



# Emergency Preparedness Guide

**Be  
Aware...  
Be  
Prepared**



## Emergency Preparedness – A Priority for the Municipality of Brighton



At the Municipality of Brighton we are here to help you plan for and remain safe throughout any emergency situation. Our team of qualified professionals are trained to co-ordinate emergency response services throughout the municipality. They are prepared to deal with any large-scale emergency, whether natural or man-made, according to a well-thought out and well-rehearsed plan.

On behalf of the Council for the Municipality of Brighton, it is a pleasure for our municipality to provide this Personal Emergency Preparedness Guidebook in order that you may familiarize yourself with the things you can do to ease your stress and safely assist you through any emergency situation.

A number of critical issues and common sense steps have been addressed to assist you and your family in the event of a crisis, whether it's a flood, winter storm, tornado, chemical spill, or any other natural or accidental disaster. The Municipality of Brighton strives to ensure that emergency measures are in place in our communities. Despite the best precautions, emergencies cannot be predicted, however planning and preparedness can protect our lives, homes, families, and property. We invite you to browse through this publication to become disaster ready. By working together, we can make our community a safer place to live.

The Municipality of Brighton, Police Services, Fire Department and the County of Northumberland all have comprehensive Emergency Plans ready to be implemented in the event of an emergency. Depending on the severity and scope of the emergency, the Municipality of Brighton or the County of Northumberland may activate their Plan. Continuous testing, training and updating ensures the plans are capable of addressing any emergency that occurs in our community.

As part of the on-going preparations for emergency situations, Municipal and County Emergency Planning Committees meet regularly to develop effective emergency management programs that ensure a co-operative and consistent response, capable of meeting any crisis. The committees comprise of professionals who are trained to co-ordinate emergency response services quickly and efficiently in the event of any large-scale emergency.

The local Municipal and County Emergency Plans are comprehensive guides and plans of action to address any emergency – natural or man-made – while ensuring that the daily services provided to the citizens continue uninterrupted.

## **Emergency Preparedness – A Priority for the Municipality of Brighton**

The level of emergency preparedness we enjoy throughout our communities does not happen without the dedication and co-operation of many agencies and organizations. The Municipality of Brighton wishes to acknowledge the following for their ongoing participation and support in the safety and preparedness of our communities:

Our Emergency Services (Police, Fire, Ambulance)  
Hospitals  
Volunteer Organizations  
Local Utilities (Hydro, Natural Gas)  
Emergency Planning Committee  
Citizen Advisory Groups  
Neighbouring Counties/Municipalities  
Emergency Management Ontario

The health and safety of our residents – day in and day out - is our number one priority. As the providers of essential services, we recognize that we have a responsibility to protect what our citizens' value. It is a responsibility we take very seriously.

The Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide is a friendly reminder that there are a number of common sense steps that you can take right now to ensure that you are prepared in the event of an emergency. The Guide will be a valuable addition to every home or business, providing the information you need to take care of your families, your neighbours and yourselves. The Guide includes information on preparing for many different types of emergencies including winter storms, flooding, tornadoes, and hazardous spills.

Please take the time to look through this publication. It is an excellent resource for children, seniors, and families...for all residents of the Municipality of Brighton.



## IN A LIFE-THREATENING EMERGENCY

# DIAL 9-1-1

### When should you call 9-1-1?

Call 9-1-1 when you require the immediate response of police, fire and/or ambulance to:

- ❖ report a fire or other dangerous situation
- ❖ save a life
- ❖ stop a crime in progress

### Do NOT call 9-1-1 during an emergency to:

- ❖ locate relatives during an emergency
- ❖ ask about the availability of gas at local pumps
- ❖ find out the location or availability of shelters and other services



### Ontario Provincial Police - Cell Phone: \*OPP (\*677)

*Listen to your radio for information and instructions from your emergency response officials.*

## ENSURE THAT EMERGENCY RESPONDERS CAN FIND YOUR ADDRESS.

### For urban residents:

- ❖ Post your house number at the front of your home where it is clearly visible from the street.
- ❖ Install a light fixture above the house numbers.
- ❖ Use large, plain numbers – not script or other hard-to-read lettering.
- ❖ Use colours that contrast, such as black on white.

### For rural residents:

- ❖ The area municipalities have established a Municipal Street Addressing System for all properties on municipal roads in rural areas.
- ❖ Installation guidelines have been established to ensure a standard within the community and one that provides for rapid identification by responding emergency personnel. Call your local Fire Department or Public Works Office for more information.

# Non Emergency Numbers

Municipality of Brighton .....613 475-0670 (Main Office)  
..... 613 475-1162 (Public Works)  
..... 613 967-8707 (After hours)

Website: [www.brighton.ca](http://www.brighton.ca)  
Email: [general@brighton.ca](mailto:general@brighton.ca)

Fire Department ..... 613 475-1744 Administration

## Police Service

Brighton - Administration ..... 613 475-1313  
Northumberland OPP ..... 1-888-310-1122  
TDD: ..... 1-800-990-8199

Northumberland County ..... 905 372-3329  
Toll free: ..... 1-800-354-7050

Crimestoppers: ..... 1-800-222-TIPS (1-800-222-8477)

Emergency Hazardous Spill Response: ..... 1-800-268-6060

## Rail Safety:

Canadian National Railway ..... 1-800-601-7630  
Canadian Pacific Railway ..... 1-800-795-7851

Pipeline Safety: ..... 1-888-982-7222

Call Before you Dig!: ..... 1-800-400-2255

## Weather Information:

Public weather recording ..... 1-416-739-4578

Roads Report: ..... 1-800-268-1376

Telehealth: ..... 1-866-797-0000

Poison Control Centre ..... 1-800-267-1373

## Hospitals

Trenton Memorial Hospital .....613-392-2541  
Northumberland Hills Hospital (Cobourg).....905-372-6811  
Campbellford Memorial Hospital .....705-653-1140

## Veterinarians

Presquile Animal Hospital.....613-475-5510  
Hillcrest Animal Hospital (Trenton) .....613-394-4811  
Quinte Animal Hospital .....613-392-8900

## Utilities

Bell Canada: .....310-2355 (BELL)  
Ontario Hydro: ..... 1-800-664-3377  
Hydro One Networks: ..... 1-800-434-1235  
Gas: ..... 1-877-969-0999



# Emergency Planning

## Be Prepared – Have a Plan

Make sure everyone in your family knows what to do before, during and after an emergency. Set up a family meeting this week to discuss how you can best prepare for an emergency. Have a plan. If you live alone, develop a plan for yourself with links to neighbours and friends.

### Keep Emergency Numbers Handy

Keep a list of key telephone numbers and addresses near the phone. (Remember to use the phone for emergency calls only.)

Select a person in another area to be your family's contact person if you get separated during an emergency. Ensure that everyone memorizes this person's name and telephone number.

### Develop A Home Escape Plan

Develop an escape plan by drawing a floor plan of your residence. Using a black or blue pen, show the location of doors, windows, stairways, and large furniture on a separate page for each floor. Indicate the location of emergency supplies (Family Emergency Survival Kit – see page), fire extinguishers, smoke detectors, collapsible ladders, first aid kits and utility shut off points. Next, use a coloured pen to draw a broken line charting at least two escape routes from each room. Finally, mark a place outside of the home where household members should meet in case of emergency.

If you live in an apartment, show everyone in your family where the emergency exit is. Show them where the fire alarm is, and explain when and how to use it. In a fire or other emergency, never use the elevators, as they may not work if the power goes out. For further information on high-rise safety, contact your local Fire Department. Practice emergency evacuation drills with all household members at least twice per year. Keep your home escape plan visible where babysitters or children can see it. (For further information on developing a Home Escape Plan, contact the Fire Department).

### Prepare A Family Emergency Survival Kit

Assemble an Emergency Survival Kit to manage an evacuation or home confinement. Make sure everyone knows where to find the family emergency survival kit.

### Have A Plan For Home Health Care Patients

Persons who receive home health care and/or personal support should discuss emergency plans with their caregiver or home care agency. They should also check with their physician if prior arrangements are required for evacuation to a hospital. Persons receiving care or personal support in their homes from the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC) of Brighton should discuss emergency plans with their CCAC Case Manager and their home care agency. For more information call 1-800-810-0000.



## **Locate And Label Shut-Off Switches**

Locate all shut-off switches for heating and ventilating equipment in your home. Identify these switches with easy-to-see signs placed near the breaker panel (or main circuit breaker), gas and water supplies. Clearly label the on-off position for each. Teach members of your family how to shut off these services. List the locations on the Personal Record of Important Information sheet. If your home is equipped with natural gas: tie or tape the appropriate wrench to or near the pipe. No one but a qualified technician should ever turn the gas back on – do not attempt this on your own!

## **Check Your Insurance**

Make sure you have adequate insurance coverage for the range of risks that might occur in your area. Discuss your insurance needs with an agent, broker or insurance representative. For further information, call Insurance Bureau of Canada's consumer information centre at 1-800-387-2880 or visit their website at [www.ibc.ca](http://www.ibc.ca). Keep an inventory of all your possessions listing approximate costs, serial numbers, and a short description. Photographs are an excellent way of recording objects of extraordinary value. Once you have completed your list, discuss it with your insurance agent.

## **Make Plans For Pets And Livestock**

Have a plan of action for care of your pets and livestock during an emergency. Prepare for the possibility you may have to evacuate and relocate your animals. Since you may not be home when an evacuation order comes, find out if a trusted neighbour would be willing to take your pets and meet you at prearranged location. Research and make your contingency plans for possible relocation of livestock in the midst of an emergency.



*Make sure everyone knows what to do before,  
during and after an emergency.  
Have a plan.*

## Preparing A Family Emergency Survival Kit

There are six basics you should stock in your home: water, food, first aid supplies, tools and supplies, clothing and bedding, and some special items listed on subsequent pages. Keep the items that you would most likely need during an evacuation in a waterproof easy-to-carry container. Make sure everyone knows where to find the family emergency survival kit.

### WATER

#### Preparing an emergency water supply

- ❖ Store at least a three-day supply of water for each member of your family.
- ❖ A normally active person needs to drink at least two litres of water each day, so store at least four litres per person per day to provide additional water for washing, etc.
- ❖ Children, nursing mothers and people who are ill will require more water.
- ❖ Never ration water. Drink the amount you need and try to find more for tomorrow.
- ❖ Minimize the amount of water your body needs by reducing activity.
- ❖ Store your water in thoroughly washed plastic, glass, fiberglass or enamel-lined metal containers.
- ❖ Never use a container that has held toxic substances.
- ❖ Change your stored water supply every six months to ensure it stays fresh.

#### Purifying a water supply during an emergency

- ❖ During an emergency situation, if you have no water supply or have used your supply up, it may be necessary to purify water if you are unsure of its quality.
- ❖ Heating water to a rolling boil for one minute is an effective method of disinfecting water.
- ❖ Boiled water will taste better if you put oxygen back into it by pouring it back and forth between two containers.
- ❖ Chlorinating uses liquid chlorine bleach to kill micro-organisms. Add .018 ml (2 drops) of fragrance-free household bleach to 4 ½ litres (1 gallon) of water. Mix well and allow to stand at least one hour before drinking.
- ❖ Purification tablets release chlorine or iodine. They are inexpensive and available at most sporting goods stores and some drugstores. Follow the package directions.





## FOOD

### Preparing an emergency food supply

- ✓ Store at least a three-day supply of non-perishable food.
- ✓ Select foods that require no refrigeration, preparation or cooking, and little or no water.
- ✓ If you must heat food, pack a can of sterno (available from camping supply outlets) or other heat source.
- ✓ Select food items that are compact and light weight such as:
  - ✓ Ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits and vegetables.
  - ✓ Canned juices, milk, soup (if powdered, store extra water).
  - ✓ Staples such as: sugar, salt, pepper, and spices.
  - ✓ High-energy foods (peanut butter, jelly, crackers, granola bars, trail mix).
  - ✓ Foods for infants, elderly persons or persons on special diets.
  - ✓ Comfort/stress foods –cookies, hard candy, sweetened cereals, instant coffee, tea bags, hot chocolate.
- ✓ Individuals with special diets and allergies will need particular attention, as will babies, toddlers, nursing mothers and the elderly
- ✓ Make sure you have a manual can opener and disposable utensils
- ✓ Do not forget non-perishable food for your pets.



### Some general guidelines for rotating emergency foods:

#### Don't store longer than six months:

- X Powdered milk (boxed)
- X Dried fruit (in sealed container)
- X Dry, crisp crackers (in sealed container)
- X Potatoes

#### Don't store longer than one year:

- X Canned meat and condensed vegetable soups
- X Canned fruits, fruit juices and vegetables
- X Ready-to-eat cereals and uncooked instant cereals (in containers)
- X Peanut butter & jams (if seal unbroken)
- X Hard candy, chocolate bars and canned nuts.



# Emergency Kit

## Storing and using food properly during an emergency situation

### If there is a power failure:

Meat, dairy and frozen foods can be hazardous if not stored properly.

Use perishable food and foods from the refrigerator first.

Then use foods from the freezer. To minimize the number of times you open the freezer door, post a list of freezer contents on it.

A full freezer will keep food frozen for about two days. A half-full freezer will keep food frozen for one day. Cover with blankets for extra insulation.

The refrigerator will keep food cool for four to six hours, depending on the kitchen temperature.

Keep the door shut as much as possible.

Finally, begin to use non-perishable foods.

### How to cook if the power goes out

For emergency cooking, you can use a barbeque, a charcoal grill or camp stove, **outdoors only**. You can also heat food indoors using candle warmers, chafing dishes and fondue pots.

A Good Rule When Dealing With Food Is: When In Doubt, Throw It Out!

## FIRST AID SUPPLIES

- ✓ Purchase a complete first aid kit and first aid manual. Add personal care items
- ✓ such as toothpaste and soap, and a supply of non-prescription drugs such as:
- ✓ Pain relievers (e.g., acetaminophen)
- ✓ Anti-diarrhea medication
- ✓ Sunscreen (SPF 15 or higher)
- ✓ Antacid
- ✓ Laxative
- ✓ EpiPen for allergic reactions

\*If you must leave your home in an emergency, be sure to take prescription drugs with you.\*



## TOOLS AND SUPPLIES

**The following are examples of the type of items you should consider:**

- ✓ Paper cups, plates and plastic utensils, storage containers
- ✓ Battery-operated radio, flashlight and extra batteries
- ✓ Lantern and fuel, candles
- ✓ Fire extinguisher (small canister, ABC type)
- ✓ Duct tape
- ✓ Pliers, hammer, nails, crowbar, shut-off wrench for household gas and water
- ✓ Compass, matches in a waterproof container, signal flare, whistle
- ✓ Paper, pencil, needles, thread
- ✓ Plastic sheeting
- ✓ Map of your community (for locating shelters)
- ✓ Toilet paper, towelettes
- ✓ Soap, liquid detergent, unscented household chlorine bleach
- ✓ Plastic garbage bags, ties (for personal sanitation use)
- ✓ Plastic bucket with tight lid
- ✓ Emergency blanket
- ✓ Mosquito repellent
- ✓ Rope and shovel



## CLOTHING AND BEDDING

- ✓ Include at least one complete change of clothing and footwear per person.
- ✓ Sturdy shoes or work boots
- ✓ Rain gear
- ✓ Blankets or sleeping bags
- ✓ Hat and gloves, scarves
- ✓ Thermal underwear
- ✓ Sweaters



## SPECIAL ITEMS

- ✓ Keep important family records and documents in a waterproof, portable container or a bank safety deposit box:
- ✓ passports
- ✓ health cards
- ✓ bank account and credit card numbers, and a small amount of cash
- ✓ photos of family members in case you are separated in an emergency

Remember family members with special needs, such as infants and elderly or disabled persons. Include any relevant medications, denture needs, corrective lenses, hearing aids and batteries.

### **For people with mobility problems, consider the need for the following:**

- ✓ Extra wheelchair batteries, oxygen, medication, catheters, food for guide or service dogs, plus other special equipment you might need.
- ✓ A list of individuals to contact in the event of an emergency.
- ✓ A list of the style and serial numbers of medical devices, such as pacemakers.
- ✓ Store back-up equipment, such as a manual wheelchair, at a neighbour's home, school or your workplace.
- ✓ Keep the shut-off switch for oxygen equipment near your bed or chair so you can get to it quickly if there is a fire.



*“Keep important family records and documents in a waterproof, portable container or a bank safety deposit box”*

## If You Have to Evacuate

Be sure to take the following items with you:

- ✓ Eyewear (glasses/contact lenses)
- ✓ Identification (& other personal documents)
- ✓ Cell phone (with charger & extra batteries)
- ✓ Citizen Inquiry Telephone Numbers
- ✓ Small amount of cash, debit/credit cards
- ✓ One day supply of food and water
- ✓ Medication
- ✓ Toiletries
- ✓ Extra Clothing
- ✓ Contact Numbers
- ✓ Keys
- ✓ Paper/Pencils/Pen

## Be Prepared For Emergencies On The Road

- ✓ Carry a Car Survival Kit – every driver should carry a car safety kit, including items such as:
  - ✓ vehicle fluids
  - ✓ booster cables
  - ✓ emergency flares
  - ✓ first aid equipment
- ✓ always remember to keep your vehicle serviced and keep the gas tank at least half full
- ✓ Purchase a Highway Help Program sign. The Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP) introduced the Highway Help Program to provide quick and safe emergency communication between stranded motorists, other drivers and the police. A fully reflective sign can be attached to the outside of your vehicle as a call for help. The Highway Help Program is a non-profit, province-wide program. For more information call 1-888-466-5486 or visit [www.highwayhelp.org](http://www.highwayhelp.org)
- ✓ In addition, you may purchase a reflective “CALL POLICE” highway sign which can be seen in both directions and which allows you to ask for assistance without leaving your vehicle. Signs can be purchased at many retail outlets.

**When the lights are NOT working, a traffic light intersection becomes a four-way stop!**

**Drivers are often confused and frustrated when approaching and waiting at non-functioning traffic light intersections. Many people have no idea what to do at a traffic light intersection when it is not working. The first vehicle to arrive and stop has the right of way. If two or more vehicles stop at the same time then the vehicle on the right has the right of way.**



# Evacuation

## In an emergency situation where you must pull off the road:

1. Pull your vehicle completely off the road.
2. Turn your emergency flashers on.
3. Roll the driver's window down halfway, hook the sign on the window, and roll the window back up.
4. Lock all doors and remain in the vehicle.
5. Open a window 1 centimetre for ventilation.
6. If someone other than a police officer approaches your vehicle DO NOT open the windows further or unlock the doors



## If you see a "CALL POLICE" highway help sign,

1. DO NOT stop.
2. Note the location of the vehicle.
3. With your cellular telephone, call OPP (Dial \* 6 7 7) or, if you do not have a cellular phone, stop at the nearest gas station or store to use a pay phone.

## If you are driving in emergency conditions

- ✓ Keep the radio on to hear important information.
- ✓ Have a cellular phone with you, if possible.
- ✓ Follow the routes specified by officials. Don't take short cuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- ✓ If your car gets stuck, remain calm and stay in your car. Keep fresh air in your car by opening the window slightly on the sheltered side, away from the wind.
- ✓ You can run the car engine about 10 minutes every half-hour if the exhaust system is working well. Beware of exhaust fumes and check the exhaust pipe periodically to make sure it is not blocked with snow. (Remember, you cannot smell potentially fatal carbon monoxide fumes.)
- ✓ Watch out for power lines that are down. Drive carefully and watch for debris, damaged bridges/ roads and dangling wires.

## In a flooding emergency:

- ✓ If you must walk or drive in a flooded area, make sure you are on firm ground.
- ✓ Travel very carefully, and only if absolutely necessary through flooded areas.
- ✓ Roads may be washed away or covered with water.
- ✓ If you come across a barricade or a flooded road, take a different route.
- ✓ If you are caught in fast rising waters and your car stalls, leave it and save yourself and your passengers.

*Always pull to the right for Emergency vehicles when you hear the siren or see their lights flashing!*

## Evacuation

Stay calm. Help the injured, if possible. Listen to the radio or television, or monitor the internet.

During some emergencies, it may be necessary to protect our citizens by evacuating the area impacted by the emergency. An emergency evacuation centre may be set up to provide shelter and food to people affected by the emergency. If there were a need to be evacuated, you would be notified by one of the following:

- ❖ An emergency official knocking at your door, providing evacuation instructions.
- ❖ Emergency services driving through your neighbourhood, providing instructions over a loud speaker.
- ❖ Evacuation instructions provided over the local radio, television, or the Internet.

## If You Expect to be Evacuated During an Emergency

- ✓ If an emergency is imminent, keep phone lines open for use by emergency workers. Monitor local radio broadcasts for emergency instructions and current information.
- ✓ Do not assume an evacuation will last only a few hours. Plan to evacuate with enough items to keep your family comfortable for at least three days.
- ✓ Take your personal emergency kit with you (see Preparing a Family Emergency Survival Kit). Refer to lists of medications, records and irreplaceable items.
- ✓ If you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas and electricity.
- ✓ Make sure you have your car emergency kit and keep your car fueled.
- ✓ Follow local government instructions. If you are asked to evacuate, do so promptly. Travel only on routes specified by officials. A shortcut could take you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- ✓ If you have time, leave a note telling others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox you could leave the note there.
- ✓ If you are evacuated, register with the reception centre so that you can be contacted and reunited with your family and loved ones. If you are going somewhere other than the reception centre, advise the centre, local government or police of your whereabouts.

### *Evacuation:*

*Stay calm. Help the injured, if possible. Listen to the radio or television, or monitor the internet.*

# Emergency Situations

## Specific Emergency Situations:

In any emergency situation, you should follow the previous general instructions for preparing for and dealing with an emergency. Keep your family emergency survival kit ready and listen to the broadcast media or monitor Internet media.

The following are tips relating to specific types of emergencies:

### WINTER STORMS

In South Eastern Ontario, winter storms can be dangerous:

When a winter storm advisory is in effect, listen to the radio or television for information or instructions.

- ✓ Make sure you have enough heating fuel
- ✓ Farmers should take the necessary precautions to safeguard animals and livestock.
- ✓ When a winter storm hits, stay indoors. If you must go outside, dress for the weather as working outdoors can result in serious cold related injuries.
- ✓ If you must travel during a snowstorm, do so during the day and let someone know your route and arrival time.

### Recognizing cold-related injuries

The risk of cold-related injury varies depending on such factors as the temperature, wind speed, your length of time outdoors, your age, physical conditions, and whether your clothing is wet or dry.

Frost bite, or the freezing of body tissue exposed to the cold, is a common cold related injury.

Since frostbite has a numbing effect, you may not be aware you are frostbitten. Warning signs may include a stinging or aching feeling, followed by numbness; skin that feels waxy and cold; and skin that turns red, then gray, white, yellow or blue.

Hypothermia occurs when your body loses heat faster than it can produce it. Heat loss occurs more rapidly when you are wet. Warning signs of hypothermia include increased shivering, slurred speech, impaired judgement, and poor muscle coordination.

### How to treat frostbite

- ✓ Move the person to a warm place and call for professional emergency medical help. Don't let the person walk if his or her feet are frostbitten.
- ✓ Handle the frostbitten area gently; never rub it.
- ✓ Do not try to rewarm the frostbitten area.
- ✓ Wait for professional emergency medical help to arrive.





## How to treat hypothermia

- ✓ Gently move the person to a warm place and immediately call for professional emergency medical help.
- ✓ Remove the person's wet clothing.
- ✓ Slowly warm the person by wrapping them in blankets or putting on dry clothing.
- ✓ If the person is conscious, offer a warm, non-alcoholic drink (avoid caffeine).
- ✓ Wait for professional emergency medical help to arrive.

## LIGHTNING

To estimate how far away the lightning is, count the seconds between the flash of lightning and the thunderclap. Each second is about 300 metres. If you count less than five seconds, take shelter immediately - lightning is near.

### If you are outside:

- ✓ If caught in the open, do not lie flat but crouch in the leap frog position and lower your head. You do not want to be the tallest object in the area.
- ✓ Take shelter in a building or depressed area such as a ditch or a culvert but never under a tree.
- ✓ Do not ride bicycles, motorcycles or golf carts, or use metal shovels or golf clubs as they conduct electricity.
- ✓ If swimming or in a boat, get back to shore immediately.
- ✓ If you are in a car, stay there but pull away from trees, which might fall on you.

### If you are inside:

- ✓ If indoors, stay there but away from windows, doors, fireplaces, radiators, stoves, sinks, bathtubs, appliances, metal pipes, telephones and other materials, which conduct electricity. (You can use a cellular telephone.)
- ✓ Unplug radios and televisions.
- ✓ Do not go out to rescue the laundry on the clothesline as it conducts electricity.



# Emergency Situations

## POWER OUTAGES

If a power outage leaves you without heat for some time, there is an added threat of pipes freezing and bursting. To prevent this, drain the pipes and shut off the main water supply. Before you drain your pipes you may first want to collect water in clean containers for emergency drinking and cleaning purposes. Open all faucets, including your water heater. If you have an electric hot water heater, drain the hot water heating system by turning it off and leaving the valves open. Add plumbing antifreeze or recreational vehicle winterizing solution to the toilet and other pipes and traps with standing water. If you have a septic tank, antifreeze could damage it so make sure you pump the chemical from the plumbing fixtures and pipes before they are refilled with water. Do not drink water to which you have added antifreeze.

If your pipes do freeze, do not attempt to thaw them yourself. Contact a qualified professional. In some situations, power outages mean no running water. If you have no running water and wish to continue to use your toilet, fill your bathtub from an alternate water source, eg. with snow or water from a creek. After using the toilet pour a bucket of water in the toilet and it will flush automatically.

If your basement is flooding and you have no emergency generator to power a sump pump or other means to pump the basement, move all furniture and anything of value to a dry location and disconnect the power supply to prevent damage when the power comes back on.

Portable generators should only be used outside away from any opening to the house, attached garage and fresh air intakes. Carbon dioxide is an invisible, odourless poisonous gas and health risks or death could occur.



## BASEMENT FLOODING

- ✓ Move furniture, electrical appliances, pets, equipment and other belongings to higher levels.
- ✓ Make sure basement windows are closed.
- ✓ Remove or seal hazardous products like weed killers or insecticides.
- ✓ Remove toilet bowl water and plug basement sewer drains and toilet connection.

## TORNADOES



Hot, humid weather combined with a cold front could be a sign that a tornado is brewing. A funnel cloud hanging from a dark cloud may be visible before the tornado actually occurs. A tornado may be accompanied by lightning, high winds and hail.

If you are at home, go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room such as a bathroom, closet or hallway or protect yourself by taking shelter under a heavy table or desk. Stay away from windows and outside walls and doors.

At the office or in an apartment building, take shelter in an inner hallway or room, ideally in the basement or the ground floor. Do not use the elevator and stay away from windows. Avoid buildings such as gymnasiums, churches and auditoriums with freespan roofs.

Do not get caught in a car or mobile home. Take shelter elsewhere, such as a building with a strong foundation. If no shelter is available, lie down in a ditch, away from cars or mobile homes.

If you are driving and spot a tornado in the distance, try to get to a nearby shelter. If the tornado is close by, get out of your car and take cover in a low-lying area or under an overpass on a freeway. Get as close to the ground as possible, protect your head and watch out for flying debris.

### **Contrary to popular belief:**

- ❖ Areas near rivers, lakes and mountains are NOT safe from tornadoes.
- ❖ The low pressure with a tornado does NOT cause buildings to “explode” as the tornado passes overhead.
- ❖ Open windows do NOT equalize pressure and minimize damage.
- ❖ You are NOT safe if you are downtown.

*Tornadoes: If you are at home, go to the basement or take shelter in a small interior ground floor room such as a bathroom, closet or hallway*

# Emergency Situations

## EARTHQUAKES

Knowing what you should do during an earthquake will help you remain calm, be better prepared to protect yourself and help others.

### **If indoors, stay there. Do not run outside.**

- ❖ Take cover under a heavy table, desk or any solid furniture and hold on. In a hallway, crouch down against an inside wall. Avoid doorways. Doors may slam shut and cause injuries.
- ❖ Protect your head and face.
- ❖ Move away from windows, glass partitions, mirrors, fireplaces, bookcases, all furniture, and light fixtures.
- ❖ If in a wheelchair, lock the wheels and protect the back of your neck and head.
- ❖ Do not use elevators. If you are in an elevator during an earthquake, hit the button for every floor and get out as soon as you can.
- ❖ Wherever you are when the earthquake starts, take cover immediately and stay there until the shaking stops. Expect aftershocks—they may occur for some time after the initial quake.
- ❖ If outdoors, stay there. Try to move to a safe spot away from windows, buildings, overhead wires or telephone poles.
- ❖ If you are in a vehicle, try to pull over to a safe place. Try not to block the road. Park away from bridges, overpasses and buildings, if possible. Stay in the vehicle.

## HAZARDOUS SPILLS

Your response to an emergency involving a hazardous spill or fire resulting from the spill should be the same as in all other emergencies except for the following:

- ❖ You may be evacuated.
- ❖ Listen for instructions from local emergency response officials.
- ❖ Be prepared to “Shelter in Place”. *“Shelter in Place” is the practice of going or remaining indoors during the release of an airborne hazardous material, as opposed to evacuating the area.*

*Wherever you are when the earthquake starts, take cover immediately and stay there until the shaking stops. Expect aftershocks—they may occur for some time after the initial quake.*

## Implementation of a Boil Water Advisory

### What is a boil water advisory?

A Boil Water Advisory is a public notification advising the public that their water has tested unsafe to drink and they must bring their water to a rolling boil for 1 minute prior to drinking, preparing food, making beverages and ice cubes, washing fruits and vegetables or brushing teeth. These preventative measures are issued to protect public health from waterborne infectious agents that could be or are known to be present in drinking water.

### How is the general public notified about boil water advisories?

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit issues a Boil Water Advisory for the Municipality of Brighton. On issuing the Boil Water Advisory the Fire Department will deliver *Door Hangers* to all premises which the Boil Water Advisory applies. A record will be maintained of notification to each address.

### What are the reasons for issuing a boil water advisory?

A boil water advisory may be issued as a result of any of:

#### On evidence of condition such as:

- ❖ unacceptable levels of disease-causing bacteria, viruses or parasites in the water system anywhere from the source to the tap
- ❖ unacceptable levels in the cloudiness (turbidity) in the water at its originating source

These conditions can occur for many reasons including:

- ❖ Inadequate filtration and/or disinfection during treatment
- ❖ Re-contamination during distribution

The Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit is responsible for lifting or cancelling the boil water advisory.

**Anyone requesting further information or questions should contact the Haliburton Kawartha Pine Ridge Health Unit at 1-866-888-4577**

**Or visit the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care website at [www.health.gov.on.ca](http://www.health.gov.on.ca).**



## Returning Home After an Emergency

Do not re-enter your home unless authorities advise you it is safe to do so.

### If you Suspect/Smell a Natural Gas Leak when you arrive home:

- ❖ Leave the house.
- ❖ Go to another location & call 9-1-1 and request the fire department who will respond and notify gas company.



### Re-Entering Your Home (Provided you do not Suspect a Natural Gas Leak):

- ❖ Check for blown fuses and look for short-circuits in your home wiring and equipment – if you suspect a problem, call your utility company.
- ❖ Report any emergency situations to the local police or fire department.
- ❖ Notify your insurance agent or broker if your property is damaged.

### Re-Entering Your Home after a Flood:

- ❖ If children must be present during the clean-up operations, supervise them closely.
- ❖ Before entering a flooded building, check for foundation damage and make sure all porch roofs and overhangs are supported.
- ❖ If your basement is full of water, drain it in stages, about a third of the volume of water per day (Draining too quickly can damage your home structurally).
- ❖ Using a dry piece of wood, turn off the electricity at the main breaker or fuse box.
- ❖ Wear rubber gloves, rubber boots and protective eyewear when cleaning up.
- ❖ Do not use wet appliances or motors unless a qualified electrician has serviced them.
- ❖ Contact your local heating repair company to inspect your furnace and chimney.
- ❖ Do not use your regular water supply or septic system until it has been inspected and declared safe to use.
- ❖ Check to see that sewage lines are intact before flushing toilets.
- ❖ Report damaged water, sewage and gas lines to the proper authorities.
- ❖ Dispose of all contaminated food.

*Note: Floodwater may be heavily contaminated with sewage and other pollutants that can pose a serious health hazard*

### Checking Your Well Water Drinking Water Supply

Wells that have been flooded should be tested for bacteria and found to be safe before water from the well is consumed. Information regarding how to obtain water sample bottles and instructions for disinfecting your well are available at [www.hkpr.on.ca](http://www.hkpr.on.ca) or by calling Brighton Health Unit at (613) 475-0933

**To learn more about drinking water safety, contact the  
HKPR District Health Unit toll-free at 1-866-888-4577**

## **Coping With A Disaster: What You and Your Family Might Experience**

During, or following a traumatic event, it is not unusual to have physical and emotional reactions. Here are things that may help you cope:

- ❖ Recognize that the way you react to the event is not unusual.
- ❖ Try not to make big life changes.
- ❖ Talk to family members and friends.
- ❖ Listen to one another and help each other with daily tasks.
- ❖ Try to achieve a balance between rest and activity.
- ❖ Seek counselling to help cope with the emotional trauma associated with disasters.

### **Children and Emergencies:**

Children's fears and anxieties are very real to them. Here is how parents can help:

- ❖ Encourage children to express themselves through play or drawing.
- ❖ Take their fears seriously and talk about what happened.
- ❖ Comfort young children with physical care, holding and hugging.
- ❖ Keep the family together as much as possible.
- ❖ Give children information they can understand

## **For More Information About Emergency Planning, Visit or Contact:**

### **Municipality of Brighton**

[www.brighton.ca](http://www.brighton.ca)  
613-475-0670

### **Northumberland County Emergency Planning**

[www.northumberlandcounty.ca](http://www.northumberlandcounty.ca)  
1-800-354-7050

### **Emergency Management Ontario**

[www.emergencymanagementontario.ca](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca)  
General Inquiry: 1-877-314-3723

### **Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness**

[www.ccep.ca](http://www.ccep.ca)  
1-866-559-2237 (CCEP) /1-800-965-4608

### **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada**

[www.psepc.gc.ca](http://www.psepc.gc.ca)  
1-800-830-3118

### **Canadian Red Cross**

[www.redcross.ca](http://www.redcross.ca)  
1-800-418-1111

### **Environment Canada Weather Office**

[www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca](http://www.weatheroffice.ec.gc.ca)

# Records & Information

## Personal Record of Important Information

### Local Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

### Nearest Relative:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Work Numbers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Cell Phone/ Pager Numbers:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

### Family Out of Area Contact:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Evening) \_\_\_\_\_

### Children's School(s)/ Day Care Provider:

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

Hospital: \_\_\_\_\_

Family Physician: \_\_\_\_\_

### Emergency Reunion Location:

Outside your home: \_\_\_\_\_

Away from the neighbourhood, in case you cannot return home, meet at:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Travel route to try first: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_



# Records & Information

*During significant emergencies, a Citizen Inquiry Information Number will be provided through local media. As soon as you are aware of it, write it down:*

For emergency information, listen to local radio and television stations, or check internet sites.

**Emergency radio is located:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Extra batteries are located:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Flashlight/candles/ matches or lighters are located:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency survival kit is located:** \_\_\_\_\_

Shut off switches for heating & ventilating equipment and utilities are marked with an \_\_\_\_\_ and are located:

**Gas:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Water:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Electricity:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Provider:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Caution: If you turn off the gas, it should only be turned back on by a professional from the gas company.*

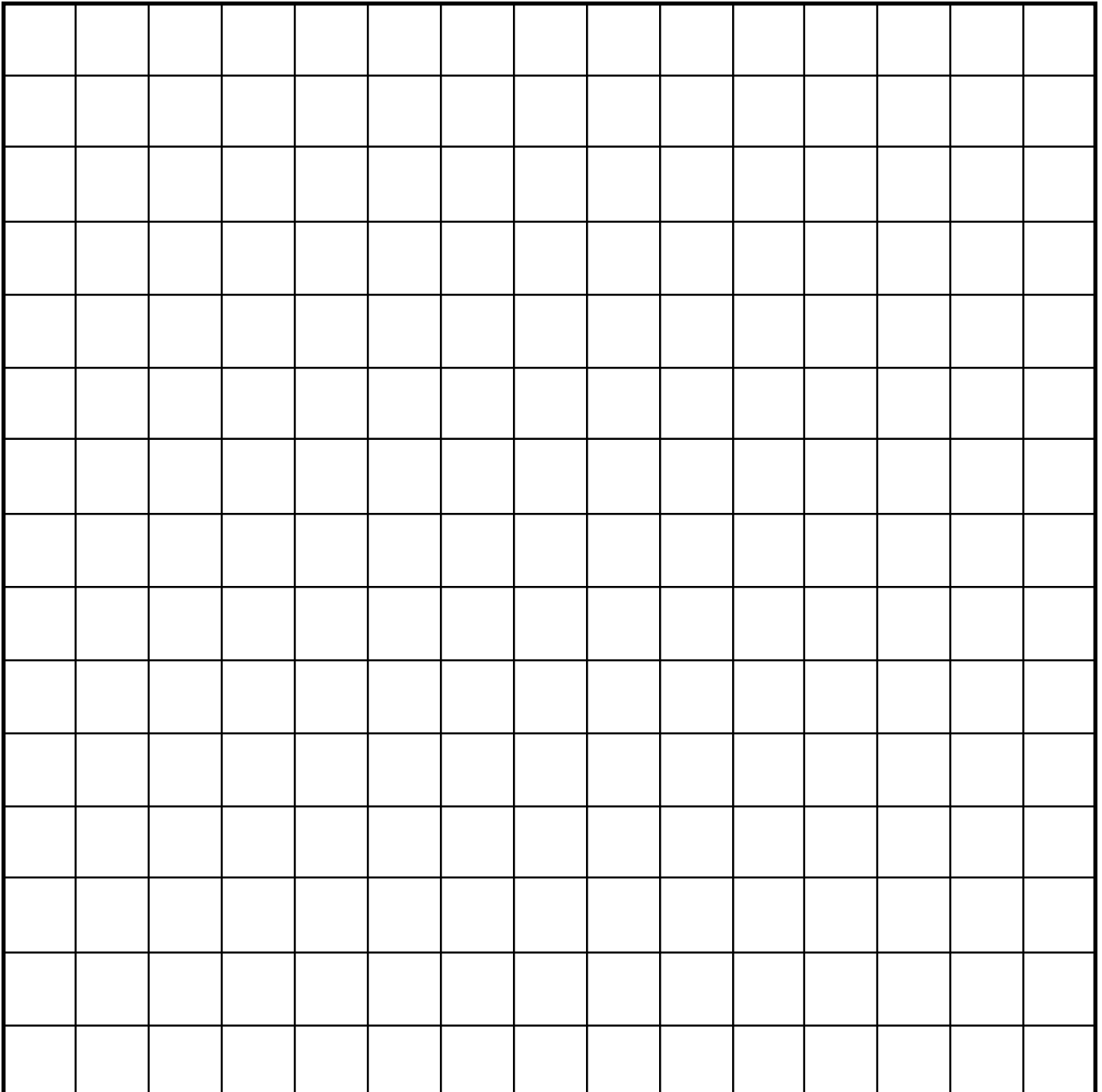
Emergency heat source is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Insurance Company:**

Policy Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Insurance Agent: \_\_\_\_\_

# Home Floor Plan

**DRAW A FLOOR PLAN OF YOUR HOME  
SHOWING TWO WAYS OUT OF EVERY ROOM, IF  
POSSIBLE**

A large grid consisting of 14 columns and 16 rows of squares, intended for drawing a floor plan.

## NOTES

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

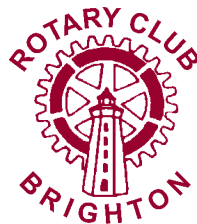
---

---





**A word of Thank You to the sponsors:  
Brighton Fire Department, the Municipality of Brighton,  
Brighton Kinsmen Club, Brighton Rotary Club & The Knights of Columbus  
of Brighton.**



Your comments on this Personal Emergency Preparedness Guide would be appreciated, as well as any suggestions for additional information that you feel should be included in future editions.

Disclaimer: The information contained in this publication has been developed from many sources and is intended to be a guide only. The Municipality of Brighton, the Emergency Planning Committee, the Brighton Community Policing Service, and the Brighton Police Service are not responsible for any errors or omission