

Public Safety Information

Emergencies Can Happen Anytime, so be Prepared all the Time.

Could you take care of yourself and your family for at least 3 days following a disaster-even if there's no water, gas or hydro? Consider storing a supply of food and water for each person and pet in the household.

Do you know the major hazards and risks in your home and community? Learn about the hazards in your area and take steps to be prepared if an emergency occurs.

Do you know how and where to find information during an emergency? Please keep reading and learn more.

2-1-1- Your Number for Information during Emergencies!

Residents can now call 2-1-1 during major disasters for important information and instructions about such topics as emergency shelter locations, relief services, making donations and volunteering. 211 Ontario has assisted during past disasters such as the Leamington and Goodrich tornadoes and Thunder Bay flooding.

- 2-1-1 is a source of accurate, official information and instructions from municipal and emergency officials during times of emergency.
- Calls are answered 24 hours a day by an operator who will assist you with any questions and needs.
- 2-1-1 is not 9-1-1! 9-1-1 should be called to report an emergency, or when you or someone requires emergency assistance from police, fire or medical services.

For more information about 211 Ontario services and their role during major, local emergencies, please visit www.lambtononline.com or www.211ontario.ca.

Power Failures!

- Do not call 9-1-1 to report a power outage! Only call 9-1-1 if you or someone nearby needs help from police, fire, or medical services.
- Listen to a local radio broadcast (on your battery powered radio) to get information. Tune to a local radio station such as: 1070 AM, 99.9 FM, 103.9 FM, or 106.3 FM to obtain information and instructions.
- Do not use the telephone unless it is absolutely necessary.
- Turn off any equipment that runs on electricity-power can be restored more easily when the system isn't overloaded.

Do not open your fridge or freezer unless absolutely necessary. Discard any thawed food that has been room temperature for more than two hours. When the power comes back on, don't turn on computer, T.Vs, and appliances right away- wait 15 or 20 minutes.

The Danger of Carbon Monoxide....

Many people do not know they've been exposed to dangerous levels of carbon monoxide until they experience symptoms such as headache, dizziness, fatigue, confusion, increased heart rate and rapid breathing. If you or those around you develop symptoms, leave the building immediately and call 9-1-1.

Those exposed to high levels of carbon monoxide will often slip into unconsciousness and eventual death.

If you lose power and cannot run your heating system, NEVER use barbeques or outdoor heaters to cook indoor or heat your home. These appliances give off odourless, invisible and deadly carbon monoxide gas. Only use appliances that are intended for indoor use. If you use a generator, follow the manufacturer's safety and operating instructions fully!

Defective furnaces can event carbon monoxide into living quarters, so it is very important to have furnaces serviced at the beginning of every heating season. Check, or have a professional check your chimney for any blockages. Consider installing carbon monoxide detectors in your dwelling.

The 72-Hour Emergency Supplies Kit

- "Special needs" items for any member of your household (i.e. baby formula, diapers, prescription medication etc.)
- Candles and matches or lighter
- Flashlight and batteries
- Battery-powered radio or television, and extra batteries
- Duct tape
- Non-perishable food (this should be replaced every year)
- Bottled water
- Whistle (in case you need to attract someone's attention)
- Playing cards or games
- Toilet paper and other personal care supplies
- Basic tools (hammer, pliers/wrench, screwdriver set, assortment of fasteners)
- Extra car and house keys
- Extra cash (also change for vending machines etc.) and copies of important family documents (i.e. birth certificates)

Call 9-1-1 When You Need Help!

9-1-1 is **not** an information line. The 9-1-1 system provides a way for people to obtain help from police, fire or medical services. In an emergency, municipal officials and emergency personnel will work together to provide information and instructions to the media, websites, 2-1-1 and other means as quickly as possible. It sometimes might seem like a long wait for information, but officials are doing all they can, so please do not call 9-1-1 unless you or someone else needs immediate help.

If you want information, turn on your radio, tune to a local radio station and wait for the broadcast (unless you are advised to do otherwise, like call 2-1-1).

Local stations in Lambton County are 1070 AM, 103.9 FM, 99.9 FM and 106.3 FM.

On the Road

During winter storms, local police will often people to remain at home if they don't have to go out, and that is good advice! Did you know that traffic accidents are the leading cause of death during winter storms? If you must go out in bad weather, adjust your driving to account for road conditions-that often means slowing down.

Check local weather & road condition reports before setting out on a trip. If travelling a long distance, call ahead to your destination for conditions. If the weather and travelling conditions are poor, delay your trip if possible. Give road crews an opportunity to clear the way.

Prepare a winter driving kit and keep the following items in your vehicle:

- Shovel
- Booster cables
- Ice scraper and snow brush
- Compass
- Cloth or paper towels
- Emergency food pack
- Sand, kitty litter or traction mats
- Fuel line antifreeze
- Matches and “survival candle”
- Extra clothing, heavy socks and boots
- First aid kit
- Tow chain
- Winter windshield washer fluid
- Road maps
- “Survival” blanket

Visit www.weather.gc.ca or telephone 519-464-5121 for local weather conditions.

Visit www.mto.gov.on.ca and look under the heading, *Traveller's Information* to obtain information about Provincial Highway conditions and road closures.

Smoke Alarms Save Lives!

Every residence in Ontario **must** have a working smoke alarm located on every level and outside all sleeping areas. IT'S THE LAW!

Smoke Alarm Facts:

- Over 90% of residential fires are preventable. Most fires are related to careless cooking.
- A study of fatal fires between 1995 and 2004, found that smoke alarms were present and working in only 35% of fires.
- Smoke alarms must be replaced every 10 years.

Safety Tips:

- Replace batteries at least once a year.
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month.
- Make sure everyone in the household knows what to do if the smoke alarm sounds.
- Develop a home fire escape plan and practice it with the entire household.