



Town of Kindersley

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Emergency Preparedness Week May 6-12, 2012

In recognition of Kindersley's Emergency Measures Organization and all agencies involved with emergency preparedness, the Town of Kindersley is recognizing Emergency Preparedness Week from May 6-12, 2012.

Being prepared for all kinds of emergencies allows Kindersley residents assurance that their safety is of utmost priority and that response to emergency situations is a unified effort between all agencies in Kindersley and surrounding region.

The public is invited to learn more about emergency preparedness, to view Kindersley's new fire truck, and to take part in the Chili Cook-Off on May 11 from 5-7 pm at the West Central Events Centre.

For more information about Kindersley's Emergency Measures Organization, visit www.kindersley.ca/EMO.

Facts about emergency preparedness

Emergency Preparedness Week 2012 marks the 17th annual event. 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. Some hailstones are the size of peas while others can be as big as baseballs.
6. 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.
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 m³ 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. 85% of Canadians agree that having an emergency plan is important in ensuring their and their family's safety, yet only 40% have prepared one. Complete yours online at www.GetPrepared.ca.
15. 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.
16. 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.
17. 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.