



City Council Committee Report

Date: 4 April 2012

To: Mayor & Council

**Fr: Warren F. Brinkman, Emergency Service Manager, City of Kenora
Fire and Emergency Services**

Re: Emergency Preparedness Week Proclamation May 6-12 2012

Recommendation:

That the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to proclaim the week of May 6 to May 12, 2012 as "Emergency Preparedness Week" in and for the City of Kenora and requests its observance as such by our citizens.

Background: Emergency Preparedness Week 2012 marks the 17th annual event. Emergency Preparedness Week is a national awareness initiative that has taken place since 1996. It is a collaborative event undertaken by provincial and territorial emergency management organizations supporting activities at the local level, in concert with Public Safety Canada and partners. Emergency Preparedness Week encourages Canadians to take three simple steps to become better prepared to face a range of emergencies:

- Know the risks
- Make a plan
- Get an emergency kit

Here are some interesting facts to mark 17 years of getting better prepared for emergencies.

1. Roughly 5,000 earthquakes are recorded in Canada every year.
2. Canada gets more tornadoes than any other country except the U.S., averaging about 50 tornadoes per year.
3. The worldwide cost of natural disasters has skyrocketed from \$2 billion in the 1980s, to \$27 billion over the past decade.
4. Canada's first billion dollar disaster, the Saguenay flood of 1996, triggered a surge of water, rocks, trees and mud that forced 12,000 residents to evacuate their homes.
5. Approximately 85% of Canadians agree that having an emergency kit is important in ensuring their and their family's safety, yet only four in ten have prepared or bought an emergency kit.
6. 85% of Canadians agree that having an emergency plan is important in ensuring their and their family's safety, yet on only 40% have prepared one. You can complete yours online at www.GetPrepared.ca.
7. In 2011, flooding in Manitoba and Saskatchewan featured the highest water levels and flows in modern history. Over 11,000 residents were displaced from their homes.
8. Ice, branches or power lines can continue to break and fall for several hours after the end of an ice storm.
9. The deadliest heat wave in Canadian history produced temperatures exceeding 44°C in Manitoba and Ontario in 1936. Rail lines and bridge girders twisted, sidewalks buckled, crops wilted and fruit baked on trees.

10. In 2007, the Prairies experienced 410 severe weather events including tornadoes, heavy rain, wind and hail, nearly double the yearly average of 221 events.
11. The coldest temperature reached in North America was -63°C , recorded in 1947 in Snag, Yukon.
12. The largest landslide in Canada involved 185 million m^3 of material and created a 40m deep scar that covered the size of 80 city blocks in 1894 at Saint-Alban, Quebec.
13. Hurricanes are bigger and cause more widespread damage than tornadoes (a very large system can be up to 1,000 kilometres wide).
14. One of the most destructive and disruptive storms in Canadian history was the 1998 ice storm in Eastern Canada causing hardship for 4 million people and costing \$3 billion. Power outages lasted for up to 4 weeks.
15. The June 23, 2010 earthquake in Val-des-Bois, Quebec produced the strongest shaking ever experienced in Ottawa and was felt as far away as Kentucky in the United States.
16. Using non-voice communication technology like text messaging, email, or social media instead of telephones takes up less bandwidth and helps reduce network congestion after an emergency.

Budget: N/A

Communication Plan/Notice By-law Requirements: Municipal Memo, Portal, and Media.