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United Nations Institute for Training and Research

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CIFAL York - Community Safety Village Emergency Preparedness Week Open House

People

Deadline: 8 May 2026

Type:	Other
Location:	York , Canada
Date:	9 May 2026
Duration:	1 Days
Thematic Area:	Disaster Risk Reduction
Website:	https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/people/our-portfolio/cifal-glo...
Price:	\$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	cifals@unitar.org
Partnership:	York University

BACKGROUND

Communities are increasingly exposed to a wide range of emergencies and disasters, including severe weather events, flooding, cyber incidents, infrastructure disruptions and other hazards. Building community resilience requires not only effective emergency response systems, but also informed and

prepared individuals who understand the risks they face and the actions they can take before, during and after emergencies.

Emergency Preparedness Week provides an opportunity to strengthen public awareness, promote a culture of prevention, and enhance individual and community preparedness. Through education, practical guidance and engagement with emergency management professionals, the initiative supports the development of knowledge and capacities that contribute to safer, more resilient communities.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

The event aims to strengthen public awareness and community resilience by increasing participants' understanding of emergency preparedness principles, promoting practical preparedness measures, and encouraging proactive planning for emergencies affecting York Region.

Upon completion of the event, participants will be able to:

- Identify the principal emergency risks and hazards affecting York Region.
- Understand the importance of emergency preparedness at the individual, household and community levels.
- Develop or update a household emergency preparedness plan.
- Identify the essential components of an emergency preparedness kit.
- Recognize reliable sources of emergency information before, during and after emergencies.
- Better understand the roles of local emergency management and first responder agencies in protecting communities.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The programme will provide an overview of the emergency risks facing York Region, including severe weather, flooding, ice storms, cyber incidents and other potential emergencies. Participants will receive practical guidance on emergency preparedness planning, including the development of family emergency plans, preparation of emergency kits and strategies for remaining informed during emergency situations.

The event also includes interactive activities, educational exhibits and live demonstrations delivered in collaboration with York Regional Police, Fire Services and York Region Paramedic Services, providing participants with opportunities to engage directly with emergency management professionals and strengthen their understanding of emergency response and preparedness.

METHODOLOGY

The event will employ a combination of awareness-raising and experiential learning approaches, including:

- Expert presentations and public awareness sessions;
- Interactive educational exhibits;
- Practical demonstrations by emergency response agencies;
- Community engagement activities;
- Distribution of educational resources and preparedness guidance;
- Opportunities for participant interaction and questions.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The event is designed for members of the general public, including families, youth, older adults and community members interested in strengthening their emergency preparedness and resilience. The programme also seeks to engage individuals responsible for household preparedness and community safety.

Participants are expected to increase their knowledge of emergency preparedness principles and gain practical skills to better prepare themselves and their households for emergencies. The event is also expected to strengthen awareness of local emergency risks, encourage the development of household preparedness plans, improve understanding of available emergency resources and foster a stronger culture of prevention and community resilience.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The effectiveness of the event will be monitored through participant attendance, engagement during activities and interactive sessions, participant feedback, and post-event evaluation. Feedback collected will help assess participant

satisfaction, knowledge gained and areas for future improvement.

The event is designed to be inclusive and accessible to diverse members of the community, recognizing that emergencies affect population groups differently. Educational materials and preparedness guidance encourage consideration of the needs of children, older persons, persons with disabilities, individuals with medical conditions and companion animals when developing household emergency plans.

Participants will be encouraged to continue strengthening their preparedness beyond the event by reviewing and regularly updating their emergency plans and emergency kits, accessing York Region's emergency preparedness resources, and sharing preparedness knowledge within their families and communities. The initiative contributes to fostering long-term resilience through sustained public awareness and community engagement.