

## Program/Service Information Report

# Emergency Preparedness

June 2023–June 2024

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To: Board of Health  
Meeting Date: June 5, 2024  
Report No.: BH.01.JUN0524.C10

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## Key Points

- The Emergency Preparedness Program is based on the Ontario Public Health Standards (OPHS) Emergency Management Guideline to enable consistent and effective management of public health emergencies.
- Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph (WDG) Public Health prepares for emergencies using:
  - WDGPH Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee
  - Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)
  - Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
  - Business Continuity Plan (BCP)
  - Incident Management System (IMS) usage
  - Municipal emergency planning meetings and exercises
- WDG Public Health maintains compliance with the OPHS requirements through a comprehensive emergency preparedness program that enables the Agency to prepare, respond, and recover from disruptions that may impact community safety and public health service delivery.

## Program Requirements

### Compliance with OPHS and Accountability Indicators:

In compliance

Not in compliance

## Highlights

Effective emergency preparedness ensures that Public Health is ready to manage threats or disruptions to public health programs and services. By maintaining robust partnerships with municipal and provincial agencies and coordinating activities with community partners before an event, WDG Public Health is prepared to respond to and recover from public health threats using an all-hazards approach.

### 2023-2024 Operational Plan Objectives and Activities

WDG Public Health is committed to maintaining a comprehensive emergency management program that ensures readiness to respond to public health emergencies. The WDG Public Health Emergency Preparedness Steering Committee formalized three objectives for the 2023-2024 emergency preparedness program:

1. Maintain municipal and provincial emergency management relationships and participation in emergency management exercises and training opportunities.
2. Review and keep the Agency's Emergency Response Plan current.
3. Conduct Emergency Preparedness training for key staff.

The following activities supported these objectives between June 2023 and May 2024:

1. Maintain municipal and provincial emergency management relationships and participation in emergency management exercises and training opportunities.

#### a. City of Guelph Activities:

<b>Fall 2023</b>	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Guelph-Wellington Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
<b>Winter 2024</b>	Exercise Heat Wave Planning (Jan 2024)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	City/Provincial Priority Exercise - Meeting with GGH (Feb 2024)
<b>Spring 2024</b>	City of Guelph Emergency Management Exercise (May 2024)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Emergency Preparedness Week Pavilion (May 2024)

**b. Dufferin County Activities:**

<b>Spring 2023</b>	Dufferin Emergency Management Coordinator monthly meetings
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
<b>Summer 2023</b>	International Plowing Match HIRA Planning (Aug 2023)
	Dufferin Emergency Management Coordinator monthly meetings
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Hills of Headwaters OHT Fall Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
	International Plowing Match 2023 Logistics Training (Sep 2023)
<b>Fall 2023</b>	HHOHT Weekly Respiratory Readiness and Response (Nov 2023)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Dufferin Emergency Management Coordinator monthly meetings
<b>Spring 2024</b>	Dufferin County Wildfire Workshop (April 2024)
	Dufferin Emergency Management Coordinator monthly meetings
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Dufferin County Emergency Management Exercise (April 2024)

**c. Wellington County Activities:**

<b>Summer 2023</b>	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
	Mapleton Annual Emergency Exercise (August 2023)
	Water and Wastewater Workshop (Sep 2023)
	Wellington-Waterloo OH Fall Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
	Guelph-Wellington OHT Fall Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
<b>Fall 2023</b>	Erin Annual Emergency Management Exercise (Oct 2023)
	Centre Wellington Annual EM Exercise (Oct 2023)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
<b>Winter 2024</b>	Centre Wellington Emergency Management Committee (Feb 2024)
	Minto Emergency Management Program Committee (Feb 2024)
	Erin Emergency Management Programme Committee (Feb 2024)
	Puslinch EM Programme Committee (Feb 2024)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates
<b>Spring 2024</b>	Wellington North EM Program Committee (March 2024)
	Mapleton Emergency Management Program Committee (March 2024)
	County Emergency Management Programme Committee (March 2024)
	Public Health Liaison Emergency Management Monthly Updates

**d. Provincial Activities:**

<b>Summer 2023</b>	Emergency Management Digital Platform Survey (July 2023)
	Provincial Respiratory Disease Surge Exercise Planning
	Mississauga OHT Respiratory Preparedness Exercise (Aug 2023)
<b>Fall 2023</b>	Ontario Hazardous Materials Response Association: TTX (Oct 2023)
	Ontario Public Health Emergency Managers Network (Oct 2023)
<b>Winter 2024</b>	Ontario Emergency Exercise Heat Wave Planning (Jan 2024)
	New OPHS Emergency Management Guideline Issued (Feb 2024)
	Ontario Emergency Exercise Heat Wave Planning (Feb 2024)
<b>Spring 2024</b>	Manager Basic Emergency Management Training (April 2024)
	Ontario Pre-Season Heat Season Workshop (May 2024)
	Ontario Public Health Emergency Managers Network (April 2024)
	Ontario Emergency Exercise Heat Wave Planning (April 2024)
	Exercise Heat Wave Participant (May 2024)
	Cyber Security Governance Workshop (May 2024)
	Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (May 2024)
	Emergency Management Ontario Bruce Sector Meeting (May 2024)
Ontario Pre-Season Heat Season Workshop (May 2024)	

2. Emergency Response Plans to keep current include:

<b>Emergency Preparedness Plan</b>	<b>Update Due</b>	<b>Status</b>
Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA)	Feb 2024	Complete
All Hazard Emergency Response Plan	Feb 2024	Complete
Emergency Control Group IMS roles	Feb 2024	Complete
Business Continuity Plan	Oct 2024	In Progress

3. Emergency Preparedness training conducted for key staff:

<b>Summer 2023</b>	Mississauga OHT Fall Respiratory Preparedness Exercise (Aug 2023)
	Mapleton Annual Emergency Exercise (Aug 2023)
<b>Fall 2023</b>	Wellington Water and Wastewater Workshop (Sep 2023)
	Wellington-Guelph Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
	Wellington-Waterloo OH Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
	Hills of Headwaters OHT Fall Respiratory Surge Exercise (Sep 2023)
	International Plowing Match 2023 Logistics Training (Sep 2023)
	Erin Annual Emergency Management Exercise (Oct 2023)
	Centre Wellington Annual EM Exercise (Oct 2023)
	Ontario Hazardous Materials Response TTX Exercise (Oct 2023)
<b>Spring 2024</b>	Dufferin County Wildfire Workshop (April 2024)
	Emergency Management Course (April 2024)
	Dufferin County Emergency Management Exercise (April 2024)
	Cyber Security Governance Workshop (May 2024)
	Cybersecurity Tabletop Exercise (May 2024)
	Ontario Pre-Season Heat Season Workshop (May 2024)

WDGPH is well-positioned to monitor and respond to emerging public health threats that may impact the community. The Agency-wide emergency preparedness program is based on an all-hazards plan designed to reduce the burden of negative outcomes on the community from public health threats from emergency events.

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Prepared By: Christopher Beveridge, CD, MA, CPHI(C)  
Vice President, Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness

Approved By: Christopher Beveridge, CD, MA, CPHI(C)  
Vice President, Health Protection and Emergency Preparedness

Submitted By: Dr. Nicola J. Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC  
Medical Officer of Health & CEO

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