



# HSEM UPDATE



St. Clair County Office of Emergency Management Homeland Security  
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## HSEM Hosts Cross Border Notification Legislative Meeting



On July 13, 2017, Rep Shane Hernandez, organized a meeting with Rep Dan Lauwers, Rep Pamela Hornberger, Bob Bailey, Ontario Provincial Parliament member, Jeff Friedland, Director of St Clair County Homeland Security & Emergency Management to discuss notification issues in the Blue Water Region.

As the region has a history of notification issues the conversation focused on several issues:

- The overall notification method currently utilized
- The existing CAER notification forms
- The utilization of the mass notifications systems on each side of the river
- Michigan – Ontario spill notification agreement
- Recent events

The timeliness of past incident notifications were discussed such as the Imperial incident, Arthur J Barge sinking, the non-spill incidents that sparked extensive non-factual social media interest, which ultimately was a non-spill event.

Recently the City of Sarnia has stepped forward to provide St. Clair County with additional information, however there still remains couple of major gaps in the process.

Rep. Hernandez closed the meeting by stating "I'd like to thank, Bob Baily MPP of Ontario, as well as St Clair County HSEM Director Jeff Friedland for taking the time to discuss with Rep. Lauwers, Rep Hornberger and I our ideas on improving communication protocols in response to any future air or water discharge or other emergency near the border region." It was the consensus from the meeting to research additional information and set another meeting date.

# MASS DECONTAMINATION EXERCISE



The St. Clair County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management helped to facilitate a Mock Mass Decontamination Exercise in cooperation with the event organizers of the 2017 Swampfoot Races held in St. Clair Township on Saturday, July 9, 2017. Departments participating in the exercise included the St. Clair County HazMat Team, St. Clair Area Fire Authority, Kimball Township Fire Department, and Marine City Area Fire Authority.

Mass Decontamination involves getting contaminants (i.e.: mud and sweat) off of people as quickly as possible. This exercise used equipment primarily found on any firetruck. It also utilized equipment from the St. Clair County HazMat Team to provide stable footing and lukewarm showers for the people that came through the fire department set-up. Approximately 7,500 gallons of water was used over a two hour period on about 300 people to help wash off the accumulations of mud and sweat from race contestants.

## BLUE WATER REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESENT AT NEMAC MEETING

Two representatives from the Blue Water Region have been invited to the Northern Emergency Management Assistance Compact (NEMAC) meeting in Minnesota next month. Lambton County ON. EMS Director Jeff Brooks and St. Clair County HSEM Director Jeff Friedland will present on some of the cross border successes and more important, the challenges that continue to plague the area.

The NEMAC allows jurisdictions, to include any or all of the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, to participate in cross-border mutual assistance for preparedness and response with any or all of the Canadian provinces of Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario and Saskatchewan. The compact allows additional states and provinces to join upon execution or adoption.

The agreement can be used for any capability and capacity that one member state or province has that can be shared with another. This spans natural disasters from floods and tornados to human-induced emergencies such as chemical spills and terrorist events. The Agreement comprises specialized resources as well as assets that can be brought to bear on any given incident. The State-Province Agreement also encourages/allows cooperative planning and exercises so that both sides are better prepared regardless of what actions they decide to take during an actual emergency.



# ST. CLAIR COUNTY



## The “OPEN for BUSINESS” Program

### A voluntary partnership between local businesses and HSEM

In today’s world, the effects of natural and manmade disasters have become more frequent, far-reaching, and widespread. The traditional approach in preparing, responding and recovering from these events relies heavily on government which does not necessarily have the capabilities to effectively address an event. Within St. Clair County, the majority of households do not maintain enough emergency supplies to be on their own for up to 72 hours.

To address this issue, the St. Clair County Homeland Security – Emergency Management (HSEM) office is partnering with local business establishments to establish the voluntary “Open for Business” program. In the event of a large scale event that may include massive power outages, road issues, etc. HSEM will electronically poll participating businesses regarding if they are open or closed. Upon submittal, it will be then displayed on a map for public viewing on the [bereadystclaircounty.org](http://bereadystclaircounty.org) website. This will allow residents to locate the nearest participating fuel, food, financial, medical, repair service/supply and other businesses that are open.

A green icon identifies a participating business as open and red as closed. Businesses will be encouraged to update a minimum of every 8 hours. Testing will occur in July and August with a tentative live date will be for any large scale event after September 1, 2017. The system will only be activated for large scale events and not normal non-emergency times.

The HSEM office will also assist these businesses to better prepare their staff and facility in the event an emergency situations occurs that directly affects them. This is an effort to create a more resilient county to better serve our residents.

As of July 12, 2017, a total of 229 businesses have registered to participate. For further information contact the HSEM Office at 810-989-6329.

# Safety Town in Yale

We were featured in the Port Huron Times Herald!



**Thank you to the Yale Police Department, Yale VFW,  
and all of the wonderful volunteers that make this project succeed.**

## **The upcoming scheduled Safety Town Events are:**

July 26<sup>th</sup>, Birchwood Mall, Fort Gratiot 10am – 11:30am

August 3<sup>rd</sup>, Algonquin Elementary School 9185 Marsh Rd. Clay Twp. 10am – 11:30am

August 22<sup>nd</sup>, Birchwood Mall, Fort Gratiot 10am – 11:30am

August 30<sup>th</sup>, Lakeport Wesleyan Church 6:30pm – 8pm (sorry full)

Call 810-989-6385 to sign up.

Or visit our website at: [www.bereadystclaircounty.org](http://www.bereadystclaircounty.org)

