



Emergency Preparedness Guide

Your preparedness helps us all

Know your risks • Make a plan • Build a kit • Stay informed

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A Message from Your Northumberland Emergency Management Coordinators

Northumberland County's Community Emergency Management Coordinators (CEMC's) continue to manage a program to bring emergency awareness and preparedness to residents across the County. This Emergency Preparedness Guide has been designed to help you plan how you will manage before, during, and immediately following such an event.

Should an emergency occur, the Northumberland Emergency Management Coordinators will assist emergency services with the response. This team will coordinate with partner agencies including, but not limited to First Responders, Public Works, Emergency Social Services, and Public Health.

Emergency Preparedness starts with the individual. Residents are advised to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours. This will allow time for emergency services to prioritize their response. You are encouraged to complete a Family Emergency Plan and create a 72 Hour Emergency Kit. This will ensure that your most pressing needs, and those of your family, will be met during the initial stages of an emergency.

For more information on how you can prepare for an emergency, visit Northumberland.ca/BePrepared, your local municipal website, or the Province of Ontario's emergency planning site at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/be-prepared-emergency>.

Our mission is to prepare our community for emergencies. This is a joint effort, please do your part as your preparedness helps us all.

Thank you.

For any questions regarding personal preparedness or Emergency Management in Northumberland County, please contact:
emergencymanagement@northumberland.ca

Our partners

This publication was developed with information from the following partners:

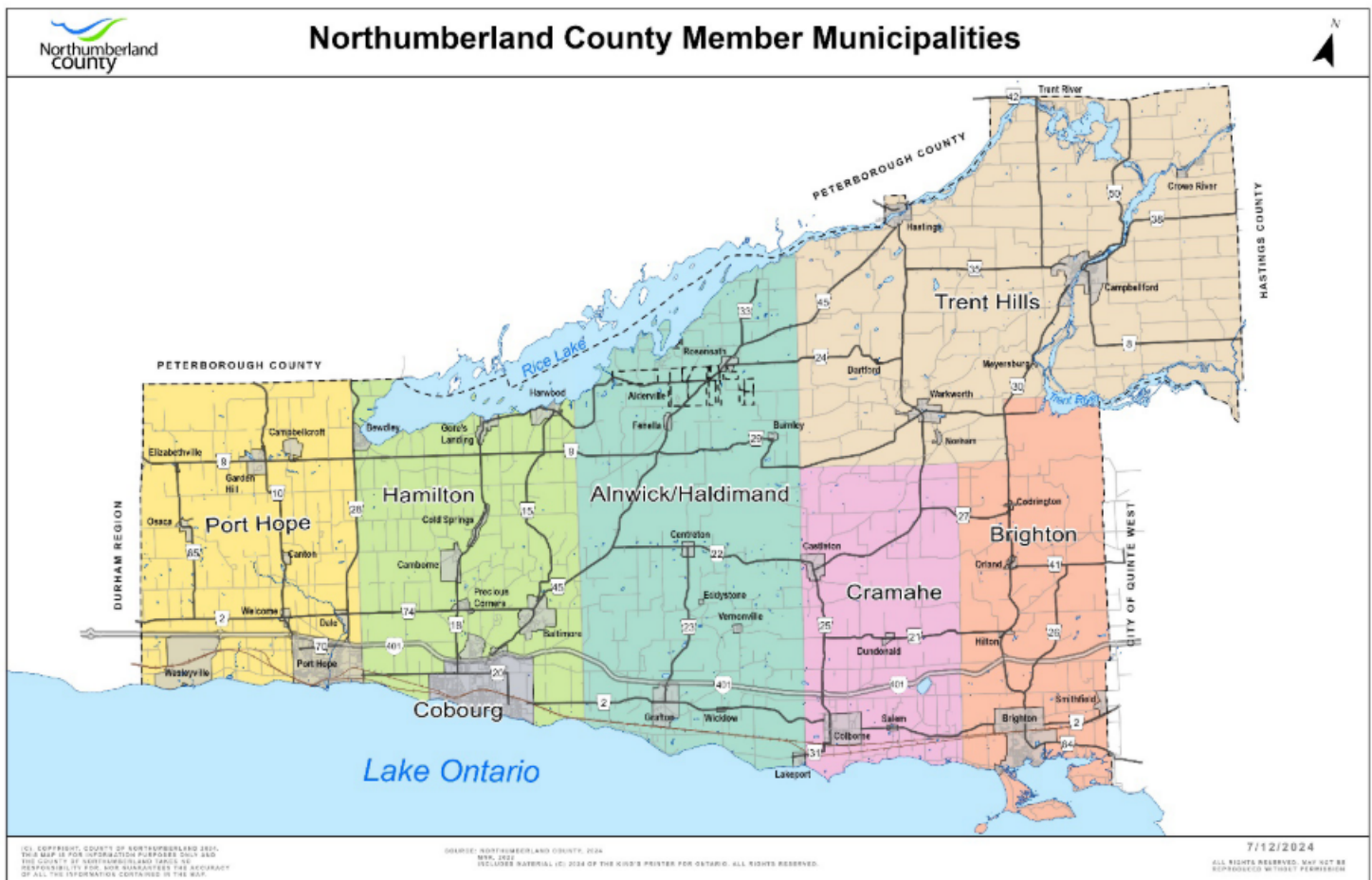


Public Safety
Canada

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Emergency Management Ontario



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Monthly emergency preparedness tips

Follow us on Facebook at [Facebook.com/ncounty](https://www.facebook.com/ncounty) for monthly emergency preparedness tips.

Each month, we feature an emergency preparedness topic to help you prepare for specific hazards and emergencies.



How you can plan for emergencies

1. Know your risks

Make a list of all the hazards that may impact you and your home. Contact your local Community Emergency Management Coordinator or visit our website at northumberland.ca for information on the top local hazards in your community. You can learn more about Ontario's hazards at ontario.ca/page/emergency-preparedness.

The following are some common hazards throughout Northumberland County. Other hazards exist; it is important to always be prepared.

Power Outages

Extreme Cold

Extreme Heat

Severe Summer Weather

Winter Storms

Floods

Wildland Fires

Tornadoes

Transportation Emergencies

Chemical Releases

Cyber-Security

Health Emergencies



2. Make a plan

Ensure everyone in your home knows what to do before, during and after an emergency. As a family, make a plan and discuss how you can best prepare for the most likely hazards that could affect you. If you live alone, make a plan for yourself, and talk about your emergency plan with your neighbours and friends.

Prepare an Emergency Plan that includes a Family Contact Sheet with the names, addresses and phone numbers of your important contacts. Include an out-of-town contact for family members to get in touch with when they are unable to contact other family members.

Create your own Emergency Plan and Family Contact Cards on-line or print off a template today at Ontario.ca or getprepared.gc.ca.

Keep a list of emergency phone numbers handy, share the list friends and family, and include it in your Emergency Plan.

Select a friend or family member who lives a distance away from you to be the contact person in the event you are separated from your family. Ensure everyone in your family has this contact person's phone number. Place a copy of this information in purses, briefcases, school backpacks, or in everyone's electronic devices such as cell phones or laptops. You can also create and attach floor plans for your home to your Emergency Plan that show exits and escape routes from each room.



3. Build a kit

Ensure you have enough supplies in your home to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours. It is ideal to prepare a “Ready-to-Go” Kit that has all the supplies and information you will need should you need to evacuate quickly.

Prepare a Pet Emergency Kit and a Vehicle Emergency Kit in case you are stranded or need to travel a long distance.

72 Hour Emergency Kit

- Food (non-perishable and easy-to-prepare items, enough for three days)
- Manual can opener
- Bottled or bagged water (4 litres per person for each day) and backup water purification tablets
- First aid kit and medications (including prescribed medications)
- Medical supplies, equipment and copies of care/support plans including contact information for doctors or specialists
- Toilet paper and toiletries
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) such as medical masks
- Back up chargers and power banks for mobile devices
- Cash in small bills
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Candles and matches/lighter
- Whistle
- Radio (crank or battery-run)
- Hand sanitizer or moist towelettes
- Extra car and house keys
- Zip-lock and garbage bags
- Items for babies, small children, and pets
- Comfort and sentimental items such as photos of loved ones
- Extra pair of glasses or contact lenses with solution



“Ready to go” kit

- Important papers such as a copy of your identification, emergency plan, contact lists, prescriptions
- Snacks and water
- Phone charger(s)
- Appropriate seasonal clothing
- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Survival multi-tool that includes a screwdriver and pocketknife
- Local map with your safe meeting places identified
- Playing cards, travel games and other small activities
- Pen or pencil and a small paper/notepad

Pet emergency kit

- 72-hour supply of food, water, bowls, and can opener
- Blankets/towels (more than one in case they get soiled)
- A familiar toy
- Leash, muzzle, harness
- Litter pan, litter, plastic bags, and scooper
- Pet carrier for transportation
- Medical records, especially proof of vaccinations (most boarding facilities require proof of current vaccination records)
- Medications and pet first aid kit
- Current photo of your pet in case it gets lost
- Information on your pet’s feeding schedule, behavioural or medical concerns
- List of boarding facilities, hotels/motels, and friends or relatives that you and your pet can stay with (pets are generally not allowed inside emergency shelters, apart from service animals)
- ID tag (micro-chipping is also recommended)



Vehicle Emergency Kit

- Food that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- Water in plastic bottles (change every six months)
- Copy of your emergency plan and personal documents
- Blanket(s)
- Extra clothing and shoes
- Phone charger
- First aid kit
- Seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel, scraper, and snowbrush
- Candle in a deep can with matches
- Wind-up flashlight
- Whistle in case you need to attract attention
- Roadmaps
- Sand or cat litter (non-clumping)
- Antifreeze/windshield washer fluid
- Tow rope
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning light or road flares

And remember, always have plenty of fuel/EV power for your vehicle.



Smart tips

- Pack the contents of your kit in an easy-to-carry bag(s) or a case on wheels.
- Store your kit in a place that is easy to reach and ensure that everyone in your household knows where it is.
- Your kit does not have to be built overnight. Keep a list and spread your shopping over a few months.
- Your water supply is meant to cover what you would drink as well as what you might need for food preparation, hygiene, and dishwashing.
- Check all expiry dates and replace food, water, and batteries with a fresh supply twice a year (i.e. when the clocks shift to/from daylight savings time).
- Ensure your cell phone, mobile devices, and power banks remain fully charged at all times.
- Connect with your neighbours and your community to see how you can support each other. Your municipality or local government may also have services and supplies available, please contact them directly for more information.



4. Stay informed

During an emergency, stay tuned to local news channels and social media outlets. Be sure to have a portable, battery-operated, or crank radio in your emergency kit and backup power for cellular devices.

Follow Emergency Management Ontario on X (@OntarioWarnings) for more emergency preparedness tips and information.



FOR A LIST OF NON-EMERGENCY INFORMATION SOURCES, SEE PAGE 20...

You can also receive emergency alerts through Alert Ready in Ontario. Alert Ready is a national service designed to deliver Canadians' critical and potentially life-saving emergency alert messages.

Only authorized government agencies can issue alerts. Together, government officials developed a specific list of the types of alerts that are considered a threat to life. These types of alerts should be broadcast immediately on television, radio and wireless devices. Below is a complete list and description of these alerts:

- Fire
- Biological
- Hazardous
- Environmental
- Natural
- National Security
- Civil
- Admin (testing)



No sign-up is required; if your device is compatible you will automatically receive alerts. For more information and to check your phone's compatibility, visit alertready.ca.

Feature hazard — severe storms

Source: getprepared.gc.ca

Thunderstorms, high winds, heavy rain, hail, blizzards, and ice storms can develop quickly and threaten life and property. Severe storms occur in all regions of Canada and in all seasons. Listen to local radio, television, and applicable social media outlets for severe weather warnings and advice.



Download the WeatherCAN app to receive weather alert notifications in your area.

Thunderstorms

- Thunderstorms are often accompanied by high winds, hail, lightning, heavy rain, and tornadoes. Thunderstorms are usually over within an hour, although a series of thunderstorms can last for several hours.
- Always check the weather forecast and keep an eye on the skies when planning outdoor activities in the summer months.

Be sure to know the difference between a tornado warning and a tornado watch:

- A **tornado warning** means there is tornado in your area, or that it will hit very soon. Watch for evacuation orders.
- A **tornado watch** means there may be a tornado in your area. Closely monitor local weather reports for more information.

Lightning

- Lightning occurs when the air becomes charged with electricity during a thunderstorm.
- Bolts of lightning travel at about 40,000 kilometres per second.

Wind

- Strong winds and gusty winds can cause property damage or turn any loose item into a dangerous projectile. They can also create unsafe travelling conditions that affect your ability to safely steer your car.
- When there is a wind warning for your area, you should expect inland winds to be blowing steadily at 60-65 km/h or more, or winds that are gusting up to 90 km/h or more. Secure or put away loose objects such as

outdoor furniture or garbage cans, put your car in the garage, and bring livestock to shelter.

- With winds between 60 and 70 km/h, you will have difficulty with balance and walking against the wind. Twigs and small branches could also blow off trees and cause a hazard, so stay inside until it is safe.

Hail

- Hailstorms are most frequent in southern Ontario between May through October.
- Some hailstones are the size of peas while others can be as big as grapefruits.

Heavy rain

- Heavy rainfall can result in flooding. This is particularly true when the ground is still frozen or already saturated from previous storms.
- Floods may also result; especially if heavy rain coincides with the spring thaw. Some areas are more prone to flooding than others; know your risks.



Blizzards

- Blizzards occur when winds of 40 km/h or greater are expected to cause reductions in visibility to 400 metres or less, due to blowing snow, or blowing snow with falling snow, for at least four hours.
- Blizzards arrive on a wave of cold arctic air, bringing snow, bitter cold, high winds, and poor visibility. While these conditions must last for at least four hours to be designated a blizzard, they may last for several days.
- In Ontario, blizzards with high winds are most common in eastern Ontario. Heavy snowfalls are common in southern and eastern Quebec, and areas around the Great Lakes.



Ice storms

- Ice from freezing rain accumulates on branches, power lines and buildings. If you must go outside when a significant amount of ice has accumulated, pay attention to branches or wires that could break due to the weight of the ice and fall on you.
- Stay clear of powerlines; a hanging power line could be charged (live).
- Trees, branches, and power lines can continue to break and fall for several hours after the end of the precipitation due to the weight of the ice and impact of wind.
- When freezing rain is forecast, avoid driving. Even a very small amount of freezing rain can make roads extremely slippery. Wait several hours after freezing rain ends so that road maintenance crews have enough time to spread sand or salt on icy roads.
- A little freezing rain is dangerous; a lot can be catastrophic. An example is the “Great Ice Storm of 1998”, pictures courtesy of Global News.



Severe thunderstorms – a common hazard

Thunderstorms represent a common threat and have intensified in recent years. As such we will focus on what you can do before, during, and after a major storm.

What to do before a severe thunderstorm

- Before a severe thunderstorm, unplug radios and televisions - listen for weather updates on your battery-powered radio.
- If you are indoors, stay away from windows, doors and fireplaces.
- You may want to go to the sheltered area that you and your family chose for your emergency plan.
- If you are advised by officials to evacuate, do so. Take your emergency kit with you.
- You can use a cellular telephone during a severe storm, but it's not safe to use a land-line telephone.
- Consider putting vehicles in the garage or under shelter from hail or flying debris.
- Never go out in a boat during a storm. If you are on the water and you see bad weather approaching, head for shore immediately. Always check the marine forecast before leaving for a day of boating and listen to weather reports during your cruise.
- If you are in a car, stop the car away from trees or power lines that might fall on you. Stay there.

What to do during a severe thunderstorm

- During thunderstorms, you should stay away from items that conduct electricity, such as corded telephones, appliances, sinks, bathtubs, radiators, and metal pipes.
- Where there is thunder there is always lightening. Take immediate shelter during a lightning storm.
- There is no safe place outside during a thunderstorm. Safe shelter can be found either in an enclosed building or a hard-topped vehicle.
- If you can see lightning or hear thunder, you are in danger of being hit. Seek shelter immediately.
- Wait 30 minutes after the last lightning strike in a severe storm before venturing outside again.
- Do not ride bicycles, motorcycles, tractors, or golf carts. These will not protect you from a lightning strike.

- Take cover if hail begins to fall. Do not go out to cover plants, cars or garden furniture or to rescue animals. Hail comes down at great speed, especially when accompanied by high winds.
- When a hailstorm hits, stay indoors, and keep yourself and your pets away from windows, glass doors and skylights which can shatter if hit by hailstones. Avoid using the telephone during a storm, and do not touch metal objects like stoves, radiators, metal pipes, and sinks.
- When a hailstorm hits, find shelter, and avoid underpasses or any low-lying areas that may flood.

What to do after a severe thunderstorm

These are general instructions that apply to many emergencies but not every situation is the same. These tips can also apply during any emergency.

- Try to stay calm.
- Check yourself and others for injuries. Give first aid to people who are injured or trapped. Take care of life-threatening situations first. Get help if necessary.
- Check on neighbours, especially the elderly or people with disabilities.
- Confine or secure pets.
- Use the battery-operated radio from your emergency kit to listen for information and instructions.
- Do not use the telephone except to report a life-threatening injury. Please leave the lines free for official use.
- If possible, put on sturdy shoes and protective clothing to help prevent injury from debris, especially broken glass.
- If you are inside, check the building for structural damage. If you suspect it is unsafe, leave and do not re-enter.
- Do not turn on light switches or light matches until you are sure that there aren't any gas leaks or flammable liquids spilled. Use a flashlight to check utilities.
- Do not shut off utilities unless they are damaged, leaking (a gas leak smells like rotten eggs) or if there is a fire. If you turn the gas off, don't turn it on again. That must be done by a qualified technician.
- If tap water is available, fill a bathtub and other containers in case the supply gets cut off.
- If there is no running water, remember that you may have water available in a hot water tank, toilet reservoir or in ice cube trays.
- Water supplies may be contaminated so purify your water.
- Do not flush toilets if you suspect that sewer lines are broken.
- If you are in a high-rise building, do not use the elevator in case of power outage.

- If you are in an elevator, push every floor button and get out as soon as possible.
- Pick up your children from school or the pre-determined collection point and advise school officials you are picking up your child.
- Do not go near loose or dangling power lines. Downed power lines can cause fires and carry sufficient power to cause harm. Report them and any broken sewer and water mains to the authorities.
- If the power has been off for several hours, check the food in the refrigerator and freezer in case it has spoiled.



Using technology during a disaster

We rely on technology to keep in touch with our family, friends, colleagues, and for information. But what happens in the event of a major emergency? Suddenly this technology becomes vital in helping you and your family get in touch and stay informed. Here are some tips on the use of technology in an emergency:

- If possible, use non-voice channels like text messaging, email, or social media. These use less bandwidth than voice communications and may work even when phone service does not.
- If you must use a phone, keep your conversation brief, and convey only vital information to emergency personnel and/or family. This will also conserve your phone's battery.
- Unable to complete a call? Wait 10 seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion. If you have a landline, keep at least one corded phone in your home in the event of a power failure.
- Keep a charger for your mobile device in your emergency kit. Consider getting a solar-powered, crank, or vehicle phone charger. If you don't have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card in your emergency kit.
- Keep your contacts up to date on your phone, email, and other channels. This will make it easier to reach important contacts, such as friends, family, neighbours, child's school, or your insurance agent.
- Conserve your smartphone's battery by limiting use, reducing the screen's brightness, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using.
- Remember, in an emergency or to save a life, call 9-1-1 for help. If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1.



Download the what3words app:

Emergency services providers in Northumberland are encouraging people to download the [what3words](#) app, which uses an innovative grid-based address system to help first responders pinpoint a caller's exact location and reach them with minimal delay.

what3words is being adopted by emergency services around the world as a tool to dispatch first responders to the precise location of a caller in need of help. 9-1-1 callers simply give their what3words address from the app, and first responders will immediately be dispatched to their exact location. Every 3-metre square in the world has been given a unique combination of three words: a what3words address that never changes. For example:

- ///plopped.legions.dogged will deliver you to Presqu'ile Point Lighthouse in Brighton
- ///study.swirly.reach is the unique address for a 3-meter square of waterfront along Port Hope's West Beach

The app works both on and offline, with the offline functionality making it ideal for use in rural areas that might have a poor internet connection. All the app requires to display a what3words address is a GPS signal, with a phone's location services switched on and a clear line of sight to the sky for a GPS lock.

The [what3words app](#) can be downloaded for free from app stores for iOS and Android.





Non-emergency information sources

For Emergencies Call 911 for Police, Fire, and Paramedic Services

Northumberland County - northumberland.ca (905-372-3329)

Government of Canada - getprepared.gc.ca

Government of Ontario - ontario.ca/page/emergencypreparedness

Public Health - publichealthontario.ca/en/health-topics/Emergency-Preparedness

Local Health Unit - hkpr.on.ca (1-866-888-4577)

Hydro One - hydroone.com (1-888-664-9376)

Weather Network - theweathernetwork.ca

Government of Canada Weather - weather.gc.ca

Government of Ontario Warnings - Ontario Warnings (@OntarioWarnings) · X

Alertable Notification System - alertable.ca

Traffic and Transit Information - 511on.ca

Find Community and Social Resources - 211ontario.ca (211)

Canadian Red Cross - redcross.ca/prepare

St. John Ambulance - sja.ca

The Salvation Army - SalvationArmy.ca

Conservation Authority - conservationontario.ca

Northumberland Animal Services - northumberlandhs.com

Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities/ Special Needs - getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/pblctns/pplwthdsblts/pplwthdsblts



Your Northumberland County Community Emergency Management Coordinators



Alderville First Nation

905-352-2011

alderville.ca

Township of Alnwick/Haldimand

905-352-1142

ahtwp.ca

Town of Cobourg

905-372-4301

cobourg.ca

Municipality of Brighton

613-475-1744

brighton.ca

Township of Cramahe

905-355-2821

cramahe.ca

Township of Hamilton

905-342-2810

hamiltontownship.ca

Municipality of Port Hope

905-753-2230

porthope.ca

Municipality of Trent Hills

705-653-1900

trenthills.ca

[illegible]

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