

Municipal Responsibilities

MUNICIPAL / LOCAL AUTHORITY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- analyzing risks and hazards within their municipality/local authority and developing emergency plans to address situations that might impact life, property, and the well being of persons within the municipality/local authority;
- preparing and implementing local emergency programs using the resources available to them;
- directing and controlling all emergency operations, as long as the magnitude of the situation remains within the capability of the municipality or local authority;
- requesting assistance from other municipalities/local authorities; and
- informing the provincial government (EMO) about the emergency and possible requirements for assistance.

LEVELS OF RESPONSE

Emergency preparedness is a shared responsibility. Everyone should be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency; when individuals are not able to manage themselves they will look to their municipality to provide support and resources. All municipalities should be ready to provide the leadership and support when needed the most.

1. **Individual** – Responsibility for initial action in an emergency lie with the individual (organization, agency, dept., etc.) who should have an emergency plan and be prepared to do what is reasonably possible to protect life and property.
2. **Municipal / Local authority**– If the individual (organization, agency, dept., etc.) cannot cope then municipal services, or services provided by a local authority, may respond. **Mayors and other elected heads of municipalities, or the head of a local authority, are responsible for ensuring that local/municipal emergency plans exist within their jurisdictions and that they are exercised regularly. Most emergencies occur within, and are dealt with effectively by, a municipality or a local authority.**
3. **Provincial** – If the municipality or local authority cannot respond effectively, the Province is expected to come to its aid. The Provincial Government is responsible for coordinating the interface with municipalities, and intervenes when asked, when the emergency clearly impacts on areas of provincial jurisdiction or in a province-wide emergency.
4. **Federal** – If a province or territory needs assistance, then federal government assistance is formally requested through the regional office of Public Safety Canada. The federal government intervenes when asked, or when the emergency clearly impacts on areas of federal jurisdiction (e.g., floods or fires on federal lands, national health emergencies, issues of national security, the importation of foreign animal or plant diseases, the investigation of air crashes, or in a declared national emergency).