



# NEW Emergency Preparedness Badges



BY JULIAN CELMS

**Introducing — a new Emergency Preparedness badge for Cubs and Scouts! Before we get into the badge criteria details, let's talk a bit more about why this is so important.**

We rely heavily on community infrastructure in our daily lives, especially those of us in urban centres. We expect our tap water to run with clean, fresh water; our electricity to flow when we flip a switch for a light.

However, no matter how well planned our infrastructure is, it's susceptible to periods of disruption. Witness the massive forces of nature with the 1998 ice storm in Ontario and Quebec, with millions stranded without power in the middle of winter; or the tragic Red River floods in Manitoba; or that hot summer in 2003 when part of the North American electricity grid shut down. Imagine the destructive effects of a tornado or a tsunami on one of our coasts. In each of these examples, people in those affected communities were without many of the basic amenities we take for granted, streets were often impassable, and stores and services were shut down.

Often we don't receive warning or have time to leisurely prepare for an emergency, leaving no time to stock up on water and supplies. Once the power goes out, cash machines in stores don't work. Your bank card or credit card won't work either. Will you be prepared?

Be Prepared. That's Scouting's Motto. As you can see from the picture painted above, a good Scout would not be caught unprepared should an emergency occur. How many of our readers have a kit at home that provides food and drinking water for 72 hours? Have you considered what you would do with your pets in the case of an emergency? What skills that

we learn in Scouting may be useful to your neighbours and immediate community during times of emergency? These are all reasons Scouts Canada believes having an Emergency Preparedness badge is important for Scouting.

## How many of you have a kit at home that provides food and drinking water for 72 hours?



### Launch of a New Initiative

Scouts Canada worked closely with Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) to help develop the programs and support materials. Although a provincial agency, they heartily agreed to help us roll out this information across Canada. They were also active in liaising the program content with other provincial emergency management organizations across Canada.

In May of 2008, EMO and Scouts Canada hosted a launch of the new Emergency Preparedness badges in Toronto. Over 600 youth, siblings, parents and leaders attended, to participate in many activities related to the badges. It was a great time and a wonderful way to start off the program. At the end of the event, we received glowing comments from leaders and youth saying how much they had enjoyed the activities and theme.

To better support the badges, with EMO's assistance we are developing a special series of JUMPSTART programs for Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. The JUMPSTARTS are currently being tested and we expect them to be available online in January 2009 at [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca).

We've got two great new badges on our hands. Have fun working them into your section's activities over the next year. By the time you read this, the new badges will be on their way to your local Scout Shop. X

— Julian Celms is the National Program Director for Beavers, Cubs and the Outdoors and worked closely with EMO in developing these badges.

Photo: Emergency Management Ontario

### Ready to Download!

**T**he Cub and Scout badges are ready to download as a pdf. You can e-mail and share these with all of your section. Formatted like every other badge in the Cub and Scout books, they can be cut to size to fit in your book. Check out Scouts Canada's web site at [www.scouts.ca](http://www.scouts.ca) ('For Scouters' section).

### Mark your Calendar!

**D**id you know that the first week in the month of May is **Emergency Preparedness Week**? Contact your local municipality to find out if they are having any special events or activities to mark that week. Why not organize one of your own to showcase how important Being Prepared is in case of an emergency?

# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS BADGE CRITERIA

## Cubs Emergency Preparedness Award

(Home and Community Area)

### Requirements:

- 1) Earn the Blue Star.
- 2) Earn the following Home and Community related badges:
  - Family Safety
  - First Aider.
- 3) Recognize and give three examples of emergencies that have occurred in your community or elsewhere.
- 4) Describe what to do should two of the following occur:
  - Lightning (when outside)
  - Tornado
  - Flooding
  - Tsunami
  - Earthquake
  - Wildfires
  - Or other weather related emergency if identified in # 3 above.
- 5) Create an Emergency Family Survival Kit for home use (to support your family for 72 hours).

## Scout Emergency Preparedness Challenge Badge

(Home and Family Area)

### Requirements:

- 1) Describe three situations that would lead to a community emergency. Describe how emergencies can affect the local community and the people in it.
- 2) a) Create/update a Family Emergency Plan and discuss with your family.  
b) As a patrol, create a Troop Emergency Plan and present it to your troop. The Court of Honour will agree on the final Troop Emergency Plan.
- 3) Create/Update an Emergency Survival Kit for home use (to support your family for 72 hours).
- 4) Identify a person in the community who would possibly require help in an emergency (e.g. someone with special needs, a senior) and how you could assist them.
- 5) List three emergencies that are created by climate/ weather. What would you do to prepare and react to those?
- 6) Earn the First Aid Badge.

**Embracing Diversity...**

**....Celebrating Environmental Awareness**

**Camp Samac, Ontario**

([WWW.CAMPSAMAC.CA](http://WWW.CAMPSAMAC.CA))

**August 5th – 12th, 2009**

- Design your own program from over 40 choices
- Investigate the Global Development Village
- Explore Samac Village Square
- Across Canada, and International Participants
- Concession Stands
- Stage Events
- Lights, Colour, Action...from Dawn to Dusk

[WWW.CCJAM09.CA](http://WWW.CCJAM09.CA)



**CCJAM '09**