

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK: MAY 1-7

April 29, 2011– *For immediate release*

**Chestermere, AB** – May 1-7 is National Emergency Preparedness Week in Canada and all levels of government encourage residents to ensure they are prepared in the case of a disaster.

“Every community faces some risks and emergency preparedness really starts with our residents” said Mayor Patricia Matthews. “However, we put a lot of importance on emergency service preparedness at the Town to ensure that we will be able to do everything possible to deal with a disaster.”

The Chestermere Emergency Services Agency is the group in Town that deals with disaster prevention, response and recovery preparations. The Agency is comprised of Members of Council, the RCMP, Fire Department and Town employees and meets every two weeks to discuss potential Town related emergency issues.

As part of Emergency Preparedness, the Agency is going to hold a functional exercise on May 12 so their members will have a chance to practice responding to an emergency. Members will work with the Alberta Emergency Management Agency to work through the disaster simulation exercise and receive feedback on their response.

Practicing for a disaster is a good idea not only for emergency management agencies but also for families. The federal government recommends that residents:

- **Know the risks** – Knowing the risks specific to our community can help you prepare.
- **Make a plan** – Having a plan that all the family members know and are prepared to execute will help a great deal in an actual emergency. Think about where to go, what to bring and how to get in touch with loved ones.
- **Get an emergency kit** – During an emergency, everyone will all need some basic supplies. In case of a major disaster, residents may need to get by without power or tap water. The federal government recommends that families are prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Visit [www.GetPrepared.ca](http://www.GetPrepared.ca) for more resources to help you and your family prepare for all types of emergencies.

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For more information, contact

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*The Town of Chestermere is a distinctive recreational lake community in Southern Alberta committed to being a safe, family oriented, and sustainable municipality.*