



MESSAGE FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS INFORMATION



MAY 10, 2019

As you are aware, this spring, there has been a significant amount of flooding in Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick. This has resulted in a number of families being displaced from their homes. While this disaster is fresh in our minds, we are providing some information so that you can be prepared so that when the time comes, and it will, you can be prepared.

Callander is not immune to widespread emergencies. In the last 13 years there have been two wind storms that caused significant damage to many homes in our community. In both instances, this resulted in a "State of Emergency" being declared in Callander. These wind storms also affected our neighbouring communities – Nipissing, North Bay, East Ferris, Mattawa, and down into the Ottawa Valley.

In 2003, there was a widespread power outage that lasted three days and affected most of Ontario, including Callander, and the Eastern United States. This event affected approximately 55,000,000 people.

We can all remember the forest fires in Fort McMurray, Alberta that resulted in the entire area, of approximately 80,000 people, having to immediately evacuate their community.

Last summer, in Ontario, we had a significant number of forest fires. Many of those fires were in communities close to Callander.

The point of this list of disasters is that large scale emergencies can occur which affect hundreds, thousands, or even millions of people all at the same time. These types of disasters stretch emergency services to their very limits.

When disaster strikes, emergency services can't get to everyone that is affected immediately. Priority is given to people whose lives are in immediate danger. Life safety and inconvenience are not the same thing. Life safety will always be prioritized over inconvenience.

It is important to understand, that when widespread emergencies such as flooding, tornadoes, wild fires, significant power outages, etc. occur you must be self-sufficient for 72 hours or more. Please review the emergency preparedness documents and prepare now. If a significant disaster occurs you may not have time to gather the resources that you will need - food, water, medications, pet food, etc. **NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE – DO NOT THINK THAT THIS CAN'T HAPPEN TO YOU.**

The motto of the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts is "Be Prepared!" Follow the example of the Girl Guides and Boy Scouts.

If you need further information you can go to the following websites:

Emergency Management Ontario

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

Red Cross Canada

<https://www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/emergencies-and-disasters-in-canada/be-ready-emergency-preparedness-and-recovery>

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