

Association of Municipalities of Ontario
August 17, 2025

Activating Provincial Support for Emergency Preparedness and Response

Ministry of Emergency Preparedness
and Response



Ontario 

Overview & Housekeeping

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Putting Preparedness into Action: Workshop

Welcome



Steve Pinsonneault

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of
Emergency Preparedness and Response

Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of
Rural Affairs

Partnering for Resilience: Ontario's Vision for Emergency Management



The Hon. Jill Dunlop

Ontario's Minister of Emergency
Preparedness and Response

A Partner in Resilience: Success in the field



His Worship Dave Barton

Mayor of the Township of
Uxbridge



Lessons Learned

01

You control the media- They don't control you. YOU decide when and where to host press conferences and what your messaging will be.

02

Get a trusted colleague to be with you and manage your phone, take calls and organize communication

03

Have someone ensure your home is secure and powered by a generator so you're not distracted

04

Relationships save time. Having strong pre-existing connections with police, fire, utilities, neighbouring municipalities, and provincial agencies means you can mobilize help faster.



From Strategy to Action: Supporting Communities Before, During and After Emergencies



Michelle Astill

Assistant Deputy Minister (Acting)
Strategic Policy and Services Division
Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and
Response

Ontario's One Window Approach

Purpose

To ensure a **safe, practiced and prepared Ontario** – before, during and after emergencies.



Coordinator



Partner



Responder

Working Together: Roles in Emergency Management

Ontario



Ontario's **Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response (MEPR)** is responsible for the coordination of provincial resources to prepare for and respond to an emergency.



The ministry is the **one-window** for municipalities to access specialized resources, before, during and after an emergency.



Regional field officers: Act as liaisons between the ministry and municipalities, providing guidance, support, and coordination during emergency preparedness and response activities.

Municipalities



Municipal leader: Responsible for strategic direction of municipal response and public communications on behalf of local community.



Community Emergency Management Coordinator (CEMC): Responsible for leading the development and implementation of the municipality's emergency management program and coordinating municipal emergency response efforts, serving as the primary liaison with MEPR.

Supporting Communities: Before, During and After Emergencies



Before

- Provide planning tools, training, and public education
- Support hazard identification and risk assessments (HIRA)
- Offer funding through the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant (CEPG)



During

- Act as single point of contact through the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC)
- Deploy provincial resources, including regional field officers and Ontario Corps
- Coordinate cross-government response and resource mobilization



After

- Support recovery coordination and program access
- Conduct debriefs and after-action reviews
- Help update plans and improve readiness for future events

Ontario Corps: Enhancing Support for Municipal Preparedness & Response



As a proud Ontario Corps partner, this support significantly enhances the training and capabilities of our dedicated volunteer members, empowering us to respond more effectively to emergencies across Ontario.

Emilie Kissler
Vice-President
OSARVA



Volunteers

Skilled professionals and general surge support



Partner Network

Diverse array of deployable organizations and capabilities



Equipment & Supplies

Specialized resources strategically located across the province



Activating Provincial Support



Local Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response field officers are available and work directly with your municipal Community Emergency Management Coordinators.



If your community needs provincial assistance during an emergency, your community can contact the Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC), 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

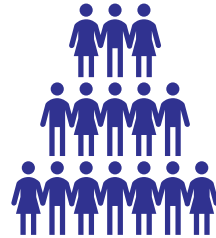
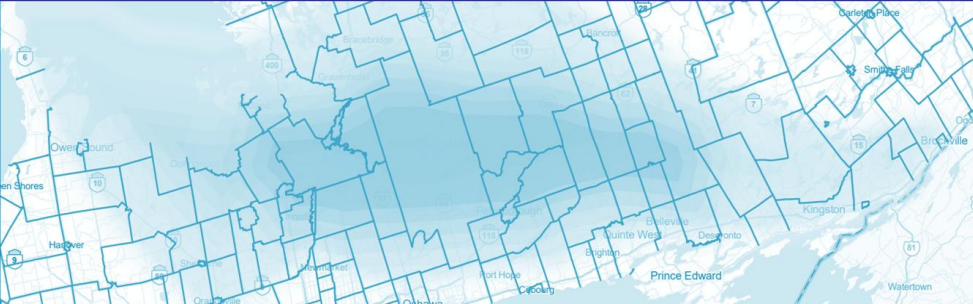


Municipalities do not need an emergency declaration to receive provincial assistance.



Our staff will assess the situation and identify the most appropriate ways to support the community — whether that is deploying Ontario Corps, equipment, regional field services staff or other resources.

Collaborative Response in Action: 2025 Spring Ice Storm



1 million+
Ontarians
impacted



Activation of
Provincial Emergency
Operations Centre;
coordinated multi-
partner response



Deployed Incident
Management
Teams, planners,
and Ontario Corps
volunteers



6,000+
volunteer hours
provided



4,100+ wellness
checks
conducted for
vulnerable
Ontarians



7,580+
people supported
at warming centres



Ontario 

Moving Forward Together



**Continued
modernization**



**Enhanced supports
for partners**



**Strengthened
capabilities**

Questions & Answers



Putting Preparedness into Practice



Charles Bongomin

Director

Preparedness Centre of Excellence

Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and
Response

Exercise Guidelines

Objective

To enhance senior officials' awareness of the potential impacts of a winter storm on power systems, promote an understanding of current planning and coordination efforts, and foster sustained engagement in identifying and advancing opportunities to strengthen preparedness and interagency collaboration.



This is an open, and safe environment.



Diverse perspectives are expected and encouraged.



The exercise is based on real life scenarios, and events occur in increasing complexity.

How to Participate

- The facilitator will walk participants through the entire simulation.
After each event, you'll be asked a few questions and given response choices.
Consider a response that makes the most sense to you.
- We'll be using Slido today to make the session more interactive. Here's how you can join and participate:
 - ✓ Go to **www.slido.com** on your phone or computer.
 - ✓ Enter the event code: **#1472785**
(You can also **scan the QR code** on the screen)
 - ✓ Once you're in, you'll see the questions pop up as we go.
Just tap or click to submit your answers or vote in polls.



Feel free to join now so you're ready when we start!

Start of the Exercise



Community Considerations

As we begin, consider the following in your community:

- Demographics
 - Income levels
 - Backgrounds
 - Family structure
 - Medical and care needs
- Critical infrastructure, such as:
 - Hospitals and health centres
 - Water treatment plants
 - Schools, colleges and universities
 - Transportation corridors



Scenario Read In – Sunday, December 14th, 4:00 p.m.



- You are senior leaders/elected officials in your community.
- Currently the weather in the community is approximately -2c and snow is expected over the next 24 hours.
- Public works resources are preparing for the upcoming snowfall by pre-salting roadways and conducting regular snow removal operations.

Inject 1 – Monday, December 15th, 08:00 a.m.



- A significant snow and ice storm has impacted the municipality overnight.
- Accumulations of ~40 cm of snow and ~5 mm of ice accretion.
- There is extensive tree and power line damage, resulting in a widespread power outage, cellular network disruptions, and nearly impassable roads across multiple neighbourhoods.
- The power outage has overwhelmed local infrastructure, strained emergency services and disrupted critical operations.
- Utility providers and emergency services are reporting delays due to both access issues and high call volumes.



**Does your municipality have a
response plan for power outage or ice
storms?**



**Would you declare an emergency at
this point?**

Inject 1 – Summary

- It is recommended to have hazard specific plans for the highest-ranking hazard(s) in your municipality.
- Ministry Field Officers have templates available to assist with hazard specific plans.
- Declaring an emergency is the responsibility of the Head of Council.
- An emergency declaration is not required to request assistance through the Province.

Inject 2 – Tuesday, December 16th, 5:00 p.m.



- The power outage is widespread,
- Your utility service reports the outage is expected to be prolonged due to road blockages. They are experiencing an overwhelming volume of service calls.
- Reports of significantly delayed emergency service responses are circulating online.
- Residents are posting complaints and raising concerns in large numbers.



What type of information should you, as a senior leader/elected official, expect to receive?



What is your operational priority?

Inject 2 - Summary

- Your Emergency Control Group will guide your operational priorities.
- Your Emergency Information Officer will keep you updated on status of the incident and public concerns.
- The Emergency Information Officer (EIO) course is available to support your communication planning and messaging.

Inject 3 – Wednesday, December 17th, 8:00 a.m.



- Overnight, an additional 10-15 cm of snow fell.
- Updated weather forecast indicates snow will continue throughout the day, with temperatures near -10c. Utility services will not be restored for several days.
- Operational Impact:
 - Municipal workers report inability to travel to work, leading to service shortages.
 - Your emergency control group recommends additional resource activation (e.g., Ontario Corps).

Placeholder – On the day-off the question will be presented through Slido

What is your top communication priority?

Inject 3 – Summary/Close

- If your community needs provincial assistance during an emergency, contact the Ministry of Emergency Preparedness and Response through the 24/7 Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC). The PEOC will assess your request and coordinate the appropriate support such as Ontario Corps, equipment and supplies, and regional field services staff.
- Ministry Field Officers provide support in the development and maintenance of your emergency management program by working directly with your Community Emergency Management Coordinator and sharing resources.
- Ministry Field Officers can also support your municipal exercises, and deliver training such as Senior and Elected Official Workshop, and Incident Management courses.





How familiar are you with the current plans and procedures (for planning, communication, operational support)?



Do you believe the insights gained from this exercise are transferable to other types of hazards or incidents?

End of the Exercise



Questions & Answers



Thank You

For more information on how we are building a safer and more prepared Ontario, visit **Ontario.ca/MEPR**

