

Emergency Planning Becomes Mandatory in Ontario



The Ontario Emergency Management Act was enacted in 2002 and implements new concepts for emergency preparedness. Emergency planning is no longer optional - all municipalities in the province must develop emergency management programs based on local hazards and risks. An approved Emergency Management Program must include a municipal emergency response plan, training of municipal staff, emergency planning exercises and public awareness programs to inform residents about how they can prepare at home to cope with emergencies.



Implementation of the Act is a three-step process, with the standards of each level being more stringent than the last. The first step is the Essential Program, which, in addition to the above requirements, includes identification of local risks and critical infrastructure, and must be completed by the end of this year. The second step is the Enhanced Program, which must be completed by December 31, 2005. When the requirements of the last step, the Comprehensive Program, have been met by December 31, 2006, it will be required that this level of

The 2002 S.A.D.S. recreated a terrorist attack in which a disgruntled employee created two gas leaks and set a brush fire. A car accident on Plank Rd. ignited the fictitious vapour cloud causing a serious flash fire.



The mobile command post bus was used during the Sarnia Area Disaster Simulation (S.A.D.S.) Exercise at BP Amoco, held Sept. 5th, 2002. Organized by the C.V.E.C.O. emergency planning committee.



November 4, 2004 - St. Clair Township Emergency Management Program Committee (L to R: Ron Skreptak, Darrell Randell, Mark Wetering, Wayne Teft, Gord Peters, Geoff Clarke, Roy Dewhirst, and Irene Biscaro)

preparedness be maintained. It is likely however that new benchmarks will be introduced by the Province at that time.

It is important that municipalities work with local industries when developing their Emergency Management Programs. Fortunately, good working relationships already exist and mutual aid arrangements between local CVECO-member industries and municipalities are in place. Given this existing level of cooperation, the municipalities in the Sarnia-Lambton area are well prepared to meet the above noted requirements by December 31, 2004 as stipulated under the new legislation.

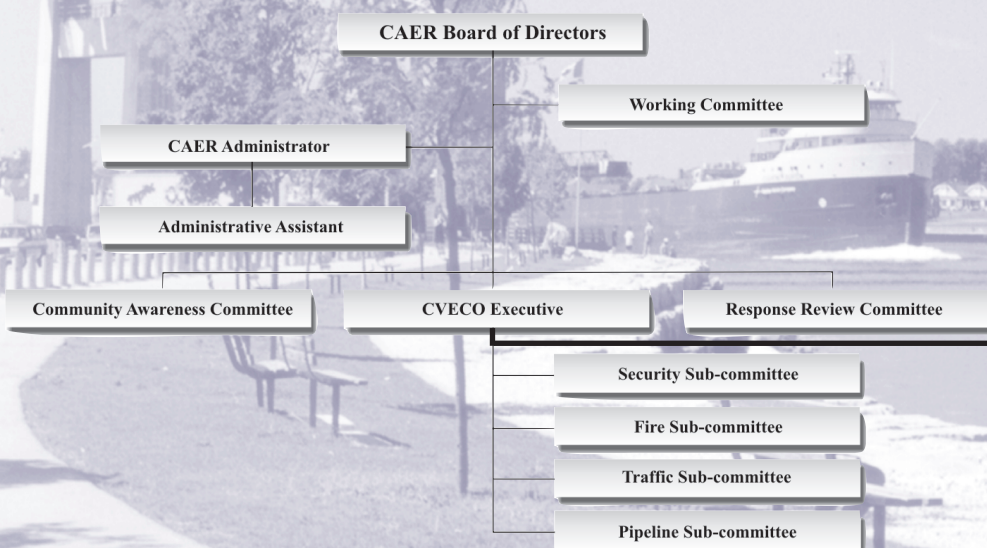
More information about Lambton County's emergency preparedness can be found at:

www.lambtononline.ca/community_emergency_planning

Understanding How CAER Works

To help understand how CAER is working for you in the community, each issue of the Community Report will be profiling a different committee within the CAER organization.

Structure of the CAER Organization



CHEMICAL VALLEY EMERGENCY COORDINATING ORGANIZATION (CVECO)

CVECO was formed in 1951 as a traffic control organization and developed into a mutual aid organization. It provides a co-ordinated service of local municipal emergency responders; together with industrial emergency responders; to deal with all natural and industrial emergencies that may occur in our community. It ensures that the emergency response plans of industrial and civic authorities among the membership are compatible with one another and current legislation.

CVECO Executive - This group maintains continual and constructive communication among members, providing awareness of developing needs, new techniques and promoting a high level of commitment and co-operation in emergency response activities.

The chairperson of the CVECO executive committee alternates annually between municipal and industrial members.

Seasonal Safety Reminders

The crops have been harvested, the leaves are falling and the nights become longer as the year draws to a close. As we draw our families inside and make ready for the long winter months ahead, it is important to insure that our homes are not only happy ones, but safe ones. Read on to learn important information about keeping everyone safe during this season of cleaning gutters, shovelling snow and poor driving conditions.

Cleaning your gutter? Ladder injuries

Increase in the fall.

Look for the CSA stamp before

buying the ladder

Always work with a helper

Never overreach! Use a ladder long

enough for the job

Wear non-skid shoes and make sure

rungs are dry

Wear a tool belt - never carry equipment while

climbing a ladder



Snow!

You either love it or hate it, but either way: you

have to get rid of it from your driveway. If you don't have

the luxury of owning a snow blower, you may have to dig

out that trusty old shovel from the garage.

But beware: shovelling snow has its perils. In fact, many

people sustain injuries every year through improper lifting,

overexertion, or simply by trying to shovel too much snow.

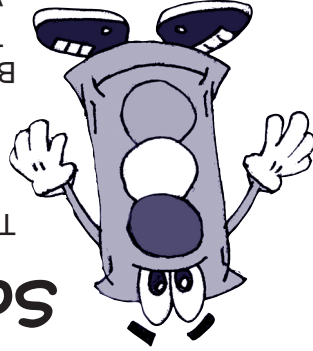
Lower back injuries are the most common resulting from shovelling snow. Low back pain usually occurs when a person bends forward and then abruptly twists to one side. Instead of doing this, health experts recommend you move in the direction you're shovelling. For example, shovel one long strip along your driveway, and then clear the remaining snow by pushing it the short distance across the driveway.

Stay alert, slow down and stay in control—the three key elements to safe winter driving. Drive according to current road and weather conditions. Keep a safe distance between you and the vehicle in front of you. Avoid situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface.

Get your vehicle winter-ready with a **maintenance check-up**. Don't wait for winter to set in to have your battery, belts and hoses, radiator, oil, lights, brakes, exhaust system, heater/ defroster, wipers and ignition system checked. **Plan ahead, be prepared, and drive safely.**



Safety Tip Tommy



The cold winter months often mean staying

indoors. If you are like many young

Canadians, that means spending lots of

time at the computer!

But surfing the internet can be dangerous.

There are some very important things that

you need to keep in mind when you're on

your computer at home or at school.

First, remember never to give out personal information such as

your name, home address, school name, or telephone number

in a chat room or on bulletin boards.

Never send a picture of yourself to someone you chat with on

the computer without your parent's permission.

Never write to someone who has made you feel uncomfortable

or scared.

Do not meet someone or have them visit you without the

permission of your parents.

Tell your parents right away if you read anything on the

Internet that makes you feel uncomfortable.

Remember that people online may not be who they say they

are. Someone who says that "she" is a "12-year-old girl" could

really be an older man.

Safe Surfing on the Internet!



CAER Community Report

Fall / Winter 2004

Community Response Emergency Preparedness
for the communities of Sarnia-Lambton

CAER.ca

Community Awareness Emergency Response

