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For Immediate Release

Is your family prepared for an emergency?

York Region and area municipalities release new Emergency Preparedness Guide

NEWMARKET – York Region, in partnership with the nine area municipalities, has released a new *Emergency Preparedness Guide* for families and businesses across the region.



The guide, which is available in both booklet form and online on the York Region Web site, provides practical instructions on what to do to prepare for almost any type of disaster and emergency in York Region, including hazardous materials incidents, severe weather conditions, power outages, a pandemic influenza outbreak and flooding.

“We know from experience that emergencies and disasters can occur randomly and without warning,” said York Regional Chair and CEO Bill Fisch. “Being prepared for a potential emergency or disaster can lessen the negative impact on individual households and entire communities. This guide provides the first step towards that.”

The guide also provides the following *Before, During and After* information:

Before – How to prepare for a disaster or an emergency

- Making a plan / developing a home escape plan
- Making an emergency kit (e.g. drinking water, food, baby formula, first aid kit, flashlight and batteries, clothing and important family documents)
- Making a car kit
- Tips for persons with disabilities / special needs
- Pets and disasters

During – What to do during a disaster or an emergency

- Seeking shelter
- Evacuation
- Returning home

After – What to do following a disaster or an emergency

- Coping (i.e. dealing with a traumatic event, loss of life or property damage)
- How to help / volunteer
- Insurance Claims

“York Region and the area municipalities have extensive emergency management programs in place to deal with numerous types of emergencies,” said York Region CAO Michael Garrett. “Emergency preparedness, first and foremost however, starts at home and within local communities. We encourage everyone across the region to review the guide – and discuss emergency preparedness in general – with their family, friends and neighbours.”

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The information contained in the guide was compiled from many people with expertise in emergency preparedness and management.

The guide is the result of a collaborative effort by first responders and staff from York Region Emergency Management, Health Services, Emergency Medical Services (EMS), Community Services and Housing, York Regional Police and emergency management and/or fire services of the nine area municipal partners: Aurora, East Gwillimbury, Georgina, King Township, Markham, Newmarket, Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Whitchurch-Stouffville.

How to obtain a copy of the Emergency Preparedness Guide:

- 1) Visit the Information Kiosk located in the Great Hall of the York Region Administration Centre located at 17250 Yonge Street, Newmarket
- 2) Contact your local area municipal office
- 3) Visit the Community Safety Village at the Bruce's Mill Conservation Area
- 4) Visit the York Region Web site at www.york.ca and click on the [New 2005 Emergency Preparedness Guide](#) link for a PDF version

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For more information on the Regional Municipality of York and the services our Region offers, please visit our Web site at: www.york.ca

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