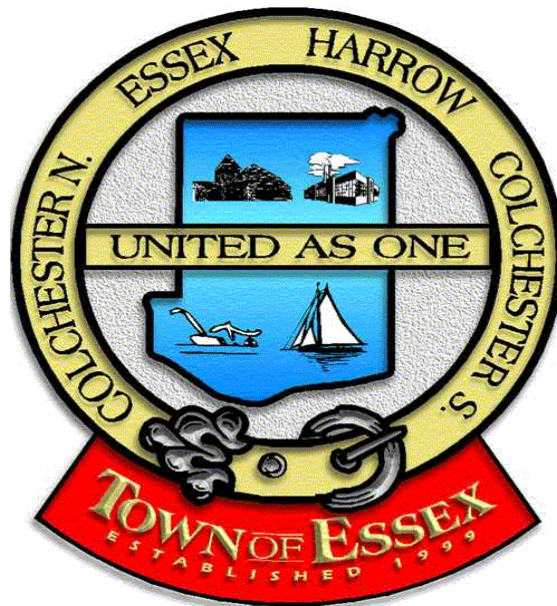


BE PREPARED!

*An Emergency Preparedness Guide for the Town of
Essex Residents*



EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS

9-1-1

Police, Fire and Ambulance

TIPS FOR USING 9-1-1:

Use 9-1-1 only for urgent police, fire and ambulance assistances.

9-1-1 or emergency call centres are for just that, emergencies. They are not to be used to obtain general information and or information on winter road conditions. This can tie up the 9-1-1 lines and prevent someone, truly in need, from gaining access to emergency services.

For winter road conditions across the region and the province road information call, **1-800-268-4686** or **Provincial TTY 1-886-471-8929**, or check the provincial website at www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/traveller, before heading out, to obtain general travel information including provincial highway closures and road conditions.

If you do a lot of winter driving you should consider programming the above numbers into your cell phone for easy reference, then they are always with you.

OTHER IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

POISON TREATMENT CENTRE	1-800-268-9017 1-877-750-2233 (TTY)
SPILLS ACTION CENTRE	1-800-268-6060
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY HEALTH UNIT	519-258-2146
ELK HYDRO	1-877-355-7798 or 776-5291
HYDRO ONE	1-800-787-4295
UNION GAS	1-877-969-0999
ESSEX POLICE SERVICES	1-519-969-2717
OPP COMMUNICATIONS CENTRE	1-888-310-1122 1-888-310-1133 (TTY)
CRIME STOPPERS	1-800-222-8477
MARINE AND AIR SEARCH AND RESCUE	1-800-267-7270
TELEHEALTH ONTARIO	1-866-797-0000

Essex County's Emergency Preparedness – An Overview and Introduction

Recent significant events, such as the 1998 ice storm, September 11th terrorist attacks, SARS, the August 2003 Power Outage and the 2004 Tsunami have all contributed to an increased awareness of the need for appropriate public safety measures. The health, safety and well being of our community are everyone's responsibility.

Our municipality is vulnerable to major community emergencies such as tornadoes, floods, blizzards, and power outages. When an emergency of this scale does occur, the municipality is usually the first level of government to respond. However, the municipality is not alone in emergency response. Being prepared, as an individual, and knowing what to do and what to expect in an emergency will help you and your family to cope, until help arrives, should an emergency or disaster affect our community.

Emergency Management:

The Town of Essex has a dedicated full time staff person assigned as the Community Emergency Management Co-ordinator who oversees the development, implementation and maintenance of emergency management programs in the Town. In the event of a Town emergency, the Town of Essex Emergency Response Plan will be implemented by a team of trained individuals drawn from within the municipality and surrounding region. A copy of the Town of Essex Emergency Response Plan is available on the Town of Essex website at www.townofessex.on.ca.

The information in this guide is intended to provide you with basic information about emergency management, contact information, some of the key hazard risks for your community and some precaution measures and planning checklists for you and your family to prepare your own emergency plan.

This booklet, which has been prepared with the guidance and support of your local municipality, Town of Essex Police Services, Essex County OPP Detachment, Land Ambulance, your municipal fire department, Essex Region Conservation Authority and the Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, is intended to provide you with some basic emergency management information and tools to help you to better prepare you and your family. In addition, we acknowledge the following sources of information - Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, Environment Canada, Emergency Management Ontario, and Ministry of Transportation.

Town of Essex Emergency Services:

Community Profile: The Corporation of the Town of Essex has a total population of approximately 20,200. The municipality maintains its own police and fire services, with mutual aid and support agreements in place with all municipalities, the City of Windsor (population of approximately 210,000), the County, and the surrounding region. Within an 80 kilometers radius and including metro Detroit and the Municipality of Chatham-Kent, there is a combined regional population of approximately 4 million for emergency planning purposes!

9-1-1 The Town of Essex has a contract with the Ontario Provincial Police to provide the 9-1-1 Public Safety Answering Point for the town and county. From there, your call is immediately transferred to the appropriate dispatch centre (LaSalle, Leamington, Windsor Police, Windsor Fire, and Central Ambulance Communications dispatch centres) for police, fire and medical emergencies. 9-1-1 wireless services are also being upgraded in the County. Microcell and Rogers Wireless offer enhanced service for their customers. Contact your wireless company for details.

Town of Essex Public Safety Agencies:

Police: The Town of Essex Police Department coordinates police services for the municipality. Specialty functions available or coordinated through this Department include, but are not limited to: criminal investigations, drug enforcement, technical traffic collision investigation, victim's assistance, search and rescue, emergency response, explosives disposal, incident command and media relations. Additional assistance is available from the Ontario Provincial Police if required for any regional response to major incidents. Primary contacts are through the Dispatch Communications Centre at **1-519-969-2717**.

Fire: The Town of Essex Fire and Rescue Services co-ordinates fire and rescue service for the municipality. Specialty functions available or coordinated through this Department include, but are not limited to: suppression, rescue, prevention, education, inspections and incident command. The Office of the Fire Marshall of Ontario, appoints a County Fire Coordinator who is the Chief of Windsor Fire and Rescue Services to work with the local Chief in major incidents. The duties of the Fire Coordinator include the coordination of Mutual Aid Fire Services Agreements for all county municipalities and the City of Windsor, as well as the provision of specialty teams such as HAZMAT. Contact is through Windsor Fire and Rescue Dispatch, 519-258-4444, fax 519-255-6832. A mobile communications and command vehicle is available through the County Fire Coordinator.

EMS: Land Ambulance provides EMS support throughout the County and the City of Windsor. Provision of these services is coordinated and dispatched through the Central Ambulance Communications Centre (CACC) at 1-800-256-5840; fax 519-258-4608. A senior supervisor is available 7/24 for the deployment of ambulances and assignment of paramedics. The Ontario Ministry of Health provides access, through the CACC, to a regional communications/command post.

Public Works: Support from the Town of Essex Public Works and Water Departments can be requested through the Superintendents at 519-738-4668 and 738-6804 respectfully. After-hours calls will be referred to a pager.

Community Support Agencies: Regional response to major incidents and events would be supported by the Windsor-Essex Social Services Department, Windsor-Essex County Health Unit, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and ARES. Requests for support from these agencies will be coordinated through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) and agency representatives, many of whom maintain an after-hours contact through Windsor Fire and Rescue Dispatch, 519-258-4444.

Town of Essex Emergency Preparedness – Specific Information and Guidelines

On October 4, 2004, Town Council adopted the Emergency Response Plan. The Plan identifies the following hazards as having the greatest potential for significant risk to the community:

- Winter Power Emergencies
- Water Emergencies
- Severe Weather Emergencies particularly, blizzards, ice storms, tornados, and
- Hazardous Materials Emergencies – fixed sites and transportation accidents
- Human Health Emergencies

Over the next few years, the Town will be preparing individual response plans for each of the hazards identified. As these plans are produced more detailed information about what you can do to respond to such an emergency will be communicated through Public Education initiatives. In the meantime, should an emergency situation arise in the Town, Radio and TV stations will be utilized to broadcast public service announcements, as well as the County's telephone emergency notification system, the Reverse 911 system.

A copy of the Town of Essex Emergency Response Plan is available at all library branches as well as on the Town website (www.townofessex.on.ca) under Emergency Services

Severe Weather

Essex County is no stranger to severe weather conditions. These phenomena include blizzards, ice storms, severe thunderstorms with heavy rain and damaging winds, hail and fog. There is not much we can do to affect the weather on any given day, however, with sufficient advance notice we can prepare ourselves and our families for bad weather and try to mitigate or offset some of the negative effects of severe weather. During the winter season, lead times for predicting severe weather conditions can range from hours to days. During the summer, lead times are reduced and we may only have minutes or hours to react. Having good information will help you to better prepare.

Weather watches, warning and advisories:

Environment Canada monitors weather systems throughout the Country. In the event of severe weather, Environment Canada will issue weather watches, warnings and advisories for purposes of public safety.

The following descriptions (extracted from Environment Canada, [Weather watches, warnings and advisories](#)) summarize what a warning, watch and advisory mean.

Advisory: Actual or expected weather conditions may cause general inconvenience or concern but are not expected to pose a serious enough threat to warrant a warning. May also be issued when conditions show signs of becoming favourable for severe weather.

Watch: Conditions are favourable for the development of severe weather. Caution should be taken. Watch the skies and listen for updates.

Warning: Severe weather condition is occurring or hazardous weather is highly probable. Severe thunderstorms or tornado warnings may be issued less than one hour in advance of the actual event. Other weather warning may be issued six to twelve hours in advance.

Your local radio or TV stations are a good source for up-to-date weather warnings. The following warnings are provided to give you an understanding of what they could mean, and some possible precautions.

Severe Thunderstorm Warning: Severe storms, within the area specified, are occurring with one or more of the following conditions: heavy rain, damaging winds, hail at least 20 mm in diameter or intense lightning. A severe thunderstorm can produce tornados. You should take precautions including sheltering indoors, preferably in an interior room away from windows and doors.

Tornado Warning: One or more tornados have occurred or are occurring in the area specified or been spotted. Take appropriate precautions. Go inside to the basement, if you have one, an interior room with no doors and windows is preferable away from potential crumbling walls and flying debris. A closet or bathtub can be used for safe spots too. If outside, lie flat, in a ditch or low area, and be aware of the potential for flash flooding in these areas.

Freezing Rain Warning: Expect slippery walking and driving conditions, possible damage to trees and power lines due to rain freezing on contact. Travel will be hazardous. Avoid travel in such conditions.

Heavy Rain Warning: Heavy or prolonged rainfall, 50 mm rain over a 12 hour period or less or 80 mm of rain over a 24 hour period or less, is sufficient to cause local or widespread flooding. Heavy rainfall resulted in the Harrow floods of 1989 and Peterborough floods of 2004.

Wind Warning: Steady winds of 60 km/hr or more or gust to 90 km/hr or more for at least one hour. Take precautions by securing or putting away loose objects. Put your car away so that flying objects will not damage it.

Blizzard Warning: Snow and blowing snow, severe wind chill and reduced visibility to less than 1 kilometre. During the winter months be prepared for blizzard conditions and be prepared to stay at home to wait out the storm. Good time for that survival kit.

Heavy Snowfall Warning: Snowfall accumulations of 15 cm or more in Ontario in 12 hours or less. Travel could be hazardous.

Winter Storm Warning: In Ontario, this warning is issued when two or more winter conditions (wind, snowfall, wind chill) reach warning proportions. Don't travel and do stay indoors. Again, good time for that survival kit.

Wind chill Warning: Very cold temperatures along with wind create outdoor conditions hazardous to human activity. Stay indoors.

The Environment Canada website was used as a source for the information provided. Environment Canada maintains an Internet weather office at www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca. The site provides information on current weather conditions, along with weather warnings and special weather statements.

If you are looking for information on weather hazard trends for Ontario, the atmospheric website at www.hazards.ca is a good source. This website was created by Environment Canada and Emergency Management Ontario for use by the public and government departments/officials.

Floods

Surrounded on three of four sides by large bodies of water, the Essex County region has experienced various types of flood emergencies in the recent past. Flood damage costs Canadian taxpayers millions of dollars annually and is also a threat to our lives and families. Each of us has a responsibility to protect our families, homes, and businesses to the greatest extent possible. Do you live in a “defined” flood zone? Does your home or business insurance policy provide you with coverage in the event of a flood? (**Many policies require a specific addition to cover water damage from floods, as opposed to other types of water-related damage such as roof leaks, burst pipes, etc. If unsure of your exact coverage, please review with your insurance representative**). By planning ahead and taking sensible precautions, you can minimize the impact of floods and flood damage.

Flood threats to particular areas (flood zones, low-lying areas) can usually be forecast in a number of ways, including:

- Constant evaluation of rising water tables that result from heavy rains,
- Surveys of snow melt and ice conditions in river drainage basins, and
- Meteorological observations and forecasts.

Flash or sudden flooding, in which warning time is extremely limited, can result from other causes such as earthquakes, tsunamis or tidal waves, hurricanes, violent storms or bursting of dams.

In any flooding or potential flooding event, the following actions should be taken:

- Listen to designated radio/TV, emergency alert systems for emergency instructions;
- Stay away from flood water – do not attempt to swim, walk or drive through the area;
- Secure/bring in outdoor furniture or other items that might float away and become a potential hazard;
- If instructed, turn off utilities at main switches and unplug appliances – do not touch electrical equipment if wet;
- If deep water, allow it to flow freely in the basement – may avoid structural damage;
- Do not stack sandbags against the outside of the house – avoids direct pressure on the structure;
- Avoid downed power lines;
- Do not drink tap water until advised by the Health Unit that the water is safe to drink;
- Move valuable items and papers/documents to upper floors; and
- Once flood waters have receded you must not live in your home until the water supply has been declared safe for use, all flood-contaminated rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected, adequate toilet facilities are available, all electrical appliances and heating/cooling systems have been inspected, food, utensils and dishes have been examined, cleaned or disposed of, and floor drains and sumps have been cleaned and disinfected.

Hazardous Materials Release

A hazardous material is defined as a substance (gas, liquid or solid) capable of creating harm to people, property and the environment, e.g. materials which are flammable, toxic, etc.

A hazardous material emergency is defined as an incident wherein lives or property are threatened by an accidental release of a hazardous material/substance, or other controlled material as may be defined by the Environmental Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990.

In the event of a hazardous material emergency you may be requested to take certain precautions such as shelter-in-place or evacuate.

Shelter-In-Place What To Do?

Should you see or hear about a release of hazardous materials (chemical, biological or radiological) into the environment, it may be accompanied by a request from municipal officials for residents to “shelter-in-place”.

Shelter-in-place is the practice of going or remaining indoors during the sudden release of airborne hazardous materials. The following is a checklist of precautions that you should take:

- Close all windows
- Close all outside and inside doors
- Seal off cracks around doors and windows using a wide tape such as duct tape and a rolled damp towel.
- Turn off all fans, heating, air conditioning, any outside vents and/or ventilation systems.
- Do not use clothes dryer.
- Close any fireplace/stove dampers. Do not use fireplaces, woodstoves, gas stoves, etc.
- Go to an interior room, if available, (above ground – some chemicals are heavier than air and will enter at an underground location first)
- Close and/or lock windows and doors into the room
- Take a radio and your emergency supplies/survival kit.
- Monitor radio or television broadcast for updates until advised it is safe leave or to evacuate.

Shelter-in-place requests are usually provided for short periods (a few hours). Therefore, you should not be concerned that the room you are in will run out of oxygen or that you will suffocate.

Source: OCIPEP

Evacuation

What To Do?

In some of the emergencies, as described in this guide, municipal officials may request that you leave your home or place of work. Sometimes, your local volunteer fire department may be the first emergency response agency to advise you to leave. The police or other municipal employees, as well as the use of the Reverse 911 telephone notification systems may assist them, or you may hear information and announcements on your local radio or T.V station requesting you to evacuate.

Should any of these situations described above occur and you are asked to leave, the following steps should be taken:

- Vacate your home or work when municipal officials request you to do so. Ignoring such a request could put you and your family's health or safety at risk.
- Listen to your local radio stations for information on the location of evacuation/reception centres.
- Leave a note for your family indicating that you have gone and your location. This measure will also assist emergency workers who may be going door-to-door.
- Take your survival kit.
- Shut off utilities before leaving, if requested to do so. As part of your emergency planning, consult your local utilities. They can provide you with advice on the best way to do this.
- Lock your house or business.
- Leave via any designated evacuation routes.
- Register with the local reception centre so that you can be contacted and reunited with your family.
- Notify your family contact of your location and condition.

72 Hour Emergency Survival Kit Checklist

Here is a list of items to include in your **EMERGENCY SURVIVAL KIT**. Should a prolonged emergency occur, this checklist/kit is designed to sustain one person for three days. This is a suggested guideline. If you or someone in your family has special needs you should consider those too (i.e. seniors, babies/toddlers)

Water

- Four litres of water / day (bottled water). Two litres for drinking and two litres for cooking or washing. Many of us already buy or have a supply of bottled water on hand. Therefore, always keep enough extra water on hand to last for at least three days.

Food

- Non-perishable foods such as canned goods – salmon, tuna, canned vegetables and fruits. Other food items such as crackers, honey, peanut butter, sugar, coffee, tea, food bars (to be consumed and replaced once/year).

Equipment

- Disposable eating utensils, knives, forks, spoons, cups and plates
- Manual can opener and bottle opener
- Fuel stove and fuel (never use indoors)
- Waterproof matches and plastic garbage bags
- Pocket Knife or multi-tool

Emergency Survival Kit

- Flashlight and batteries or crank flashlight
- Portable radio and batteries or crank radio
- Spare batteries for both
- First Aid Kit
- Extra Car Keys
- Always have cash on hand (including coins for pay phones)
- Important Personal Papers (ID, personal documents such as passports, birth certificates, social insurance numbers, marriage certificates, etc.)
- Clothing and Footwear (One extra set)
- Toiletries (Toothbrush, Toothpaste, Toilet Paper, Pre-moistened wipes, Tissues, etc.)
- Blankets (Mylar type) or sleeping bags
- Any necessary medications (one week's supply on hand plus copies of prescriptions and medical contact information)
- Whistle (to attract attention)
- Playing cards, games
- Something to carry survival kit items in case you have to evacuate

Pets

- Include a three-day supply of water and food for your pet(s). If you are required to go to a community evacuation centre or shelter for any length of time, keep in mind that many, if not all, will not have any facilities to accommodate family pets. You must be prepared to either leave pets at home, with sufficient food and water, or make alternate arrangements with local veterinarians and/or animal clinics outside of the affected emergency area.

Car Kit

Since emergencies can happen anywhere anytime, and many of us spend a lot of time in our vehicles, it is a good idea to have an emergency kit in your car. Pre-assembled kits can sometimes be purchased through the CAA or automotive parts stores. The kit should include:

- Shovel
- Sand or kitty litter
- Traction mats or chains
- Compass
- Cloth or Paper Towels
- Warning Lights or Flares
- Extra clothing and/or footwear
- Emergency food pack (see 3 day survival kit)
- Booster Cables
- Ice Scraper/brush
- Road Maps
- Matches and a survival candle in deep can (to warm hands, heat a drink, or to provide emergency light)
- Fire extinguisher
- Methyl hydrate (de-icing fuel line and windshield)
- Flashlight and spare batteries
- First aid kit with seatbelt cutter
- Blanket (survival blankets are the best)

Sources: OCIPEP, EMO

Public Alerting and Media Sources:

Public Alerting in The Town of Essex and County consists of a variety of systems and approaches, including but not limited to, sirens in specific areas (Amherstburg), door-to-door notifications by fire, police or other municipal employees/community support groups, telephone notifications through the county Reverse 911 systems and the media. Future improvements and upgrades to public alerting capabilities will also include Internet notifications and all-channel radio and television alerts.

Local media sources include:

Radio	CBEF	540 AM
	CKWW	580 AM
	CKLW	800 AM
	CBE	1550 AM
	CIMX	88.7 FM
	CJAM	91.5 FM
	CKMR	93.9 FM
	CHYR	96.7 FM
Television	CBET	Channel 9 (cable 10)
	CHWI	Channel 16 (cable 6)
	COGECO Cable	Channel 10 (cable 11)

For More Information:

Town of Essex Emergency Management Coordinator
Ed Pillon
Essex Fire & Rescue
2610 County Road 12, RR#2
Essex, ON N8M 2X6

519-776-6476 extension 15
519-776-7171 (Fax)
519-919-3511 (cell)

Email: epillon@townofessex.on.ca

If you do not have access to the Internet in your home, note that you can obtain access to the Internet at any one of the library branches. Contact your local library branch for hours of operation and the ability to obtain Internet access.