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**Subject:** Emergency Management Year End Report

**Report to:** Public Health and Social Services Committee

**Report date:** Tuesday, March 7, 2023

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## Recommendations

1. That this report be **RECEIVED** for information; and
2. That Regional Council **APPOINT** a member of Council as a representative on the Niagara Region Emergency Management Program Committee.

## Key Facts

- The Regional Emergency Management Program is required by Emergency Management Ontario's (EMO) to provide an annual report to Council.
- The Program is required to engage in certain activities to be deemed compliant by EMO under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA) including: the establishment and resourcing of an Emergency Operations Centre, emergency planning, hazard and risk assessment, identification of critical infrastructure, public education, training, and exercises.
- The Program continues to strive for excellence in emergency management through the development and roll out of initiatives aimed at increasing Niagara's resilience.

## Financial Considerations

There are no financial implications. All non-pandemic programming was within budget.

## Analysis

Regional Emergency Management manages the Region's emergency management program including the Regional Emergency Operations Centre (REOC). In the event of an emergency, the program will also offer support to the local area municipalities. Emergencies and significant incidents in 2022 included: COVID-19, January Blizzard, Fire/HazMat in Thorold and St. Catharines, Pelham Windstorm and December Blizzard.

Regional Emergency Management conducted a COVID-19 debrief in late 2022. Debriefs are an international best practice and are used to identify opportunities to improve practices and procedures. An After Action Report is currently in development.

One hundred percent of REOC members completed the training requirements for provincial compliance. In addition, the program continues to provide the training required for most of the municipalities to meet compliance. REOC members also participated in an emergency exercise, which was held on November 18, 2022. The challenges presented in this exercise were selected to set the stage for the 2023 full-scale exercise.

The program provided public education through multiple methods including both virtual and physical. Some of the public education initiatives in 2022 included: Canada Summer Games Booth (which had +200 visits), Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) vehicle in the Thorold Santa Claus Parade, and social media on preparedness and safety.

The Niagara Region Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) was updated as required for provincial compliance. A review of hazard and incident occurrences and trends, and current research was included. The HIRA methodology used for Niagara Region accounts for changes in risk due to climate change.

The CERT is a pilot project of volunteers that was implemented in 2021. An initial cohort of 50 volunteers from across Niagara were selected. The blizzard was the first deployment and they supported a warming centre in Wainfleet.

Critical Infrastructure lists were revised and updated as required. The program is working with the Geographic Information System (GIS) team to create a new system called Emergency Management Situational Awareness System (EMSAS) that gives situational awareness through GIS mapping and includes all of the region's critical infrastructure.

### **Alternatives Reviewed**

No alternatives would have been more cost effective or in alignment with best practice.

### **Relationship to Council Strategic Priorities**

The recommendation relates to the Healthy and Vibrant Community, Responsible Growth and Infrastructure Planning, and Sustainable and Engaging Government. The Emergency Management Program is critical to protecting public safety and ensuring continuity of services during an emergency. With Niagara Region's population growing and other factors such as climate change, it is important to ensure that the Region can

assist the public, stakeholders, and businesses in preparing, mitigating, responding, and recovering from diverse hazards that threaten public safety.

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**Recommended by:**

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Medical Officer of Health /Commissioner  
(Acting)

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**Submitted by:**

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Chief Administrative Officer

This report was prepared in consultation with Michael Leckey, Program Financial Specialist, and reviewed by Richard Ferron, Chief, Emergency Medical Services (Acting).

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Regional Emergency Management Program Committee (REMPC)  
Framework

## **Regional Emergency Management Program Committee (REMPC) Framework**

### **PURPOSE**

The Regional Emergency Management Program Committee (REMPC) oversees the implementation and operation of the Region's Emergency Management Program as required by the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA). It provides a venue for discussion, collaboration and strategic support to both the Emergency Management Program and the Corporate Leadership Team.

### **MANDATE**

- To consider issues related to emergency readiness, interoperability and recommend a course of action
- To identify and address areas of possible collaboration, sharing and common benefit between departments.
- To act as a conduit for information from Emergency Management to the Corporate Management Team and to various departments within the Region.

### **MEMBERSHIP**

- CAO
- Regional Emergency Management Team
- Director of Strategic Communication and Public Affairs
- Corporate Services – Manager of Health, Safety and Wellness
- Regional Fire Coordinators
- Chief of Niagara EMS
- Deputy Chief of Police
- Manager Environmental Health
- Director, Transportation Services
- Commissioner, Planning and Development
- Commissioner of Public Works
- Regional Council Member (Full Term of Council)
- Director, Finance
- Regional Council Member
- Director, Construction, Energy and Facilities Management
- Director of Legal and Court Services

\*Members may appoint a designate to attend in their place\*

### **MEETINGS**

Meetings will be held, at a minimum, quarterly.

## **ACCOUNTABILITY**

This is a standing committee required by the Provincial Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act and approved by Council via by-law 40-2016.

The Committee will provide CLT with strategic recommendations to identify gaps/vulnerabilities and/or cross-departmental linkages in emergency and business continuity planning to ensure continuity of operations and plan alignment.

## **QUORUM**

A minimum of eight committee members