

Sheralee Mitchell-MacEwan

Subject: FW: Emergency Preparedness Week 2025 - May 4 to 10, 2025

From: Minister, Emergency Management

Sent: May 5, 2025 2:55 PM

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Dear Partners,

Emergencies can happen at a moment's notice, which is why it's important to be prepared, and reduce the risk and the impact of whatever emergency we might face.

As our partners in helping to keep Nova Scotians safe, Emergency Preparedness Week (May 4-10, 2025) is an excellent time to share information on ways people can prepare themselves at home and in their communities.

The Department of Emergency Management was created to ensure that we have a coordinated approach to emergency response and recovery. This coordination will happen between Emergency Management and other government departments, municipalities, first responders and policing agencies, the Nova Scotia Guard, and you, our valued partners. Everyone has a role to play in emergency preparedness, so during Emergency Preparedness Week, we encourage you to share information about how Nova Scotians can take a few simple steps to be better prepared to face emergencies – anytime, anywhere.

It is important to:

- Know the risks – Although the consequences of disasters can be similar, knowing the risks specific to our community and our region can help you better prepare
- Make a plan – It will help you and your family know what to do. Learn more here: <https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/docs/emergency-plan-checklist-en.pdf>
- Prepare an emergency kit – During an emergency, we will all need some basic supplies. We may need to get by without power or tap water. **Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.** Here's what you should include in your emergency kit: <https://novascotia.ca/emergency-education/docs/emergency-kit-checklist-en.pdf>

Throughout the week, we will be posting information on our social media channels and we hope you will help spread educational information and tips so that we can all be prepared for when the next emergency happens and for the recovery afterwards.

Lastly, I want to take this talk about the Nova Scotia Guard. Nova Scotia Guard volunteers can help support emergency response efforts across the province. They're ready to lend a hand when help is needed most. The Guard brings together people with all kinds of skills and connects them with those who need help before, during and after an emergency.

In fact, this weekend, the Nova Scotia Guard was sent on its first assignment, to support the search for missing children in Pictou County. This assignment for the Guard has done what we envisioned for the program. It has allowed first responders to focus their efforts on the search, while the Guard members provide support, like food distribution, overnight protection of equipment and parking and directions assistance for first responders, in a very managed approach.

Of course, many Everbridge partners were also part of this effort. Along with Emergency Management's Regional Operations and Infrastructure branch's Public Safety Field Communications, Regional Operations, and Shubie Radio staff who provided critical dispatch support for the RCMP, ground search and rescue teams from across the province and tracking dog services from both, the local incident command team, Municipal Regional Emergency Management organizations, Department of Natural Resources helicopter crews, Civil Air Search and Rescue Association drones, and the Alma Fire Department who have all been working 24/7 in the search.

We are grateful and thankful for the dedication and tireless work our first responders and volunteers. Your work is invaluable and directly helps Nova Scotians.

I'd like to finish by asking you to help us spread the word on the Nova Scotia Guard, so more community members sign up to help. Whether they can offer comfort and care, distribute food, or if they have specialized skills like trades, operating heavy equipment or advanced first aid – there is a role for them. To volunteer, please visit <http://nsguard.ca>.

Thank you,



Kim Masland
Minister
Department of Emergency Management

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