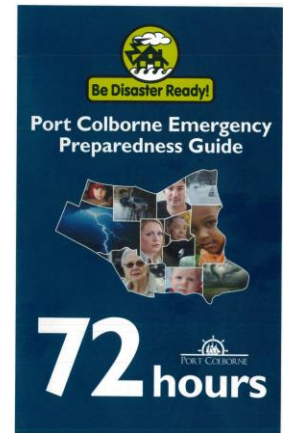


Storm/Emergency Preparedness Information

Copies of the Port Colborne Emergency Preparedness Guide – 72 Hours are available at City Hall (66 Charlotte Street), the Fire & Emergency Services Building (3 Killaly Street West) or at the Port Colborne Public Library (310 King Street).

This guide provides an abundance of helpful information to better prepare yourself for an emergency. More information on Emergency Preparedness can be found on the City's website under Fire & Emergency Services.

http://portcolborne.ca/page/fire_and_emergency_services



The City would like to remind all of its residents to be safe during storm events and has put together some helpful tips below:

Basement Flooding – During a power outage, sump pumps will not work unless there is some type of emergency power supply. It is suggested that a back-up sump pump be available in the home in the event of an extended period of power outage. Some types of back-up sump pump systems that are available include battery operated pumps along with manual (hand or foot) activated pumps. Please contact your local hardware store or plumber for more information. Please be reminded that the City does not pump out basements in the event that it is flooded. There are companies that specialize in this type of work.

Property Flooding – Sometimes during a storm event whether it be rain or snow, some properties are prone to flooding. Proper maintenance of your building drains, eaves troughs and downspouts will help ensure that the water is directed away from the building to help prevent water from entering the building envelope. Proper grading is the best defence to property flooding.

Roadway Flooding – Often times during a storm event, culverts and catch basins can become covered by debris such as leaves or ice. In order to help reduce the potential impact to the roadway and abutting property these items need to be cleared. If there is a culvert or catch basin near your property that needs to be cleared please contact the City's Public Works Department for City Roads 905-835-5079 or the Region of Niagara for Regional Roads 905-685-1571 or the Ministry of Transportation for King's Highways 877-513-4667.

Trees - Trees can be damaged by high winds, snow, ice and/or other severe weather. Some damage will require immediate attention while others may be dealt with at a later time. Please see the information below for some helpful tips regarding trees:

Tree Down? - To report trees that fall into a public roadway or sidewalk, the public may call the

City of Port Colborne Works Department at 905-835-5079 (24-hours a day).

Power Lines - Branches hanging over power lines are a major safety hazard, call Canadian Niagara Power at 905-871-0330 or 905-835-0051 or visit CNP's website for more information. www.cnpower.com

Homeowners should not attempt to prune branches near, or laying on power lines.

Hazardous Trees - Hanging or loosely attached branches and split trunks are obvious safety concerns. They should be dealt with as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of personal injury and/or property damage.

Broken but firmly attached branches that pose no immediate danger of falling can be pruned after the more hazardous branches have been removed.

Trunks that are split down the middle should be removed or addressed by a professional tree service or arborist.

Leaning Trees - Some storms may not break the above ground portion of the tree but instead might tip the tree over by breaking some of the roots. Trees leaning from root breakage usually do not survive for long. If a tree tips in a storm, it often means the tree had damaged or poorly developed roots prior to falling or leaning over. These trees should be removed.

Snow Storm Reminders – During a snow storm the City would like to remind its residents of the following items that can greatly assist City Crews in clearing the snow off of the City roads expediently:

Winter Parking – Please refrain from parking on the street during a snowstorm and while snow clearing operations are underway. Parked cars make plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. If vehicles are not removed from City streets during plowing and are found to contravene the By-law, they will be towed. With your help, winter maintenance crews can plow snow faster and more efficiently, and reduce the chances of you having to dig your car out of a snow drift!

Snow Plows – Snow plows have no place to push the snow except to the curb or shoulder of the road. Sometimes this happens just after you have finished shovelling. We appreciate that this can be frustrating, however; we ask your cooperation in clearing the snow without placing snow on the roadway. It is illegal to push snow from your property onto the street (Highway Traffic Act R.S.O. 1990, c. H.8, section 181). If you hire a private contractor to clear your driveway, make sure the contractor does not push snow into the travelled portion of the roadway or fill in the sidewalks.

Driveway Snow Clearing – It is suggested that you pile the snow on the right side of your driveway when facing the road if possible when shoveling your driveway. This helps reduce the amount of snow created by the snow plow at the end of your driveway.

Snow Removal By-law – In Section 5 of the Snow Removal By-law 5383/137/09, it states the following:

No owner shall throw, place, bring, or deposit snow or ice:

- (a) On or immediately adjacent to a fire hydrant, or in any manner that obstructs access to a fire hydrant;*
- (b) On or adjacent to a traveled portion of the highway, or in such a manner so as to interfere with the safe passage of vehicles, or pedestrians, or obstruct the visibility of vehicle operators or pedestrians;*
- (c) In such a manner so as to obstruct drainage to any drain or sewer;*
- (d) In such a manner so as to damage any sidewalk, boulevard or curb.*

The full version of the Snow Removal By-law and other by-laws can be found on the City's website under the By-law section:

http://portcolborne.ca/page/bylaw_division