



# Emergency Preparedness



## Learn about Emergency Preparedness

One of the most important things you can do to get Flood Ready is to learn about emergency preparedness and take action to stay safe in emergency events like flooding. Did you know about the [Durham Emergency Management Office](#)? They are a dedicated department with resources available to help you prepare for emergencies.

## Understand Flood Messaging

How will you know when a flood is coming? Flooding is monitored by Conservation Authorities, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry, and Environment Canada.

Conservation Authorities issue flood messages to municipal emergency management officials and the media when flooding is possible or imminent. The municipal officials then take action to warn residents. Warning of an impending flood allows municipalities and other government agencies to put emergency response plans into action and, if necessary, evacuate communities. In case of an emergency, you should:

1. Take heed of the message issued
2. Be prepared to follow the instructions of emergency response officials

You can check the flood status for all of Ontario [here](#) at any time. You can also check the flood status for Conservation Authorities located within the Region of Durham (see resources).



## EMERGENCY PLAN PART 1



The region's risks/hazards are transportation, energy, weather, hazardous materials, explosion, flood, health, infrastructure and nuclear. Your risks at home, work, school are:



Escape route(s) from each room of your home (include alternates):

Escape route(s) from neighbourhood (e.g. if by car, on foot, to nearest transit):

Meeting place near home:



Pets: Take your pet with you if you have to leave, but remember some public shelters or hotels may not allow your pet inside. Identify, in advance, where your pet will stay. Also, make sure your pet has up-to-date vaccination tags (if appropriate) and ID that includes out-of-town contacts, in case your pet is lost. Pet Relocation:



Special Health Needs: Keep an up-to-date list of medical information for each member of your household, including medication, medical equipment and contact information for physicians/health-care provider.



School/Day Care/Long-Term Care/Retirement: Ask about emergency policies: how they will communicate with you in an emergency; and what type of authorization is required to release child(ren)/seniors to a designated person, if you can't pick them up yourself. Make sure they have current contact name(s) and phone number(s).

## EMERGENCY PLAN PART 2



There are different types of kits that you may need to put together in addition to your 72-hour emergency kit. Make sure that these kits are easily accessible and easy to find. It is important to review your kits regularly based on the season. Do not forget about any special needs for members of your household, important documentation, medication and equipment.

72-hour emergency kit location:

First-aid emergency kit location:

Pet emergency kit location:

Vehicle emergency kit location:



Know who to call in an emergency. Make sure you fill out a Stay In Touch Checklist. List the important local and out-of-area emergency contact information. In case you need to evacuate, or if you are separated from other members of your household, call your contact(s) to let them know you are safe and where you are. Other important things to consider and make a note of:

Fire extinguisher location:



Water valve location:

Electrical panel Location:



Hydro company name & phone:



Gas valve location (only shut off when authorities tell you to do so):

Gas company name & phone:

## Create an emergency plan

If you are asked to stay inside or evacuate, you should have an emergency plan. Take some time to write down what you are going to do in an emergency. You can use this [template](#) to create an emergency plan.

Include children, seniors, and pets in your plan. For anyone with disabilities or special needs, the federal and provincial governments also offer guides for emergency planning.

Think about things like:

- Hearing
- High-rise safety
- Mobility
- Non-visible disabilities
- Service animals
- Travel considerations
- Vision
- Make sure everyone knows where to find your emergency plan and emergency kits. Remember to practice your plan often.

## Prepare your Emergency Kit

Your Go Bag is an emergency kit that you can grab when you need it. Many retailers sell preassembled kits, or you **CAN** build your own.

### For your home:

- Battery bank and phone charger
- Bottled water
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Non-perishable food/snacks
- Waterproof matches and candle
- Whistle

## For your car:

- Battery bank and phone charger
- Bottled water
- First-aid kit
- Flashlight and batteries
- Non-perishable food/snacks
- Waterproof matches and candle
- Basic tools such as screwdriver and pliers
- Blankets
- Booster cables
- Spare car battery
- Spare tire
- De-icer fluid for windshield and fuel line
- Extra clothing to suit the season. e.g. shoes, hats, mitts, rain poncho
- Fire extinguisher
- Ice scraper and snowbrush
- Road maps
- Salt or de-icer
- Small shovel
- Tire repair kit
- Whistle



## Speak with your Neighbours about Flood Preparation

Now that you have learned more about how to prepare for floods, it is time to share. We know that some community members are more vulnerable to floods. We also know that the most well-connected communities are the most prepared and resilient. By talking about flooding proactively, you can help others create a plan and support each other in emergencies. If you don't know your neighbours yet, meeting them is your first step!

### Topics to discuss:

- Preparing a 72-hour kit and Go Bag and storing them in a safe place
- Types of help each family may need during or after a disaster
- Ways to help people who may be more vulnerable in the neighbourhood
- Resources that can be shared by the neighbourhood after a disaster
- Safe places to go after a disaster, such as a library or community centre
- Subscribing to your local councillor's newsletters, Durham Region's social media (@RegionofDurham) and **emergency alerts via email**
- Sharing contact information and ways to reach each other during emergencies
- Resources available on Flood Resilient Durham and directing neighbours here for additional information
- Find out if there is a local community resilience hub in your community - check out **this example in Halton Region**

## Webinar: How to Prepare for the Next Big Flood

The ravines and waterfronts dotted throughout our communities make Durham Region an exceptional place to live. But every year, people like you experience devastation and loss when those normally-calm waters get wild, and water flows where it's not wanted.

We know that our climate is becoming warmer, wetter, and wilder. As our storms become more extreme, the likelihood of damaging floods increases. But there are simple things that you can do to make your family and property more resilient.

On May 26, 2020, experts of climate change, river systems, and flood preparedness and response hosted a webinar to discuss real examples of flooding in Durham and what you should do now to prepare.

**Watch the flood webinar recording** as experts from the Region of Durham, the Central Lake Ontario Conservation Authority, the Intact Centre for Climate Adaptation at the University of Waterloo, and the Municipality of Clarington discuss:

- How our climate is changing in the Durham region;
- Five things you can do to make your family ready for any emergency;
- Who does what in the event of a flood;
- Three steps homeowners can take to reduce their risk of flooding and cleanup costs if it happens; and
- First-hand examples of flooding in Clarington



## Resources

Get #FloodReady and join in efforts to protect your local green space. To learn about action on flooding in Durham Region, visit [FloodResilientDurham.ca](https://www.floodresilientdurham.ca).

Sign up for local community groups, recreational programs or activities organized by your local municipality

Conservation Authorities Flood Status' located within the Region of Durham below:

- [Toronto and Region](#) - and [sign up to receive flood messages by email](#)
- [Lake Simcoe Region](#)
- [Kawartha Region](#)
- [Ganaraska Region](#)
- [Central Lake Ontario](#)

Visit the following websites for more information:

- [Durham Region](#)
- [Ajax](#)
- [Brock](#)
- [Clarington](#)
- [Oshawa](#)
- [Pickering](#)
- [Scugog](#)
- [Uxbridge](#)
- [Whitby](#)

For more information

**1-800-123-4567**

[www.durham.ca/flood-ready-durham](https://www.durham.ca/flood-ready-durham)