



Health Care Network of Southeastern Ontario

REGIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

Executive Summary

The HCNSEO Incident Management Framework sets principles and elements of an *'Integrated Inter-Organizational Comprehensive Emergency Management Program'* fostering a strategic integrated risk-based 'all hazards' approach; promoting sustainability, resiliency, coordination and collaboration building a regional capacity to prepare, manage and respond to scaleable overall community emergencies linked with a robust communication framework meeting the 4 critical principles and elements of the program:

- Development
- Implementation
- Maintenance
- Consensus oriented

Recognizing that the 'framework' is not intended to replace local, regular emergency management of health care service delivery and response but rather fostering a regional integrated overall health care community-based emergency management program.

Understanding Emergency Management, the relationship between events and community resource which determines what is manageable using normal coping systems; what requires special responses; what situations stand to overwhelm a community in times of disaster. Managing interaction to keep incidents below the disaster threshold is the objective of a comprehensive risk-based emergency management program.

The *'framework'* is based on the concept that there are four 'complementary and expandable' facets of the health and emergency social services sectors:

- Physical Health (individual perspective)
- Public Health (population perspective)
- Emergency Social Services (societal perspective)
- Maintenance of Activities (organizational)

Each facet is involved in every phase of a 'Comprehensive Emergency Management Program' (refer to the Incident Management Committee Work Plan for details on each phase):

- Prevention/Mitigation
- Preparedness
- Response
- Recovery

It is important that there be an integrated all-hazards approach that considers the inclusion of all facets in each of these phases. While circumstances may place the emphasis on one facet in one phase (e.g. public health response following the SARS outbreak) it is important that a balance between the facets and the phases is maintained.

Communication is also a critical key component that links and supports all facets across all emergency phases and health care sectors.

The practice of emergency management is built on fundamental principles interrelated to each other and best achieved when integrated, amongst all partner organizations in an all-hazards program that promotes prevention, hazard reduction, emergency preparedness, readiness, response coordination and community recovery.

The following principles guide efforts in emergency management:

- Comprehensive Emergency Management
- Strategic Programs Approach
- All Hazards / Common Consequences
- Sustainability
- Resiliency
- Cross boundaries geographically and inter-organizationally

This 'framework' is put in place to provide for consistent and inter-operational approaches at the regional level while respecting each jurisdiction's differences and priorities; and to ensure a rapid, coordinated effective and efficient capacity based on best practices and the best available information and expertise.

An '*Inter-Organizational Comprehensive Emergency Management Program*' standardized framework supported by NFPA 1600 due diligence, existing processes, plans, templates, procedures, best practices be supported and enhanced, to ensure ongoing networking, knowledge and awareness, as well as appropriate resourcing and accountability.

***Source: National Framework for Health Emergency Management,
Guideline for Program Development
F/P/T Network for Emergency Preparedness and Response 2004***

HCNSEO

Incident Management Framework

