

WELLAND LEADING THE WAY



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, May 2, 2014

I AM READY. ARE YOU READY?

Welland, ON – While natural disasters may be beyond our control, there are ways to reduce the risk and possible consequences for whatever emergency we might encounter, whether the disaster is natural or human induced. Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) educates the public this May 4-10 and further helps prepare Canadians for potential emergencies.

The annual EP Week encourages Canadians 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. Welland's Chief of Fire and Emergency services, Denys Prevost, encourages residents to take action. "Residents should understand their needs in an emergency and take the necessary steps to be prepared for a potential emergency every week of the year, whether they are at home or travelling," said Prevost. EP Week is a national effort of provincial and territorial emergency management organizations and is coordinated through Public Safety Canada.

Welland residents are encouraged to visit the educational displays at Welland Civic Square and the Welland Public Library. More information is also available on the City of Welland website, as-well-as guides on how to prepare for various emergencies. Although most Canadians rely on governments to lead emergency situations, those Canadians who educate themselves and prepare an emergency kit will be far more sustainable and resilient throughout an emergency.

By taking the following simple steps, you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies anytime or anywhere. **It is important to:**

Know the risks – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region can help you better prepare.

Make a plan – It will help you and your family better respond to an emergency.

Get an emergency kit – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

The Emergency Preparedness Week website, www.GetPrepared.ca contains more information and resources to help you and your family prepare for all types of emergencies.

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