

Ministry of the Solicitor General

Ministère du Solliciteur général



Office of the
Fire Marshal and
Emergency Management

Bureau du
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DATE: April 23, 2021

MEMORANDUM TO: Emergency Management Professionals

FROM: Teepu Khawja
Assistant Deputy Minister/Chief, Emergency Management

SUBJECT: **Emergency Preparedness Week 2021**

Dear emergency management professionals,

This year, Emergency Preparedness (EP) Week takes place between May 2nd- 8th, and like last year, it will occur while we continue to battle the impact of COVID-19 and its variants of concern. Ontarians are staying home and doing what they can to protect themselves and stop the spread of COVID-19, while frontline personnel and first responders are in the community tirelessly helping others and mitigating the impacts of this deadly virus. To all emergency management professionals, we salute your dedication and hard work.

The theme for this year's EP Week is "Emergency Preparedness: Be Ready for Anything". Given our current environment and focused efforts to stop the spread of COVID-19, we are promoting EP Week online, using the official hashtags #EPWeek2021 / #SemainedelaSC2021 on social media. We encourage you to follow us on Twitter @OntarioWarnings and @ONSafety for information throughout the week. You can also use our online [public education resources](#), as well as the new [Government of Canada EP Week resources](#), to help your communities, ministries, or organizations promote a culture of preparedness this coming EP Week and throughout the year.

I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate that nothing is more important than protecting the health and well-being of Ontarians. These are extraordinary times which require ongoing efforts by all Ontarians to keep individuals and families safe and stop the spread of COVID-19.

I am confident that, as emergency management practitioners, you will continue to urge everyone to observe all public health protocols. Please encourage members of your community to visit www.ontario.ca/coronavirus for the latest COVID-19 information.

Additionally, we are turning our attention to the spring flooding season. We are actively working with federal and municipal governments, First Nations partners and non-governmental organizations to implement evacuation contingency plans for those at risk of being affected by flooding. We will continue to refine additional evacuation contingency plans as the flooding season progresses. Now is a good time to review [Protecting People and Property: Ontario's Flooding Strategy](#), which identifies a series of cross-government actions to help people, organizations and governments be better prepared and equipped to respond to the devastating effects of flooding.

Thank you for your continued dedication to your communities and emergency management, especially during this unprecedented time.

Sincerely,



Teepu Khawja
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief, Emergency Management