



Eye on *the Web*

LINKS TO THE RESOURCES ON THE INTERNET

Are You Prepared?

EMERGENCY AND DISASTER SERVICE WEB RESOURCES

Ah, to make accessible the results of human creative thought... what's a librarian not to love?

Hurricanes, earthquakes, terrorist attacks, impending health pandemics... stories about emergencies and natural disasters appear all too frequently in our daily news. Societal responses include heightened awareness, as well as an emergent post-secondary curriculum and growing body of research that spans multiple disciplines including: medicine, psychology, business, engineering and sociology. In addition, planning, response and relief activities have spawned a range of Web resources focused on emergency and disaster services; major Canadian portals are described in this article.

Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada (PSEPC)

www.psepc.gc.ca/index-en.asp
www.wipo.int

As Canada's lead federal department for public safety, PSEPC is responsible for implementing relevant public policy and coordinating the initiatives of federal and local government agencies, first responders, community groups and private sector organizations. True to form, their Website exemplifies intuitive arrangement, offering clear access points to their information resources.

Navigation menus on the left side of the PSEPC homepage allow users to self-select resources grouped by audience: citizens, communities, government, business, first responders, and educators. The tabs on the header menu (at the top of the page) organize resources by function: policy, research, programs, news room. All sections are well organized and some include full-text documents dating back more than ten years. In addition, it is worth noting that the News Room section provides access to speeches and press releases dating back to 2003 as well as Cyber Alerts, Advisories and Information Notes back to 2001.

The Research section also deserves special notice, as it provides access to a wide range of reports organized by subject matter. Gems in this section include the Canadian Disaster Database and the Natural Hazards of Canada Map, both of which are found under the Emergency Management heading. The former includes information on more than 700 natural disasters, technological emergencies and conflict events (excluding war), which have affected Canadians over the past century. Database entries provide estimated costs and a summary of the disaster as well as head counts of the dead, injured and evacuated. The Natural Hazards of Canada Map was prepared in collaboration with Natural Resources Canada, Environment Canada, the Geological Survey of Canada and Statistics Canada. This impressive resource includes maps and data that provide the location, type and magnitude of natural disasters occurring in the past 150 years.

Users can also access the contents of this Web site via the A-Z subject index, which includes entries for extreme weather conditions, business continuity planning and emergency management organizations, among others. Additionally, a site map is

provided and a search option is linked from the header menu for those who prefer not to browse.

SafeCanada.ca Emergencies and Disasters

www.safecanada.ca/

SafeCanada.ca is self-described as providing a "one-stop shop for safety and security information and services in Canada". This online initiative was developed in partnership with an impressive list of federal, provincial, and non-governmental agencies including important contributions by PSEPC, as noted above. The area of the portal devoted to Emergencies and Disasters is important because it offers extensive lists of links in some seventeen subcategories including bomb threats, missing persons, pandemic preparedness and cyber security. One notable subcategory is Emergency Management, which provides access to the full-text of legislative instruments and emergency response plans for many provinces, territories and smaller regions in Canada.

In addition to following the links noted above, users are able to self-select resources grouped by audience: Aboriginal peoples, kids, parents,





seniors, teachers, youth. These access points are located on the left side of the homepage and are well worth exploring, as they include many resources and activities tailored to

the intended audience, e.g., games and quizzes for kids. Finally, the portal's search feature is especially useful given the extensive and somewhat overwhelming nature of its content.

Canadian Centre for Emergency Preparedness (CCEP)

www.ccep.ca/

CCEP is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the provision of training and information resources to first responders, business continuity planners and others involved in disaster planning. It is also one of the main organizers of the annual World Conference on Disaster Management. While much of the information on this Web site is clearly designed for those working in business or industry, many of its resources will also be of interest to educators, researchers and the general public. For example, the Link Index provides a wide range of subcategories and includes entries for emergency management publications and magazines, as well as emergency preparedness in schools. Also, the Research Institutions link includes a listing of research centres and institutes worldwide. Both of these access points are found on the left side of the homepage. Small business owners interested in emergency preparedness will benefit from the links to guides and templates for emergency and business continuity plans. Those interested in receiving certification, degrees, training or employment in emergency management or business continuity will find ample information about their options, including a searchable disaster management job bank. Note that while the CCEP Web site appears to be updated regularly, you will stumble across the odd dead link.

Environment Canada Environmental Emergencies

www.ec.gc.ca/

Environment Canada's Web site includes a section dedicated to Environmental Emergencies that is well worth the navigational effort needed to access it. Follow the Topics link on the header menu of the main Environment Canada homepage and then select Environmental Emergencies to access extensive information on severe weather conditions, which often result in crisis or emergency situations, e.g., hurricanes, ice-storms. The categories of information on this site reflect the four pillars of Environment Canada's Environmental Emergencies Program, i.e., prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. Users will find publications, statistics, regulations and other legislation, links to relevant Canadian associations engaged in related activities and more. Another noteworthy section found by following the Topics menu, is the Weather and Meteorology section, which provides access to information about severe weather conditions. Here, you will find gems like the Top Ten Weather Stories (for the last year and for the last century in Canada) and a link to the Canadian Hurricane Centre Web site.

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Provincial and Territorial Emergency Management Organizations

Alberta – Emergency Management Alberta
www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema_index.htm

British Columbia – Provincial Emergency Program
www.pep.bc.ca/index.html

Manitoba – Emergency Measures Organization
www.gov.mb.ca/emo/index.html

New Brunswick – Emergency Measures Organization
www.gnb.ca/cnb/emo-omu/index-e.asp

Newfoundland & Labrador – Emergency Measures Organization
www.mpa.gov.nl.ca/mpa/fes/emo/

Northwest Territories – Emergency Measures Organization
www.maca.gov.nt.ca/safety/emergency_measures/index.html

Nova Scotia – Emergency Management Office
www.gov.ns.ca/emo/

Nunavut – Emergency Management (Contact Information)
www.gov.nu.ca/Nunavut/English/phone/cgs.htm

Ontario – Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (Has responsibility for emergency management in Ontario)
www.mcscs.jus.gov.on.ca/

Prince Edward Island – Emergency Measures Organization
www.gov.pe.ca/cca/index.php3?number=1002515

Quebec - Sécurité Publique Québec
www.msp.gouv.qc.ca/secivile/index_en.asp

Saskatchewan – Emergency Management Organization
www.cps.gov.sk.ca/Safety/emergency/default.shtml

Yukon – Emergency Measures Organization
www.community.gov.yk.ca/emo/index.html