evacuate your home and decide to go to relatives or friends out of town. The best way to do this is to report this information to the Emergency Evacuation Centre.
  
- Do not go near the accident scene nor let your children play near the train.
- Do not stay outside in the event of dangerous fumes or a possible explosion.
- Do not interfere with railway recovery operations.

## **3. Energy Emergencies**

On Thursday, August 14, 2003 a large scale power outage occurred across much of Ontario and portions of the north eastern United States. Since much of our society relies on hydro electric power, it is essential to prepare your family or business for the loss of power.

Here are some of the things that you can do to be prepared in the event of a power outage.

- Again, listen to local radio stations for instructions with either a battery powered radio or a hand cranked radio.
  
- Be sure that your 72 hour family kit contains adequate flashlights and batteries. While candles may be used for temporary lighting, be sure that they are handled properly to ensure a house fire is not accidentally started.
  
- As food may go bad during a prolonged power outage, be sure to have a supply of canned goods available. Bottled water will ensure that the water you drink is safe.
  
- Check on your neighbours. Perhaps there is a senior citizen or resident who is disabled who could use your assistance.

-In the event of a power failure during the winter, if you use a standby generator, please follow instructions carefully. Also, if you leave your home for an extended period of time without a source of heat, be sure to drain the water from your pipes.

#### **4. Human Health**

Recent concern over the Avian Influenza and the possibility of a pandemic has raised this topic as a potential emergency situation in our community. Medical experts who study influenza tell us that a pandemic tends to occur within the population every thirty or forty years. The last one to take place in North America was in 1976.

Here are some things that you can do to help protect yourself in the event of a Human Health emergency.

-The Ministry of Health recommends that you and your family receive the annual flu vaccination shot each year.

-Do wash your hands on a frequent basis.

-Do ensure that you and your family can be self sufficient for a period of time (at least two weeks in the event of a quarantine).

-Do follow instructions as issued by the Ministry of Health or District Health Unit or the local municipality.

-Do set up a telephone checkup system whereby you can telephone your relatives, friends and/or neighbours to ensure that they are well.

#### **5. Critical Infrastructure Failure**

What is critical infrastructure? Critical infrastructure is an identified facility or facilities that if deemed un-operational due to damage or loss of power, would have a noticeable effect upon the community. For example, if the water tower was unable to retain water or damaged to the point of a loss of use, this would have a serious effect upon the municipality and its ability to supply water to the residents of the community and/or inhibit the ability to fight fires.

In the event of a critical infrastructure failure, residents can do the following.

-Again, listen to local identified media for an update on the progress of repairs to the damaged infrastructure.

-Do obey police, fire and/or local emergency personnel.

-In the event of an evacuation, report to the Primary Evacuation Centre (Carleton Place Community Centre) for further details.

-Again, be sure to have your 72 hour kit ready to go.

### **Further Information:**

For further information on emergency preparedness visit the following web sites on the internet:

#### **Emergency Management Ontario**

[www.emergencymanagementontario.ca](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca)

#### **Canadian Red Cross**

[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)

#### **St. John's Ambulance**

[www.sja.ca/english](http://www.sja.ca/english)

#### **Emergency Preparedness Canada**

[www.ocipep.gc.ca](http://www.ocipep.gc.ca)