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November 19, 2010

Community Emergency Management Coordinators

Dear colleagues:

On January 4, 2011, Emergency Management Ontario (EMO) will implement its new organizational structure. The work previously performed by the Continuity of Operations Section will be integrated within EMO's other four sections—Program Development, Program Delivery, Operations and Analysis and Program Support.

The new organizational structure is built on an integrated, cross-functional approach to program development, delivery, operations and support. For your information, I have attached an updated EMO organizational chart which shows what changes will take effect in the New Year.

Over the past few years, the province has recognized the importance of creating integrated emergency management programs that coordinate both internal and external activities related to prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery activities. At the same time, we also understood that we had to make the most efficient and effective use of resources in order to improve provincial and ministry emergency management programs.

In 2009, the province brought together what have traditionally been two separate spheres of emergency management programming—continuity of operations and emergency management—under the umbrella of a new Emergency Management Ontario. At the same time, our ministry also moved to integrate its emergency management functions by transferring responsibility for the MCSCS Emergency Management Program to EMO.

With the integration of the new responsibilities, EMO undertook an organizational review to determine how best to deliver the new and existing services and to take advantage of opportunities for service enhancements. The review took into consideration advice provided by stakeholders and staff through surveys, strategic planning working groups and other stakeholder forums.

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The new structure will create a fully integrated provincial emergency management program that will allow stakeholders to access a broader range of program supports and to take advantage of a wider array of staff skills and expertise.

For municipalities, this change means that advisory services available to you have expanded to include continuity of operations planning. For municipalities considering implementing a continuity of operations program, your EMO Field Officers and our new Client Service Advisors will be able to assist you.

The integration will help ensure that both continuity of operations and emergency management programs operate under a shared vision, guiding principles and goals. If you have any questions about the integration, please do not hesitate to contact your EMO Field Officer and they will be happy to provide you with more information.

Sincerely,



Dan Hefkey  
Assistant Deputy Minister and Chief

Attachment

- c. Deputy Chiefs, Director, Emergency Management Ontario