

Emergency Management Exercises – When Your Community Calls on You!

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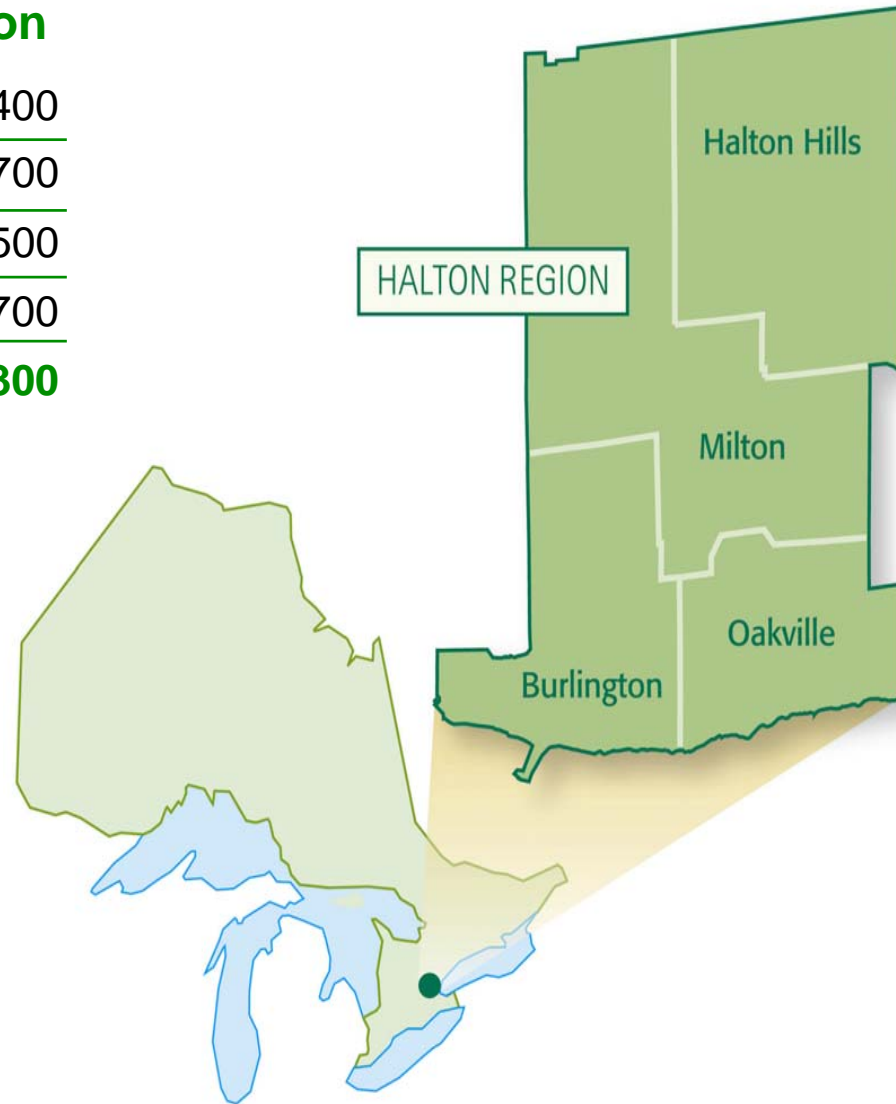
Agenda

- Halton Region's Comprehensive Emergency Management Program
- Exercise Charlie
- Exercise Operation Flu-Phix
- Pandemic Influenza Management Strategy

Halton Region's Comprehensive Emergency Management Program

Halton Region Population

Burlington	159,400
Halton Hills	52,700
Milton	47,500
Oakville	155,700
Total	415,300



Local and World Events

- Walkerton
- 9/11
- SARS
- West Nile Virus
- Infectious Disease Outbreaks
- Blackout

Emergency Management Legislative Reform

- Emergency management legislation:
 - CEMC
 - Plans
 - Emergency Operations Centre
 - Committees
 - Training
 - Exercises
 - HIRA
 - Public Awareness
 - Emergency Information Staff

Halton Region's Emergency Management Program

- Prevention – actions to prevent emergencies from happening
- Mitigation – actions to reduce or prevent the impact of emergencies – education, awareness
- Preparedness – developing emergency plans, training
- Response – managing an emergency situation, providing emergency information
- Recovery – actions to return to normal

HIRA

A HAZARD is:

An event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property damage, infrastructure damage, agricultural loss, damage to the environment, interruption of business, or other types of harm or loss.

Halton's HIRA

- Tornadoes
- C.I. Failure – Water (Watermain Network)
- C.I. Failure – Water (Pumping Stations)
- Human/Health Epidemic
- Windstorm
- Snowstorm
- Blizzards
- Ice/Sleet Storms
- Insect/Animal Infestation

Emergency Management Strategy

Stakeholders and partners:

- Identify
- Engage
- Understand
- Utilize
- Acknowledge

School Board Engagement

- Response plan development
- Utilization of resources
- School tours program
- Evacuation planning

Exercise Charlie

Why Exercise?

- Program evolution
- Mandated – (Leg/Reg/Acc)
- Emergency scenario evaluation – public/private
- Emergency plan evaluation
- Stakeholder engagement/validation

Exercise Charlie

- Largest municipal field exercise in Canada in 2004
- 400+ participants from 20+ stakeholder agencies
- 9 months development and planning
- Haz-mat, environmental emergency with a Mass Casualty Impact event
- Escalation from a municipal event to a Regional emergency

Exercise Charlie

10 Exercise Sites:

1 Incident Scene (Major Exercise)

3 Emergency Operations Centre

2 Hospitals

2 School Boards

1 Evacuation Centre

1 Simulation Cell/Exercise Call Centre

Exercise Charlie Recommendations

- Debriefing session
- School population as separate and unique sector of community populations
- Community-at-large impact versus school community impact
- Relationships
- Communications

Exercise Operation Flu-Phix

What is pandemic influenza (flu)?

An **epidemic** is a serious outbreak of disease in a single community, population or region.

A **pandemic** is an epidemic that spreads around the world affecting hundreds of thousands of people, across many countries.

A **pandemic flu** is a world-wide epidemic of a new influenza A (flu A) virus. Because people have no immunity to the new strain of flu virus, it can spread easily and rapidly around the world.

Community Impact

- Maintaining essential services & supplies
- Coping with 30-35% absenteeism
- Information versus Emotion
- Healthcare system dependant
- Facility closures
- Business disruption
- Family impact
- Citizen expectations
- Supply chain
- Lack of resources, internal/external
- Volunteer groups
- Social Services— stress/grief counseling
- Alternate Solutions
- Seeking leadership and guidance

Community Impact

- Citizens
- Local Government
- Business and Industry
- Health Care System
- Emergency Response and Management

Exercise Operation Flu - Phix



- First pandemic tabletop exercise in Canada
- 225+ participants from 34+ stakeholder organizations from 3 levels of government
- Senior decision makers
- 6 months planning and development

Main Door

Media Table

LTC Facilities
R & R Homes
CCAC
Group 9
(19)

Social &
Community
Services
Support Group
Group 4
(10)

Regional
Support &
Advisory Group
Group 2
(14)

Education &
Childcare
Group 11
(20)

Education &
Childcare
Group 11
(20)

LTC Facilities
R & R Homes
CCAC
Group 9
(19)

Corporate
Communications
Group 6
(11)

Funeral
Mortuary
& Coroner
Group 13
(7)

Non Gov't.
Organizations
Group 10
(8)

Hospitals
Group 8
(13)

Health Dept.
Emergency
Support
Group
Group 3
(9)

Regional
Emergency
Control Group
Group 1
(15)

Local
Municipalities
Group 7
(+10)

Ministries
H<C
MAH
CSCS
Group 12
(15)

Hospitals
Group 8
(13)

Emergency
Services /
CACC
Group 5
(10)

Local
Municipalities
Group 7
(+10)

Ministries
H<C
MAH
CSCS
Group 12
(15)

Stage

Steering
Committee
Table #3
(8)

Evaluators

Observers



Service Door

Operation Flu Phix Recommendations

- Pandemic influenza planning and preparedness
- Inter-governmental/organizational relationships
- Interdependency – relations, functions, resources
- Communications, stakeholder and public relations
- Supply Chain management and security
- Alternate care strategy
- Summary report distribution, follow-up, future action

A word about communications.....

- **Design Team**

- documented plan
- timelines

- **Pre-exercise**

- invite letters
- report to Council
- public information
- staff update
- media alerts
- media releases

- Pre-exercise scenario

- **SHARE-SHARE-SHARE**

- **Exercise Day**

- press kits
- role of the media
- media handler
- video – photos
- media release

- **Post Exercise**

- “Thanks”
- Articles
- media release
- final report

Pandemic Influenza Management Strategy

Halton Region Pandemic Influenza Response Plan



A "TOOL KIT" For Business Continuity

Pandemic Influenza Management Strategy

Lessons learned....

- Strengthen human resource planning and related policies
- Staffing contingency plans - staffing inventory - reallocation logistics
- Evaluate internal/external relationships, interdependency and critical links
- Develop a communications strategy
- Assess supply chain disruption implications
- Develop alternate solutions
- Ongoing plan review and training/exercises

Personal Preparedness

- Be informed
- Stay healthy
 - Handwashing
 - Cough/sneeze etiquette: cover mouth and nose with tissue, dispose of tissue, wash hands
 - Avoid crowds when possible
- Personal contingency plans
 - Daycare may be unavailable
 - Food shortages, limited fuel
 - Caring for ill at home
- Reach out
 - Support neighbours, friends and family

MOHLTC 2006

Acknowledgements

- Centre for Disease Control, Atlanta, Georgia, U.S.A.

Questions?

Thank you



For more information.....

www.halton.ca