

# Are You Ready?

Community Awareness Emergency Response



Community and Industry  
~ Working Together ~



[www.hamiltoncaer.com](http://www.hamiltoncaer.com)

270 Sherman Ave. N  
Hamilton, Ontario L8L 6N4

Hamilton CAER Group

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**CAER is...** a community-based volunteer organization whose members represent local industry, service-related businesses and municipal Emergency Response and Management Services and has been in existence since 1980.

Working together, the members of CAER plan, practice and coordinate their activities to enhance safe daily workplace operating practices through risk management, greatly reducing the risk of emergency situations that could threaten the Hamilton Community.

As all communities have the potential for an emergency situation, the Hamilton CAER Group acknowledges the need, and the right, of the public to know the risks associated with the manufacture, storage, handling and distribution of potentially dangerous products within Hamilton and surrounding communities.

A well established Charter and Mission help guide members to plan and prepare so that, when an emergency occurs, the community can deal with the situation effectively.

## CAER members participate in...

- ⇒ regular meetings that provide opportunities to share information on emergency planning and response;
- ⇒ ongoing work with municipal officials and emergency services representatives to facilitate joint planning;
- ⇒ a mutual aid network that helps with everything from risk and training assessment to assistance during an emergency;
- ⇒ programs that ensure our individual actions will make a positive contribution toward creating a better, safer environment for everyone in the Hamilton community ;
- ⇒ a better overall coordinated response to an emergency situation in the community.

## Other CAER Groups...

Niagara CAER Group – [www.niagaracaer.com](http://www.niagaracaer.com)

Northeast Region CAER – [www.nrcaer.com](http://www.nrcaer.com)

CAER Sarnia – [www.caer.ca](http://www.caer.ca)

Toronto CAER and TransCAER – [www.torontocaer.com](http://www.torontocaer.com)

Toronto East CAER – [www.torontoeastcaer.com](http://www.torontoeastcaer.com)

Toronto North CAER – [www.torontonorthcaer.com](http://www.torontonorthcaer.com)

## Additional Links:

Canadian Association of Chemical Distributors – [www.cacd.ca](http://www.cacd.ca)

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety - [www.ccohs.ca](http://www.ccohs.ca)

City of Hamilton Emergency Management – [www.hamilton.ca/Emergency](http://www.hamilton.ca/Emergency)

Emergency Management Ontario (E.M.O.) – [www.emergencymanagementontario.ca](http://www.emergencymanagementontario.ca)

Hamilton Fire Department (H.F.D) – [www.hamilton.ca/Fire](http://www.hamilton.ca/Fire)

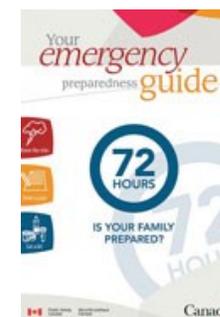
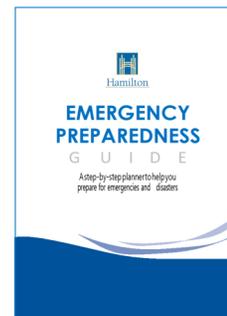
Hamilton Police Service (H.P.S.) – [www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca)

Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association – [www.hiea.org](http://www.hiea.org)

Public Safety Canada – [www.publicsafety.gc.ca](http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca) or [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca)

Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response TRANSCAER® – [www.transcaer.com](http://www.transcaer.com)

## Additional Publications:



## What happens if there is an emergency situation?

Many of the industries, commercial facilities and institutions in Hamilton produce, use or transport chemicals and materials that can be hazardous if released to the environment in the event of an emergency situation.

Industry, City of Hamilton Emergency Services and other agencies have specific plans in place that will be used to notify the public when an emergency situation occurs. More information about these plans and direct links to the websites and information listed in this booklet can be found on the CAER website:

**[www.hamiltoncaer.com](http://www.hamiltoncaer.com)**.

If the emergency situation involves a chemical release, fire, explosion, or other emergency condition, stay away from the site. Follow the directions provided by emergency services personnel who are coordinating the situation.

## How will I be warned and be notified when all is clear?

All industries are connected to the Hamilton Police Communications Centre (911). If an emergency situation has the potential to affect the community you may be notified through:

- ⇒ News flashes on local radio stations;
- ⇒ News and information on the local Hamilton television stations - CHCH TV and Cable 14;
- ⇒ Door to door direct warning or notification by First Responders;
- ⇒ Tweets or other social media contacts.

## Unless you are told to do so by authorities...

- ⇒ Keep phone and cell lines free—DO NOT use the telephone to call 911, or any other authority, to get information;
- ⇒ DO NOT attempt to evacuate or travel anywhere;
- ⇒ DO NOT shut off pilot lights;
- ⇒ DO NOT attempt to bring children home from school or other family members from work.

**CAER's Charter...** is a document that outlines the principles, functions, and organizational structure for the group. The Hamilton CAER Group and its members will endeavor to...

- ⇒ provide a means for local industry to inform the community of the steps being taken to prepare for and prevent, emergencies and, thereby, increase awareness and minimize the risk to people, property and the environment;
- ⇒ offer membership to all companies involved with the manufacture, storage, handling or distribution of products and support services within Hamilton;
- ⇒ actively liaise with, and offer membership to, all Provincial, Municipal, Educational, Institutional and local planning agencies as well as private emergency response and training companies;
- ⇒ plan, practice and co-ordinate activities with industry to enhance safe operating practices and reduce the risk of emergency situations that could threaten the Hamilton community;
- ⇒ coordinate or organize an emergency simulation at least once every five years and/or participate in other organized emergency simulations;
- ⇒ establish an effective 'outreach program' to deal with community concerns related to the operation of members' facilities;
- ⇒ assess and reduce the risk to life and the environment through the education of member employees and the public in general.

**CAER's Mission...** includes three statements that help direct our members actions. Preparedness, Cooperation and Communication.

**Preparedness:** *To encourage the development and maintenance of effective emergency response plans within Hamilton through information sharing and special projects.*

Members receive information and support that assists with their risk assessments; their review of existing plans; emergency response planning and evaluating their level of readiness.

**Cooperation:** *To facilitate the co-ordination of industrial emergency response plans with community and governmental emergency planning services.*

CAER works together with many local and government committees including: Emergency Management Ontario (EMO); City of Hamilton Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee; Hamilton Fire Department; Hamilton Police Department and Hamilton Industrial Environmental Association (HIEA).

CAER members include: Health and Safety personnel; Environmental Officers and consultants; Emergency Planners and Responders; Industrial, Operations and Maintenance personnel; Response Training companies; Response Contractors etc.

**Communication:** *To provide a means for local industry to inform the community of the steps taken to prepare and prevent emergencies, thereby increasing awareness to minimize the risk to people, property and the environment should an emergency occur.*

CAER provides help in developing our members emergency response plans; provides guest speakers to special interest groups; supports local events such as the City of Hamilton Emergency Management/Preparedness activities; Hamilton Fire Department open houses and other regional events.

**Toxic:** Short-term exposure can cause irritation and discomfort. These chemicals are toxic to wildlife and aquatic organisms but are broken down by moisture and sunlight within a matter of days.

- ⇒ A substance is toxic "if it is entering or may enter the environment in a quantity or concentration or under conditions that: have or may have an immediate or long-term harmful effect on the environment or its biological diversity; constitute or may constitute a danger to the environment on which life depends; or constitute or may constitute a danger in Canada to human life or health";
- ⇒ Toxic gases and vapours may also be flammable.

**Oxidizers:** can cause fires to be more widespread or faster to occur than normal. These fires may offset toxic gases that can cause serious health impacts to off-site population. Short term exposure can cause irritation and discomfort. Oxidizers can be very toxic to wildlife.

- ⇒ Oxygen is used in hospitals and some industrial processes. Oxygen is also stored in quantities to fill cylinders for burning and welding.

Industry Groups	Corrosive	Flammable	Toxic	Oxidizer
Chemical	●	●	●	●
Textile	●	●	●	●
Agri-Business		●	●	
Food	●			
Steel	●	●	●	●
Petroleum		●	●	

- The dot indicates that the industry group produces, uses or transports materials in this category in quantities that have the potential to impact the community outside of their property in the event of an accident.

## What types of chemicals are transported, stored and or used in Hamilton and what are the potential effects if I am exposed?

These chemicals are usually stored as a liquid in pressure vessels or tanks and transported in marine vessels, tanker trucks and rail tank cars and can generally be grouped into four categories: Corrosive, Flammable, Oxidizer and Toxic.

**Corrosive:** Direct exposure can lead to skin irritation and burns. Exposure to vapours produced by corrosives can lead to irritation and/or respiratory issues. Extreme exposure could be fatal. Corrosive mixtures are toxic to wildlife and may have long lasting effects.

- ⇒ Corrosives include chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine and hydrogen chloride. They can release vapours with a sharp irritating odour;
- ⇒ Ammonia is used as a refrigerant in some ice rinks and other large scale refrigeration systems and is produced as a by-product of coke manufacture;
- ⇒ Chlorine is used for water treatment to kill bacteria and other microorganisms to make it safe for drinking;
- ⇒ Hydrogen chloride, also known as hydrochloric acid, is used for cleaning steel in a process called pickling.

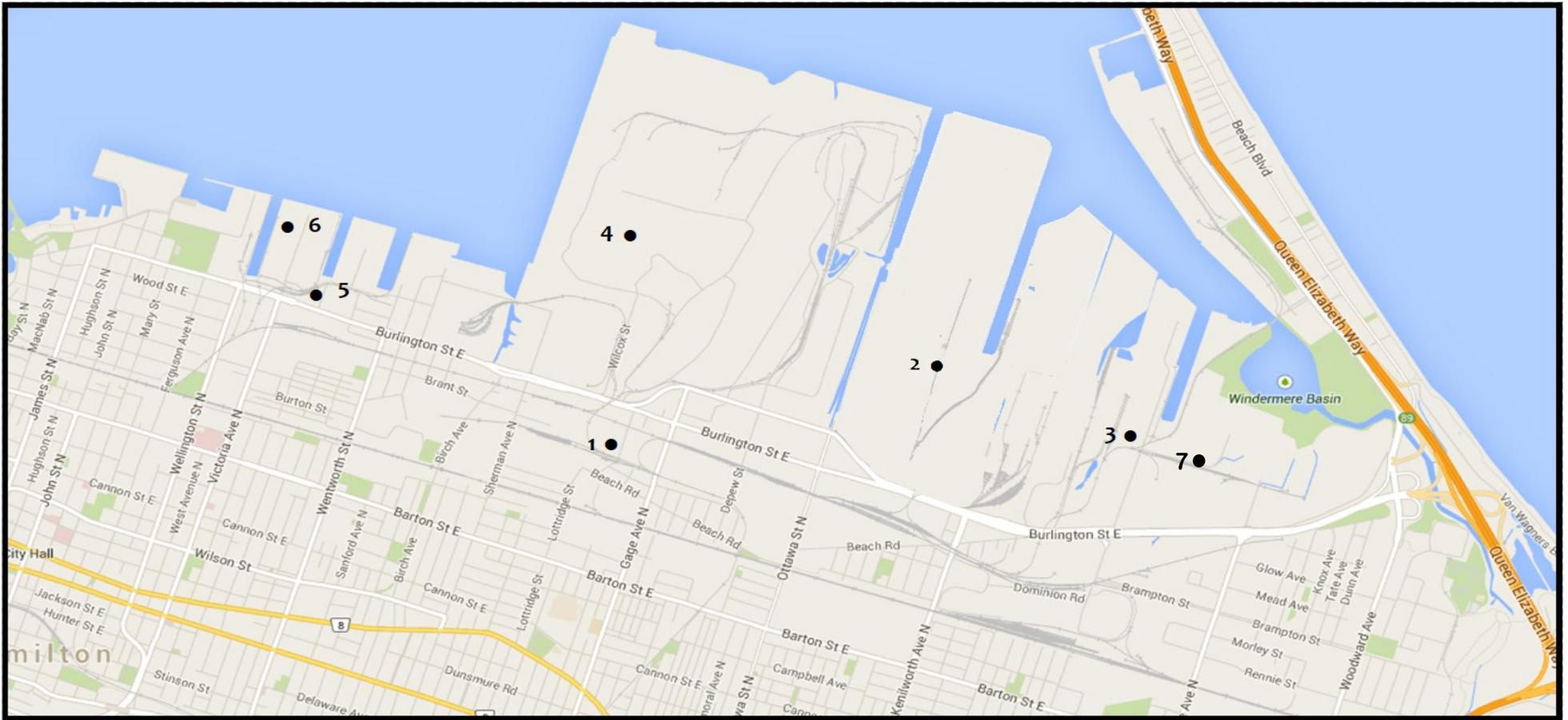
**Flammables:** are toxic if inhaled and may be fatal if swallowed. The off-site impact of smoke and gases from fires that are contained on-site can cause irritation and discomfort. Depending on the material, the gases offset by fires can potentially be fatal. Flammables are also toxic to aquatic life. Although air quality for all organisms will be impacted, the material degrades in the atmosphere and volatilizes from water.

- ⇒ Flammables include materials such as natural gas, gasoline, diesel, aviation fuel, hydrogen, coke oven gas, and blast furnace gas;
- ⇒ These materials are petroleum hydrocarbon fuels or byproduct fuels such as from the production of coke. They are used in metallurgical, commercial and residential furnaces and as a fuel for vehicles and aircraft.

## How do CAER members ensure for safety?

CAER members plan, practice and coordinate their activities to enhance safe daily workplace operating practices and employ a variety of procedures and equipment to prevent accidental release, including the following:

- ⇒ Area industrial plants have trained personnel and equipment to respond immediately to an incident. Detailed emergency response plans are in place and practiced regularly;
- ⇒ Designs that meet industry and government standards;
- ⇒ Hazard assessments that identify ways to reduce the risk of a release;
- ⇒ All process safety devices are provided and operational;
- ⇒ Safety controls including warning alarms, interlocks and leak detectors to provide multiple lines of defense;
- ⇒ Regular equipment inspection, testing and maintenance to ensure proper and safe operation;
- ⇒ Written procedures for operation and maintenance of facilities and highly trained operating and maintenance workers;
- ⇒ Full investigation of any release to prevent them from occurring again;
- ⇒ Audits (inspections) to ensure correct procedures are followed.



The Environmental Emergency Regulations aim at enhancing the protection of the environment and human health in environmental emergency situations by promoting prevention and ensuring preparedness, response and recovery. They require persons who own or manage regulated substances at or above the specified thresholds to provide required information on the substance(s), their quantities and to prepare and implement Environmental Emergency (E2) plans. The following is a list of the CAER members who are required to have, and do have in place the appropriate plans. The location of these members is located on the map above.

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