

# Simcoe County marks Emergency Preparedness

**By Brian Lockhart**

The County of Simcoe is reminding residents about the importance of preparing themselves and their families for a wide range of potential emergency situations by observing Emergency Preparedness Week from May 7 to 11.

Emergency Preparedness Week is a federal-provincial-municipal initiative to promote emergency preparedness nationwide.

During the week, the County will actively encourage residents to prepare for many of the emergency events that the region experiences each year. These include flooding, high winds, and tornadoes.

To be prepared, you should know the risks in your area and make emergency plans for yourself and your family. This includes putting together an emergency kit.

"Whether it be floods, fires, tornadoes, or even a healthcare pandemic, it is incredibly important for our residents to ensure they have the tools needed to withstand an emergency situation for up to 72 hours should something unexpected occur," said County Warden Basil Clarke. "In an emergency situation, having an emergency kit, a plan, and knowledge of the risks can make a critical difference. I would encourage residents across the region to stay safe by practicing your emergency plan in advance and be prepared with an emergency kit."

This year's Emergency Preparedness Week theme is "Emergency Preparedness: A Safe, Practiced, and Prepared Ontario."

In the spirit of this theme, the County encourages its residents to take concrete actions to be prepared and practice their emergency plan with members of their households.

Previous experience shows that by preparing an emergency kit in case of a natural disaster, you can reduce the impact of an emergency and cope better both during and after a major disaster.

To download a copy of the County of Simcoe Emergency Preparedness Guide, visit online at [simcoe.ca/beprepared](https://simcoe.ca/beprepared).