



January 27, 2016
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CITY STAFF PREPARE FOR POTENTIAL EMERGENCIES

Welland, ON – In our daily lives, disasters seem far from our minds and a distant possibility; however, natural, technological, and environmental disasters do occur and can happen with very little warning. When a community is confronted with an emergency, people depend on local government to provide services and to resolve their concerns. The responsibility of the emergency management team does not end there. City staff continue to prepare and plan for potential emergencies, and encourage individuals and families to also be prepared with a well thought-out plan for emergencies. It is recommended that individuals be prepared to look after themselves for the first 72 hours of any major emergency.

On January 29, 2016, the City's emergency management team will attend Building a Disaster Resilient Niagara Conference. The conference is an opportunity to join other emergency management stakeholders and community partners for a day of Niagara-focused discussion on emergency preparedness. The City of Welland adopted an *Emergency Response Plan* in 2004 with a commitment to improve emergency preparedness for all Welland residents, stakeholders, and visitors.

City of Welland Chief of Fire and Emergency Services, Denys Prevost, has a notable history in emergency management. "Our team is proactive in emergency management not simply due to the requirements of the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act*, but more importantly due to our commitment to the safety of the community," said Prevost. The Fire Chief is also the Emergency Management Coordinator for The City of Welland and takes the lead in ensuring staff is properly prepared to meet the demands of managing potential disasters. "The best approach to managing emergencies is being as fully prepared for all situations and potential disasters as we can be," added Prevost.

Further information regarding Welland Fire and Emergency Services, or for access to The City of Welland's *Emergency Response Plan* and helpful tips on how to prepare for an emergency please reference the website at welland.ca/fire.

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