This week is Emergency Preparedness Week across Canada. The theme this year is “Be Emergency Ready – Stay Connected”.

Primary focus this year is on the new Alert Ready System. Alert Ready is part of the national service to deliver critical and potentially life-saving alert messages to Canadians.

Starting this year in addition to the normal Emergency Alerts that go out over Radio and TV, alerts will be sent to compatible cell phones and wireless devices. (This means phones that are LTE or 4G. Doesn’t include flip-phones). To find out if your phone is compatible you can find out online at https://www.alertready.ca/wireless/#carriers

Although we promote personal emergency preparedness all year long…E-P Week provides us with an opportunity to underline the importance for all residents to protect themselves and their families in the event of an emergency.

Everyone should have a home emergency kit to be self-sufficient for up to 3 days. Kits include non-perishable food, bottled water, candles, matches, flashlight, batteries, radio, playing cards, games, essential medications, hand sanitizer or moist towelettes, garbage bags, pet food, and even some cash in small bills. Remember in a power outage debit and credit cards won’t work.

You can learn more about what your kit should include by following the links on this page, or by visiting www.emergencymanagementontario.ca.
Our emergency and volunteer services all have emergency plans in place. They know how they would respond in an emergency. However, they won’t be able to help everyone at once.

Plan A Family Meeting
The first step in preparing for an emergency is holding a family meeting. Families should talk about what emergencies are possible in their area. Communities in Huron County are vulnerable to tornadoes, winter storms and floods, but train derailments, gas leaks and explosions are also possible. Learn what your risks are and take steps to prepare for them.

Prepare A 72 Hour Emergency Kit
Families can also create their personal 72 hour emergency kits together. Filled with emergency food, clothing, a flashlight and a radio, the kits are invaluable in an emergency. The checklists on the opposite page will help you know what to include in your 72 hour emergency kit.

Be sure your 72 hour emergency kit and water supply will last for at least three days.
Collect enough supplies to sustain yourself until additional help and supplies arrive.
Store the items for your 72 hour emergency kit in a bag which will be easy to carry if you are evacuated.
Most importantly, be sure everyone in the family knows where the 72 hour emergency kit is kept.

Plan For Power Outages
Power could be out during an emergency. People should take some precautions in case the hydro goes out. Be sure to have a radio, a light source and a heat source.
It’s good to have an alternate means of cooking. Have a plan to live with no electricity.

Plan For Your Special Needs
People with medical devices, such as pain pumps, oxygen or dialysis depend on a power supply. These people should discuss how they can prepare themselves for a power outage with their health care provider.
Keep a supply of prescription drugs on hand and if you have to be hospitalized, take your prescriptions with you.
Take a look at what your needs are and be as personally prepared as possible.

Stay Home
If your home is safe and your family doesn’t need medical attention, stay inside. Staying off the roads will help road crews clear the debris or snow. Abandoned vehicles on the roads create a problem for removal of snow and slows down operations.

Have A Radio And Lots Of Batteries
Keep a transistor radio with no CD player or cassette player in your disaster kits.
You want to conserve your battery power and playing CDs and tapes can rob valuable power from your batteries.
Always keep a supply of fresh batteries in your kit.