

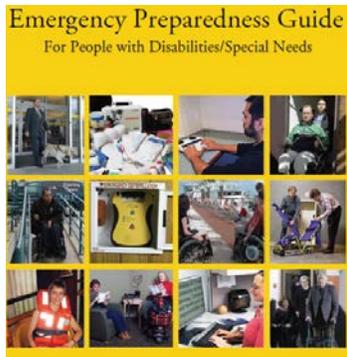
**D**ear Community and Ministry Emergency Management Coordinator,  
As you know, this year Emergency Preparedness Week runs from May 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>. In Ontario the theme is *Be Emergency Ready – Stay Connected*.



This theme reinforces the importance of individual and family preparedness, while promoting new emergency alerting tools now available to all Canadians, such as wireless public alerting through the Alert Ready system.

While wireless public alerting is a great initiative, not all devices are capable of receiving these alerts. Only devices that are LTE, 4G or WPA-compatible will be able to receive alerts from the Alert Ready system. That's why we strongly encourage Ontarians to continue to subscribe to receive [provincial emergency alerts](#) by email, SMS text or Twitter.

Among the new resources we've developed to help support your community initiatives and campaign, is an Emergency Preparedness Tips & Resources sheet (attached) which features great ideas, information and links to various products on our website. In keeping with the province's green initiatives, all our products will be downloadable from our website, [www.ontario.ca/beprepared](http://www.ontario.ca/beprepared).



Among our new and exciting initiatives this year:

- A refreshed Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities/Special Needs. The new Guide features updated contact information for 16 organizations, plus checklists and important considerations for individuals and families of the more than 1.5 million Ontarians who have a disability or special need.
- New infographics on emergency preparedness and public alerting, plus hazard-specific print and promotional materials.
- The seniors' guide to emergency preparedness is now available in 29 different languages with the recent addition of versions in Mohawk, Ojibway, Oji-Cree and Swampy Cree. This multi-lingual information for seniors can be downloaded [here](#).
- A province-wide test of the Wireless Public Alerting System will take place on Monday, May 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:55 pm EST and again on September 19<sup>th</sup>. [Check your phone's compatibility](#) here and read FAQs and other information.

I encourage everyone to expand your emergency preparedness efforts beyond your own families and organizations. Please reach out to neighbours and friends who may be vulnerable or incapable of supporting themselves during an emergency, including seniors and people with disabilities and special needs. Don't forget to engage pet owners as well!

We encourage Ministries, communities, our partners and the public to use the following hashtags to support the promotion of EP Week and help us to monitor trends: #ONready #EPweek2018.

Emergency preparedness is everyone's responsibility. Thank you for helping us reinforce this important safety message in all Ontario communities.

Sincerely,



Ross Nichols  
Fire Marshal and Chief, Emergency Management



**On May 7 at 1:55 p.m.  
Ontario will test wireless  
public alerts on compatible  
LTE mobile devices using  
the Alert Ready system.**

Learn how to receive life-saving  
information during emergencies so  
you can be prepared, take action  
and stay safe.

[ontario.ca/alertready](http://ontario.ca/alertready) 

### About the Alert Ready Emergency Alert System

- Wireless public alerting is geo-targeted and can be very specific to a limited area of coverage. As a result, if an emergency alert reaches your wireless device, it means you are located in an area where there is an imminent danger.
- Emergency alerts received on your compatible wireless device are relevant to you and require immediate attention. Government regulations mandate that all compatible wireless devices receive all relevant alerts to help ensure Canadians are forewarned of threat-to-life situations.
- Certain situations, such as tornado conditions, may often trigger multiple emergency alerts and updates in a specific geographic area within a matter of hours.