

COUNTY OF LAMBTON
EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Schedule "A" to By-law No. 39 of 2006
Enacted on November 1, 2006.

COUNTY OF LAMBTON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Table of Contents

INTRODUCTION

(i)

PART ONE – THE CORPORATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

<u>Section</u>	<u>Page</u>
PART ONE - CORPORATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN	1
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Definition	1
1.2 Legislation.....	1
1.3 Authority.....	1
1.4 Aim	3
2.0 County Control Group	3
2.1 Composition.....	3
2.2 Emergency Operations Centre	3
2.3 Action Prior to Declaration	3
2.4 Suspension of County Tender Policy	4
2.5 Declaration of a County Emergency	4
2.6 Implementation and Procedures	5
2.7 Notification of the County Control Group	5
2.8 County Control Group Responsibilities	5
2.9 Individual Responsibilities of Control Group Members.....	6
2.9.1 Warden	6
2.9.2 Chief Administrative Officer.....	7
2.9.3 County Emergency Management Coordinator	8
2.9.4 County Fire Coordinator	8
2.9.5 Lambton O.P.P. Inspector	9
2.9.6 General Manager of Infrastructure & Development.....	9
2.9.7 General Manager of Social & Health Services	11
2.9.8 Manager of Emergency Medical Services	11
2.9.9 County Medical Officer of Health.....	12
2.10 Mass Casualties	12
2.11 Monitoring and Updating of the County Emergency Response Plan	12
PART TWO - COORDINATING PLAN	13
3.0 Introduction	13
4.0 Relationship to Local Community Emergency Response Plans	13
5.0 Updating of Local Community Emergency Response Plans.....	14
6.0 Format of Local Community Emergency Response Plans.....	14

7.0	Other County Emergency Planning Activities	14
8.0	Emergency Planning Exercises	15
9.0	Coordination of Reception Centres	15
10.0	Typical County of Lambton Emergency Response	15
10.1	Introduction	15
10.2	Informal Assistance	15
10.3	County Emergency Response	16
10.4	County Involvement on Local Emergency Control Groups	17

Appendices

The following appendices are included for information purposes only and do not form part of the County Emergency Response Plan:

Appendix “A”

Lambton County Control Group - Alerting System

Appendix “B”

Lambton County Emergency Response Directory

Appendix “C”

Lambton County Mayors and Administrators

Appendix “D”

Lambton County Emergency Management Coordinators

Appendix “E”

Concept of Emergency Site Management

Appendix “F”

Recovery Guidelines

Appendix “G”

County of Lambton Pandemic Influenza Plan

INTRODUCTION TO THE COUNTY OF LAMBTON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

Overview

The initial role of the County in emergency planning was detailed in the Final Report of the Sarnia/Clearwater/Lambton Implementation Committee to the Minister of Municipal Affairs, dated May 3, 1990. This report states the following:

“The primary responsibility for emergency planning and emergency response will remain at the local level and the County will prepare a County Emergency Plan which will set out basic standards and procedures which should be included in local emergency plans. The County will serve to coordinate and integrate local plans and will encourage lower tier municipalities to adopt an emergency plan.

The County will also prepare an operational plan for the County of Lambton which will set out how the various departments of the County will fit into local emergency plans, with available resources.

There should be a continuation of County support of existing emergency coordination agencies such as CVECO and CAER.”

The first County of Lambton Emergency Plan was adopted by County Council on November 25, 1992 by By-law 132 of 1992. This Emergency Response Plan has been prepared under Section 3.(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter.E.9. and replaces the previous Emergency Response Plan adopted by County Council on November 24, 2004.

Part One - The Corporate Emergency Response Plan

The Corporate Plan could be considered a relatively traditional municipal emergency plan in that it sets out how the County as a municipal corporation will organise itself to respond with personnel, equipment and other resources in the event of an emergency. This part of the Plan indicates where the Emergency Operations Centre will be located, who will sit on the Emergency Control Group, and what the responsibilities of those persons will be. This Plan essentially explains how the County will manage and administer its response to a local emergency or to an emergency which affects a County-owned facility.

Part Two - The Coordinating Emergency Response Plan

The County also has a role in coordinating and assisting the local municipalities in their emergency planning efforts and in ensuring that adjacent community emergency

(ii)

response plans are coordinated in the case of an emergency which crosses municipal boundaries.

This coordination takes several forms, each of which is elaborated upon in the Coordinating Emergency Response Plan.

All local community emergency response plans should be consistent with the policies and procedures in the County Plan so that they will link together. This portion of the Plan will set out a procedure by which local plans will be reviewed for consistency with the County Emergency Response Plan. As current information is critical to effective emergency planning and response, the Coordinating Emergency Response Plan will also assist the local municipalities to review and update their plans at least once each year.

Coordination is required between County and local emergency planning documents for effective emergency response. As a result, this Coordinating Emergency Response Plan portrays a typical County response to local emergency situations, including various general levels of County emergency response.

COUNTY OF LAMBTON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

November 1, 2006

PART ONE - CORPORATE EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Definition

An emergency is “a situation or an impending situation that constitutes a danger of major proportions that could result in serious harm to persons or substantial damage to property and that is caused by the forces of nature, a disease or other health risk, an accident or an act whether intentional or otherwise”. Depending on the nature or magnitude of the situation, a coordinated response by a number of agencies under the direction of the community’s emergency control group may be required. These situations are distinct from the normal, day-to-day operations carried out by the first response agencies.

1.2 Legislation

“The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, R.S.O. 1990, Chapter E.9” provides the legislative authority for the passing of the By-law formulating this Emergency Response Plan, which will govern the provision of necessary services in the event of an emergency.

1.3 Authority

Under Section 3.(1) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, “every municipality shall formulate an emergency plan governing the provision of necessary services during an emergency and the procedures under and the manner in which employees of the municipality and other persons will respond to the emergency and the council of the municipality shall by by-law adopt the emergency plan.”

The Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act further states in Section 4.(1) that “The head of council of a municipality may declare that an emergency exists in the municipality or in any part thereof and may take such action and make such orders as he or she considers necessary and are not contrary to law to implement the emergency plan of the municipality and to protect the property and the health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the emergency area.”

When the above noted authority is exercised by one or more of the constituent local municipalities of the County and, in exercising that authority the municipality also requests County assistance, the County is authorised to respond by the same legislation. Section 13(3) states that, "The council of a municipality may make an agreement with the council of any other municipality or with any person for the provision of any personnel, service, equipment or material during an emergency."

The County of Lambton is composed of 11 constituent municipalities which, along with the Province, have the power to declare a state of emergency to exist. The County of Lambton also has authority to declare an emergency. The County of Lambton is empowered to lend any resource at its disposal to one or more constituent local municipalities in which an emergency exists and, in responding to that emergency, have requested assistance from the County. The local municipality need not have officially declared an emergency in order to request and receive such assistance from the County. The County may in turn request assistance from the Province of Ontario at any time, without loss of control or authority.

This Emergency Response Plan also prescribes procedures by which County employees and other persons will respond to an emergency. Important measures enabled under the legislation and which form part of this Plan are:

- a) expenditure of monies associated with the formulation and implementation of the Emergency Response Plan;
- b) authorisation for employees to take appropriate action before formal declaration of an emergency;
- c) formulation of procedures to be taken for safety and/or evacuation of persons in an emergency area;
- d) designation of other members of Council who may exercise powers and perform the duties of the Warden under the Emergency Response Plan during the absence of the Warden or upon their inability to act as Warden;
- e) establishment of committees and designation of employees to be responsible for reviewing the Emergency Response Plan, training employees in their functions and implementing the Plan during an emergency;
- f) obtaining and distributing materials, equipment and supplies during an emergency;
- g) such other matters as are considered necessary or advisable for the implementation of the Emergency Response Plan during an actual emergency.

1.4 Aim

The aim of this Plan is to make provisions for the extraordinary arrangements and measures that may have to be taken to lend assistance to one or more constituent local municipalities who are responding to an emergency and have requested assistance from the County, whether or not an emergency has been formally declared to exist.

2.0 County Control Group

2.1 Composition

Emergency operations will be directed and controlled by the officials listed here, who will assemble for this purpose at the Emergency Operations Centre (see 2.2 below). At a minimum, the County Control Group (CCG) will be composed of:

- a) Warden or alternate
- b) County Chief Administrative Officer or alternate
- c) County Emergency Management Coordinator or alternate
- d) County Fire Coordinator or alternate
- e) Lambton O.P.P. Inspector or alternate
- f) County General Manager of Infrastructure & Development or alternate
- g) County General Manager of Social and Health Services or alternate
- h) Manager of Emergency Medical Services or alternate
- i) County Medical Officer of Health or alternate
- j) Others as deemed necessary (depending on the nature of the emergency)

2.2 Emergency Operations Centre

The County Control Group will report to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) located in the County of Lambton Administration Building at 789 Broadway Street in Wyoming. The County Administration Building has a backup electrical generator and Committee Rooms 1 and 2 are each equipped with digital telephone lines, seven analog telephone lines and satellite television receivers.

In the event this building cannot be used, then the secondary location will be the radio-equipped municipal office which is nearest, but not involved in a response to the emergency. An alternative location is the Emergency Operations Centre at the Sarnia Police Headquarters, 555 North Christina Street.

2.3 Action Prior to Declaration

When an emergency exists but has not yet been declared to exist, County employees may take such action(s) under this Emergency Response Plan as may be required to protect lives and property in the County of Lambton.

2.4 Suspension of County Tender Policy

The County of Lambton has policies which require that tenders be let when the cost of purchasing goods or services exceeds a specified price. However, the nature of an emergency usually requires that these goods and services be obtained immediately.

In order to provide effective and timely emergency response, this Plan authorises the suspension of the County's formal tender policy at the discretion of an individual CCG member during a small scale emergency or at the discretion of the CCG as a whole when this group has been convened.

2.5 Declaration of a County Emergency

The Warden of the County of Lambton or alternate, as the Head of County Council, is responsible for declaring that a County emergency exists. This decision is usually made in consultation with other members of the County Control Group.

Upon such declaration, the Warden will notify:

- a) Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services;
- b) County Council, as required;
- c) Neighbouring municipal officials, as required;
- d) Public;
- e) Local Member of Provincial Parliament;
- f) Local Member of Parliament.

A County emergency may be declared terminated at any time by:

- a) The Warden or alternate;
- b) County Council;
- c) The Premier of Ontario.

Upon termination of a County emergency, the Warden will notify:

- a) Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services;
- b) County Council, as required;
- c) Neighbouring municipal officials, as required;
- d) Public;
- e) Local Member of Provincial Parliament;
- f) Local Member of Parliament.

2.6 Implementation and Procedures

At any point during an emergency the Head of Council of a constituent local municipality may request assistance from the County in accordance with the procedures in this Plan (Section 10.0). This request should be made to the County Warden or alternate or to the Chief Administrative Officer or alternate as specified in this Plan.

In accordance with the provisions of this Plan, the request for assistance will be assessed, and appropriate assistance will be provided.

If assembled, the CCG will monitor the emergency situation and direct the provision of such assistance as is warranted under the circumstances.

2.7 Notification of the County Control Group

Members of the County Control Group (CCG) will be notified in accordance with the procedures outlined in Appendix "A". If the telephone system is inoperable, all members will automatically report to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to assess the situation and determine the degree of involvement required by the County to handle the emergency. Where a threat of an impending emergency exists, the CCG will be placed on standby.

2.8 County Control Group Responsibilities

The role of the County Control Group (CCG) is that of long term contingency planning, policy making and most importantly, support for the emergency site team.

In responding to a request for assistance from a local municipality, the CCG may be required to consider some or all of the following actions or decisions:

- a) Contact the local municipality to obtain a status report on the emergency.
- b) Call out and mobilise County emergency services and equipment.
- c) Coordinate and direct County services and ensure that any actions necessary for the mitigation of the effects of the emergency are taken.
- d) Determine if the location and composition of the CCG are appropriate.
- e) Ensure that an Emergency Site Manager is appointed, if required.
- f) Assist with the evacuation of inhabitants considered to be in danger.
- g) Discontinue utilities or services provided by public or private concerns i.e. hydro, water, gas, close commercial buildings.

- h) Arrange for services and equipment from local agencies not under County control i.e. private contractors, volunteer agencies, service clubs.
- i) Notify, request assistance from and/or liaison with, various levels of government and any public or private agencies not under County control, as considered necessary.
- j) Determine if additional volunteers are required and if appeals for volunteers are warranted.
- k) Determine if additional transport is required for evacuation or transport of persons or supplies.
- l) Ensure that pertinent information regarding the emergency is promptly assembled, for dissemination to the media and the public.
- m) Determine the need to establish advisory groups and/or sub-committees.
- n) Authorise expenditure of money to deal with the emergency.
- o) Notify the service, agency or group under County direction, of the termination of the emergency.
- p) Maintain a log outlining decisions made and action taken, and prepare a summary of the log within one week of the termination of the emergency.
- q) Participate in the debriefing following the emergency.

2.9 Individual Responsibilities of Control Group Members

The responsibilities of the County Control Group (CCG) as a whole have been outlined above. This section presents the specific responsibilities of the individual members of the group. They are as follows:

2.9.1 Warden or Alternate

The Warden or alternate may be required to perform any or all of the following responsibilities:

- a) Declare an emergency to exist;
- b) Implementation of this Plan;
- c) Chair meetings of the County Control Group;
- d) Add to the composition of the County Control Group (as set out in Section 2.1 above), to formulate an appropriate response to the emergency;

- e) Maintain communication with the local municipalities that declare an emergency to exist;
- f) Ensure that the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services has been notified of the declaration of a County emergency by contacting the EMO Duty Officer;
- g) Ensure the members of County Council are advised of the declaration and termination of a County emergency, and are kept informed of the situation;
- h) Request assistance from senior levels of government, when required;
- i) Determine priorities, make decisions and issue operational direction through the members of the CCG;
- j) Approve and/or issue information releases to the media and the public;
- k) Terminate the County emergency response at the appropriate time;
- l) Ensure that the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Community Safety and Correctional Services is notified of the County emergency being terminated.

2.9.2 Chief Administrative Officer or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the Chief Administrative Officer or alternate shall report to the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) to sit as a member of the County Control Group (CCG) and perform the duties and responsibilities of an "Operations Officer" and as such will:

- a) Organise and supervise the EOC and, in particular, make arrangement for obtaining and displaying up-to-date information at all times;
- b) Record decisions and actions during the emergency;
- c) Arrange and coordinate communications systems;
- d) Advise the Warden on administrative matters;
- e) Schedule regular meetings of the CCG during the course of the emergency, as necessary;
- f) Be responsible for media arrangements and assist in the preparation and issue of press and public announcements;
- g) Ensure that the EOC is equipped and staffed to handle public enquiries;

- h) Call out additional County staff to provide assistance, as required;
- i) Once the County emergency has been terminated, ensure that all prescribed parties have been notified.

2.9.3 County Emergency Management Coordinator or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the County Emergency Management Coordinator shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and may be required to perform any or all of the following functions:

- a) Provide advice to the Warden and the CCG on matters of emergency planning in general;
- b) Provide advice to the CCG on the County Emergency Response Plan;
- c) Provide advice to the CCG on the relationship between the County and the affected local municipality during the emergency;
- d) Ensure that the EOC is made operational when activated and that CCG members are equipped with all necessary resources.

2.9.4 County Fire Coordinator or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the County Fire Coordinator or alternate shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and may be required to perform any or all of the following functions:

- a) Provide the Warden or Alternate and the CCG with information and advice on fire fighting matters;
- b) Establish an ongoing communications link with the senior fire official at the scene of the emergency;
- c) Determine if additional or special equipment is needed and recommend possible sources of supply, e.g. self contained breathing apparatus, protective clothing, etc;
- d) Ensure equipment and manpower needs are adequate and activate Mutual Aid Agreements for the provision of additional fire fighting manpower and equipment if needed. If necessary, obtain assistance from the Province in matters involving hazardous materials;
- e) Provide assistance to other municipal departments and agencies and contribute to non-fire fighting operations if necessary, e.g. rescue, first aid, casualty collection, evacuation, etc.

- f) Provide an Emergency Site Manager, if required.

2.9.5 Lambton O.P.P. Inspector or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the Lambton O.P.P. Inspector or alternate shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and may be required to perform any or all of the following functions:

- a) Provide the Warden or alternate and the CCG with advice on law enforcement matters;
- b) Notify necessary emergency and municipal services, as required;
- c) Establish a site command post with communications to the EOC;
- d) Establish an ongoing communications link with the senior police official at the scene of the emergency;
- e) Seal off the area of concern;
- f) Control and, if necessary, disperse crowds within the emergency area;
- g) Control the movement of emergency vehicles to and from the site of the emergency;
- h) Coordinate police operations with other County departments and arrange for additional supplies and equipment when needed, e.g. barriers and flashers, etc.;
- i) Conduct evacuation of buildings or areas when ordered by the Head of Council;
- j) Arrange for maintenance of law and order in temporary facilities such as evacuation centres;
- k) Protect property in the emergency area;
- l) Arrange for additional police assistance and liaise with other municipal, provincial and federal police agencies, if required;
- m) Advise the coroner of fatalities and perform whatever additional responsibilities may be necessary under the Coroner's Act;
- n) Provide an Emergency Site Manager, if required.

2.9.6 General Manager of Infrastructure & Development or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the General Manager of Infrastructure & Development or alternate shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and shall perform the following functions:

- a) Provide the Warden or alternate and CCG with information and advice on engineering matters;
- b) Maintain liaison with the public works officials from the local municipality(ies) which has (have) declared an emergency;
- c) Maintain liaison with conservation and environmental agencies and be prepared to contribute to relief or preventative operations in terms of flood control and other environmental concerns;
- d) Maintain liaison with utility companies (hydro, gas, telephone etc.) and make recommendations for discontinuation of any utility, public or private, where necessary in the interest of public safety;
- e) Provide supplies and equipment and, if not otherwise available, make arrangements for sources of supply from neighbouring municipalities, private contractors, etc.;
- f) Make recommendations and demolish unsafe County structures if ordered by the Warden;
- g) Provide public works vehicles and equipment as required by any other emergency services;
- h) Provide an Emergency Site Manager, if required;
- i) Re-establish essential services at the conclusion of an emergency.

2.9.7 General Manager of Social & Health Services

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the General Manager of Social & Health Services or alternate shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and shall perform the following functions:

- a) Provide the Warden or alternate and the CCG with information and advice on matters relating to the provision of emergency financial aid to displaced or affected residents;
- b) Coordinate the provision of emergency financial aid with social service agencies such as Red Cross, St. John's Ambulance, Salvation Army, and Victim Services;
- c) Provide staff at local reception centres to process applications for temporary financial aid;
- d) Arrange for the provision of outreach and counselling services to those affected by the emergency;
- e) Together the Medical Officer of Health, authorise and coordinate the distribution of financial resources as it relates to social and public health services.

2.9.8 Manager of Emergency Medical Services

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the Manager of Emergency Medical Services or alternate shall report to the EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and shall perform the following functions:

- a) Provide the Warden or alternate and the CCG with information and advice on matters relating to Emergency Medical Services;
- b) Coordinate with the Wallaceburg Central Ambulance and Communications Centre (CACC) and the E.M.S. Site Coordinator to provide for an emergency medical response at the emergency site and to provide for patient transport from the scene;
- c) Assist with the transportation of medically fragile residents within an area or facility designated for evacuation;
- d) Establish an ongoing communications link with senior E.M.S. personnel on scene and liaise with the Medical Officer of Health and other health care agencies to provide adequate resources and personnel to the emergency site as required;
- e) Provide an Emergency Site Manager, if required.

2.9.9 County Medical Officer of Health or Alternate

Upon learning of a declared County emergency, the Medical Officer of Health or alternate shall report to the County EOC to sit as a member of the CCG, and may be required to perform any or all of the following functions:

- a) Provide advice on public health matters to the Head of Council and the CCG;
- b) Arrange for dissemination of special instructions to the population on matters concerning public health;
- c) Arrange for mass immunisation where needed;
- d) Arrange for testing of water supplies and when warranted, make recommendations for arranging alternate supplies;
- e) Liaise with other agencies and senior levels of government about health related matters.

2.10 Mass Casualties

Arrangements for coping with mass casualties are made jointly by the hospitals and the Central Ambulance Communications Centre which serve the local area. Such arrangements will normally have been worked out by these services beforehand to provide for the following activities:

- a) bringing casualties to a central point for triage and, afterwards, arranging a balanced distribution of casualties to hospitals, and;
- b) provision of first aid for minor casualties who would not require transportation to a hospital.

2.11 Monitoring and Updating of the County Emergency Response Plan

In order to achieve effective emergency response it is essential to have an up-to-date listing of procedures, of resources and of contact persons. Therefore, this Plan will be reviewed on a yearly basis on the anniversary of its adoption by County Council. Once updated, any changes will be forwarded to the local municipalities, and affected agencies so that their plans and resource listings may be kept current as well.

PART TWO - COORDINATING PLAN

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COUNTY AND LOCAL EMERGENCY PLANNING

3.0 Introduction

The first part of the County of Lambton Emergency Response Plan established how the Corporation of the County of Lambton will function in an emergency, especially in terms of the administration of the response and the use of the County's staff and equipment resources.

The second part of the Plan sets out the relationship between the County and its member local municipalities. It serves the following functions:

1. It sets out how the County of Lambton will relate to its constituent local municipalities in the event of an emergency to ensure that appropriate assistance is provided by the County.
2. It sets out procedures to encourage local Emergency Response Plans to be consistent with the objectives of the County Plan.
3. It establishes guidelines for local municipalities in formulating their Emergency Response Plans.
4. It establishes procedures for ensuring that both County and local plans are updated on a regular basis and therefore remain current and accurate.

4.0 Relationship to Local Community Emergency Response Plans

Local Emergency Response Plans should be consistent with objectives of the County Plan especially where a reference is made to County resources or services. Therefore, all local plans in the County of Lambton should be reviewed in an effort to determine the level of consistency with the County Emergency Response Plan so that they will coordinate with each other in the event of an emergency which involves more than one municipality.

The Council of each local municipality will receive notice of the passing of the County Emergency Response Plan. Each municipality which has enacted an Emergency Response Plan or which intends to enact or update a plan in the future will be requested to forward their current plan to the County for review. The plan will be reviewed to determine the level of consistency with the objectives of the County Emergency Response Plan. The review by the County will include the following key areas, among others:

1. Provision for coordination with other municipalities and especially with the County in the event of an emergency affecting more than one municipality.

2. Provision for the integration of local Emergency Control Group members with members or delegates of the County Control Group, again in the event of a larger scale emergency.
3. Procedures for notification of the County and for requesting County emergency response assistance.
4. Ensuring that the appropriate County departments and individuals are listed as contacts.
5. Formal procedures for updating the Plan at least annually.

When the County has completed its review of a local plan, a brief report will be issued to the local Council which will outline any deficiencies and list any amendments which will be suggested in order to make the local plan consistent with the County Plan.

5.0 Updating of Local Community Emergency Response Plans

In order to achieve effective emergency response it is essential to have an up-to-date listing of procedures, of resources and of contact persons. Therefore, each local Emergency Response Plan should be reviewed on a yearly basis on the anniversary of its adoption by council. Once updated, the local plan should be forwarded to the County so that the resource listings of the County Plan may be kept current as well. Should the County determine that changes to resource listings are necessary, these changes will be forwarded to the local municipalities, thereby promoting an important two-way flow of information.

6.0 Format of Local Community Emergency Response Plans

The County Emergency Response Plan substantially follows the format suggested by Emergency Management Ontario but includes provisions specific to Lambton County. Lambton County municipalities are encouraged to generally follow the format set out in the County Plan when enacting or updating their local emergency plans, particularly where there is reference to the County.

7.0 Other County Emergency Planning Activities

The County of Lambton recognises and encourages the participation of other groups and agencies within the County in emergency planning and related activities. In 2001, the County played a significant role in the reorganisation of the CVECO (Chemical Valley Emergency Coordinating Organisation) and CAER (Community Awareness Emergency Response) organisations. The Lambton County Warden is a member of the CAER Board which was formed during the reorganisation. The Board comprises plant managers from the major industries within "Chemical Valley" and the mayors of Sarnia, Point Edward and St. Clair Township and the Chief of the Aamijwnaang First Nation. The County

Emergency Management Coordinator is a member of the CAER Working Committee which reports to the CAER Board and is a member of several other CVECO and CAER Committees.

8.0 Emergency Planning Exercises

Section 3.(5) of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act requires that every municipality conduct training programs and annual exercises to ensure the readiness of its employees and any other persons with responsibilities under the municipal emergency response plan. Therefore, the County of Lambton will conduct the required training and exercises as stipulated in the Act. In addition, the County will provide assistance to local municipalities in conducting their own emergency exercises and simulations when requested.

9.0 Coordination of Reception Centres

In Lambton County, the coordination of local reception centres is the responsibility of the individual municipalities. Municipalities have several options in fulfilling this responsibility such as using municipal staff or entering into service agreements with local clubs or relief agencies. Municipalities are required to inform the County's Emergency Management Coordinator of the arrangements which have been made.

10.0 Typical County of Lambton Emergency Response

10.1 Introduction

The County of Lambton will provide emergency response and coordination with local municipalities. The level of response will be based largely on the severity and scale of the emergency and the ability of the local municipality to respond to the emergency using its own resources. The following is a brief review of three types of response which the County may provide.

10.2 Informal Assistance

This type of County emergency response would be required to assist in a small scale local emergency. Such an emergency will largely be handled by the local municipality and other local resources. It would probably not require any evacuation or pose any ongoing threat to the health and safety of the residents of the area.

In such cases, there may be some aspects of the emergency response which require additional assistance in the form of extra manpower or equipment for the local municipality. When faced with this situation, the local municipality may request assistance from the County of Lambton to deal with these additional needs. Generally, this assistance would be obtained from only one County

department, and would not require a substantial expenditure of County funds and or resources.

As an example, a local municipality may find that it requires several additional barricades or an additional grader to deal with an emergency. In this situation, the local municipality will have the authority under its own plan to contact the County of Lambton General Manager of Infrastructure & Development to ask for assistance. The General Manager of Infrastructure & Development will assess the situation to determine if the request is minor in nature. If the request is considered minor, the General Manager is authorised by this Plan to provide the necessary resources to the local municipality.

At this level of response, it is not likely that the County Control Group would be assembled. The assistance is provided under the direction of the appropriate County Control Group member. If a request is received that is not considered to be minor, or if the CCG member feels that the request may require the involvement of more than one County department, a greater response can be provided through the County Control Group.

10.3 County Emergency Response

The County of Lambton will provide a more comprehensive emergency response when the emergency is clearly beyond the response capabilities of the local municipality, and a request for larger scale County assistance is received. A larger scale response is one which a member of the County CCG feels is more than minor in nature, or one which involves more than one County Department. Such a response would likely require that the County's Corporate Emergency Response Plan be activated, and that the County Control Group be assembled.

Because of the scale of the response and the involvement of more than one department, this type of emergency response will require coordinated decision-making. It may also involve a larger financial expenditure on the part of the County, requiring the involvement of the Warden, and therefore formal declaration of an emergency in order to ensure that a request for Provincial financial compensation could be made at a later date.

10.4 County Involvement on Local Emergency Control Groups

The largest emergencies would involve direct coordination of all emergency response between the County and the local levels. This level of response would only be enacted in the event of a very large scale emergency which affected more than one local municipality. This type of emergency would be completely beyond the response capabilities and resources of the individual municipalities, would require considerable coordination of resources, and would probably require liaison with the Provincial and Federal governments.

The County of Lambton recognises and agrees with the concept of the initial emergency response authority being vested in the local municipality through the provisions of the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act. Therefore, it is not the intention of the County to usurp such authority by unilaterally assuming control of all local emergency response. However, there may be situations, as in the case of a large scale emergency affecting more than one municipality, where the logistics of providing and coordinating response at the local level may evolve to a point where there may be several local emergency control groups or a large joint control group attempting to direct the responses of a number of municipal and other agencies.

Should such situations arise, the County wishes to provide an option whereby the local municipalities can include the County Warden or a delegate on the local emergency control group. This could be particularly effective when substantial County resources are being employed in the emergency response.

The County may provide one or more delegates to sit on a local control group upon receiving a request from the local municipalities which are affected by the emergency. Such a request may be made at any time during the emergency response.