



Emergency Management in Ontario

Climate Change in Muskoka: A Workshop on Extreme Weather
and Emergency Management
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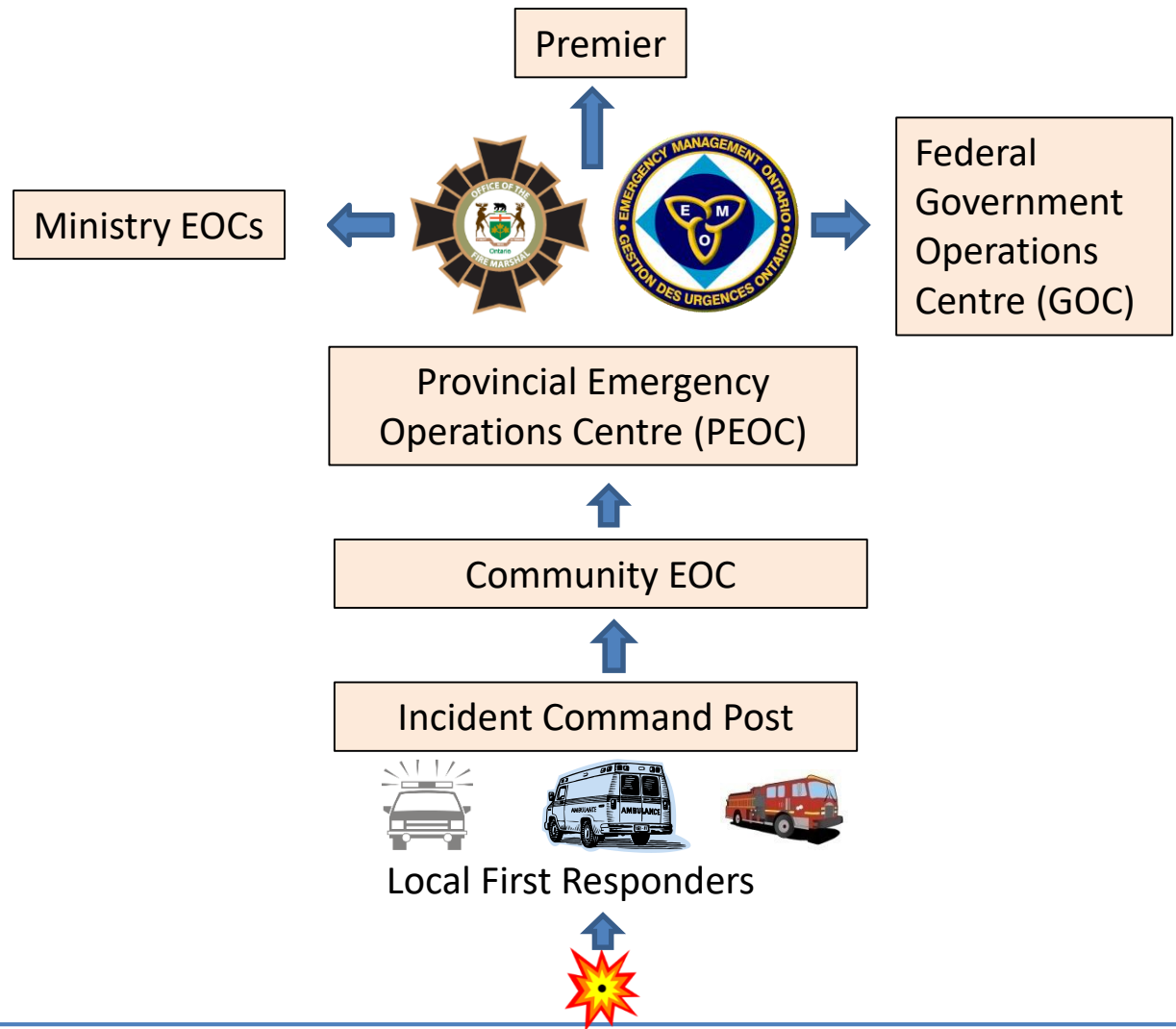
Purpose / Agenda

- To provide an overview of Emergency Management in Ontario and cover the following topics:
 - Emergency Management Legislation
 - Provincial Response Structure
 - Provincial Emergency Operations Centre (PEOC)
 - Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)
 - Provincial / Municipal HIRA
 - Hazards Potentially Exacerbated by Climate Change
 - Climate Change Considerations
 - Provincial Initiatives:
 - Provincial Emergency Management Review
 - 2017 Emergency Management Conference

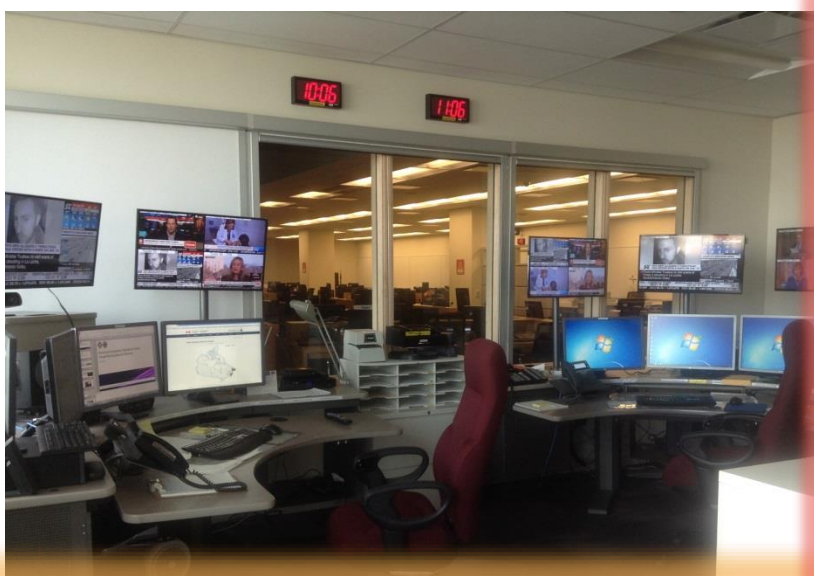
Emergency Management Legislation

- *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act* requires municipalities and provincial ministries to develop and implement an emergency management program.
- The emergency management program must include components such as an emergency plan, training programs, exercises and public education.
- Further to the *Act*, Ontario Regulation 380/04 expands and amplifies the program requirements.
- Order in Council 1157/2009 designates lead responsibility to provincial ministries for assigned hazards.

Provincial Response Structure



Incident



Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA)

- The core activity emergency managers undertake is how to prevent, prepare, mitigate, respond and recover from a myriad of hazards. Several questions arise:
 - What hazards exist?
 - How frequently do they occur?
 - How severe can their impact be on the community, infrastructure, property and the environment?
 - Which hazards pose the greatest threat to the community?
- The Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (HIRA) attempts to assist emergency managers in answering these questions in order to better improve public safety and to protect against property and infrastructure damage by providing a tool that can be used to assess the consequence and frequency of a hazard.
- The outcome of the HIRA is to identify which hazards should be the focus of emergency management programs at a particular point in time.

Provincial / Municipal HIRA

Provincial HIRA

- OFMEM develops and maintains the Provincial HIRA, which provides guidance for risk assessment for hazards in accordance with the definition of an emergency in the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act.
- Climate change is built into the HIRA methodology. The changing risk variable accounts for future changes in vulnerability and frequency which would include those due to climate change.
- As part of the update underway, OFMEM is incorporating climate change considerations throughout the hazard narratives because it is changing the overall risk profile for the hazards.
- MOECC has also initiated a full review of their Ministry HIRA to address climate change impacts.

Municipal HIRA

- Municipalities maintain a HIRA that assess which hazards are the greatest risk in their community.
- The end result is the creation of a Community Risk Profile, which identifies the hazards most likely to occur and with the highest potential impact.
- Hazards may change over time, so the profile for each community must be reviewed on an annual basis.

Hazards Potentially Exacerbated by Climate Change

- Climate change-related trends include:
 - Rising temperatures;
 - Increased storm intensity and frequency;
 - Changing drought and fire risk; and
 - Shifting threats to human health and disease patterns.
- Examples of hazards that could be exacerbated by climate change are:
 - Agricultural and Food Emergency
 - Drinking Water Emergency
 - Drought/Low Water
 - Erosion
 - Extreme Temperatures
 - Flood
 - Fog
 - Forest/Wildland Fire
 - Freezing Rain
 - Hail
 - Hurricane
 - Land Subsidence
 - Landslide
 - Lightning
 - Snowstorm/Blizzard
 - Tornado
 - Windstorm

Climate Change Considerations

- In June 2016, the Province of Ontario released the Climate Change Action Plan, which is a five year plan to combat climate change, reduce greenhouse gas pollution and transition to a low-carbon economy.
- The introductory letter from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change that prefaced the action plan acknowledged the impact of climate change on emergencies:

“Climate change is a fact in our daily lives — raising the cost of our food, causing extreme weather that damages property and infrastructure, threatening outdoor activities we love, and melting winter roads that provide critical seasonal access to remote northern Indigenous communities.”

- The Speech from the Throne in September 2016 re-emphasized that combatting climate change is among the Province’s top priorities.
- This priority is reflected in two initiatives currently underway:
 - Provincial Emergency Management Review
 - 2017 Emergency Management Conference

Provincial Emergency Management Review

- The Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services is undertaking a comprehensive review of emergency management in Ontario with a focus on ongoing improvement, protecting public safety and adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- For the review, the ministry expects to collaborate with stakeholders and this will include Community Emergency Management Coordinators, Ministry Emergency Management Coordinators and Ministry Continuity of Operations Coordinators.
- An independent, third party consultant with expertise in emergency management will be secured to bring a neutral perspective to the review, reaffirm the government's commitment to transparency and accountability, and ensure the successful completion of the review within a short timeframe.
- The Emergency Management Review will begin shortly and the majority of the consultant's work will be likely be completed by the spring of 2017.

2017 Emergency Management Conference

- OFMEM will be hosting a 2017 Emergency Management Conference in Toronto on October 24 and October 25, 2017.
- The conference theme is ***Resilient Communities and Organizations: Building Comprehensive Emergency Management Programs in Ontario.***
- The conference will focus on evolving threats and in particular the impact of climate change.
- The conference will cover all pillars of emergency management but particular attention will be paid to the pillars that receive less attention (prevention, mitigation, and recovery).

Questions

