

TESTING PROVINCE'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE

McGuinty Government Leads Largest Ever Emergency Exercise

NEWS

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Ontario will test its ability to respond to a disaster by participating in the largest emergency response exercise held in recent history.

Exercise Trillium Response will involve all levels of government and will simulate a massive ice storm in the northwestern area of the province, similar in scope to the one that devastated eastern Ontario and Québec in 1998.

The exercise will take place in Thunder Bay and area between November 17 and 23. More than 1,500 participants from the Ontario and Canadian government, 25 municipalities and three First Nations communities, the province of Manitoba and non-government organizations, will participate.

A fleet of specialized equipment and tactical teams will be deployed in the exercise including:

- The [Emergency Medical Assistance Team](#) (EMAT)
- Emergency Management Ontario (EMO)'s Mobile Emergency Operations Centre or [Mobile 1](#)
- 1,000 members of the [Canadian Forces](#), dozens of specialized army vehicles, naval craft and a Boeing CC-177, the military's newest heavy transport aircraft.

EMO and the Canadian Forces are jointly leading exercise Trillium Response.

QUOTES

"Being prepared will help save lives and lessen the economic impact of a disaster and will allow Ontario to recover more quickly after an emergency," said Community Safety and Correctional Services Minister [Rick Bartolucci](#). "This exercise will build on our existing expertise and uncover areas that may need improvement."

"It is crucial for the region to be well prepared for emergencies as the Thunder Bay area provides key strategic transportation linkages between western and eastern Canada," said Northern Development and Mines Minister [Michael Gravelle](#).

QUICK FACTS

- The Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care's EMAT is a mobile 56-bed medical field unit that can be driven anywhere in Ontario within 24 hours.

LEARN MORE

Read about exercise Trillium Response and [emergency management](#) in Ontario.