

EMERGENCY MEASURES IN CANADA



Research reports

Nowadays, many people worry about major events such as ones caused by acts of terrorism, severe weather conditions or natural disasters. If one of these events occurred, would most Canadians be prepared to deal with the aftermath? Faced with such events, who would take charge in our towns and major cities, and what is their present state of preparedness?

Types of emergencies

The Government of Canada claims that there are two main types of emergencies: those resulting from natural disasters and those arising from other events. Examples of natural disasters include floods, severe storms, landslides, avalanches and forest fires. Examples of other events causing emergencies include terrorist attacks, plane crashes, chemical spills and train accidents. They could even consist of power blackouts or public riots.

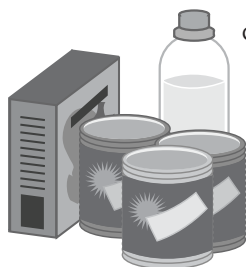
Leaders in emergency planning

The main leaders in emergency planning are Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC) and the Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness (CCEP). PSEPC provides information for individuals, businesses and communities. CCEP coordinates a wide network of local and provincial emergency organizations, and provides liaison with the various local and provincial emergency measures organizations (EMOs).

Emergency preparedness

An important part of dealing with emergencies is prevention. Another is preparedness. PSEPC provides individuals with information on being better prepared. They have instructions on how to assemble emergency kits for the home or the car.

They provide lists of things to do in case of an emergency, like seeking shelter and listening to a battery-operated radio.



PSEPC says that the local level should be the first to manage an emergency. This would include the local police, fire departments and hospitals. If help is needed, the city can ask the provincial government. If the province needs help, it can ask the federal government. The federal government may provide money, resources, management, and even manpower.



No one can prevent a disaster. However, everyone can play a part in lessening the impact. Prepare mentally. Learn what you can do for yourself and for your community. Prepare physically. Make sure you have everything you need on hand. It may be too late once disaster strikes.

Conclusion

According to PSEPC and the CCEP, most Canadian cities and towns seem well prepared to cope with a major emergency. However, there are no guarantees of everyone's complete safety, since it is a well known fact that unknown factors are often at the heart of any emergency.

Bibliography

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada [online]. [cited July 2006]. Available from: www.psepc.gc.ca/index-en.asp.

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