

# Kings County Emergency Preparedness Survey

December 2023



## Survey Analysis Report



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## **Introduction**

Kings Regional Emergency Management Organization (Kings REMO) developed a Kings County Emergency Preparedness Survey in December 2023. The survey was distributed to residents of Kings County via the Kings REMO Emergency Email Notification system, Social Media posts and made available to residents via the Kings REMO website as of November 10, 2023. The submission deadline for the survey was set for December 1, 2023.

This report summarizes the analysis of surveys completed.

- A total of 270 surveys were completed, as compared to 117 surveys being completed in 2019.

## **Summary of Findings**

Kings REMO Regional EM Coordinator (REMC) conducted the analysis of the December 2023 Kings County Emergency Preparedness Survey. The survey found that many residents of Kings County considered themselves to be prepared for emergencies. The survey asked residents about their knowledge of risks in Kings County, how prepared they were for those risks and what information would residents like to see more of concerning emergency preparedness.

## **Survey Findings**

Results of the survey are presented as they relate to the specific question addressed by the survey. The average time to complete the survey was 8 minutes 9 seconds.

**Kings County Community**

**1. Please identify the community in which you reside in Kings County?**



Town of Wolfville	44
Town of Kentville	38
Town of Berwick	6

Municipality of the County of Kings 59, in addition to the following specific municipalities:

- |                        |   |                      |    |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|----|
| • Arlington            | 2 | • Halls Harbour      | 1  |
| • Auburn               | 1 | • Hants Border       | 4  |
| • Aylesford            | 5 | • Kingston/Greenwood | 10 |
| • Baxters Harbour      | 1 | • Lake Paul          | 1  |
| • Bishopville          | 1 | • Lakeville          | 1  |
| • Black River          | 1 | • Lockhartville      | 3  |
| • Black Rock           | 2 | • McGee Lake         | 1  |
| • Brooklyn Corner      | 2 | • Meadowview         | 1  |
| • Brow of the Mountain | 1 | • Morden             | 2  |
| • Burlington           | 1 | • New Minas          | 18 |
| • Cambridge            | 3 | • North Alton        | 1  |
| • Canaan               | 2 | • Port Williams      | 7  |
| • Canning              | 2 | • Ross Corner        | 1  |
| • Casey Corner         | 2 | • Scots Bay          | 4  |
| • Centreville          | 2 | • Somerset           | 1  |
| • Clementsport         | 1 | • Steam Mill         | 1  |
| • Coldbrook            | 8 | • Sunken Lake        | 1  |
| • Garland              | 1 | • Tremont            | 1  |
| • Gaspereau            | 1 | • Tupper Lake        | 1  |
| • Glenmont             | 1 | • Upper Pereaux      | 1  |
| • Grafton              | 2 | • Waterville         | 2  |
| • Grand Pre            | 1 | • Welton's Corner    | 1  |
| • Greenfield           | 1 | • Windermere         | 1  |
| • Greenwich            | 1 | • Wolfville Ridge    | 1  |

## Hazard Identification

### 2. How concerned are you that the following emergencies/disasters will affect your community?

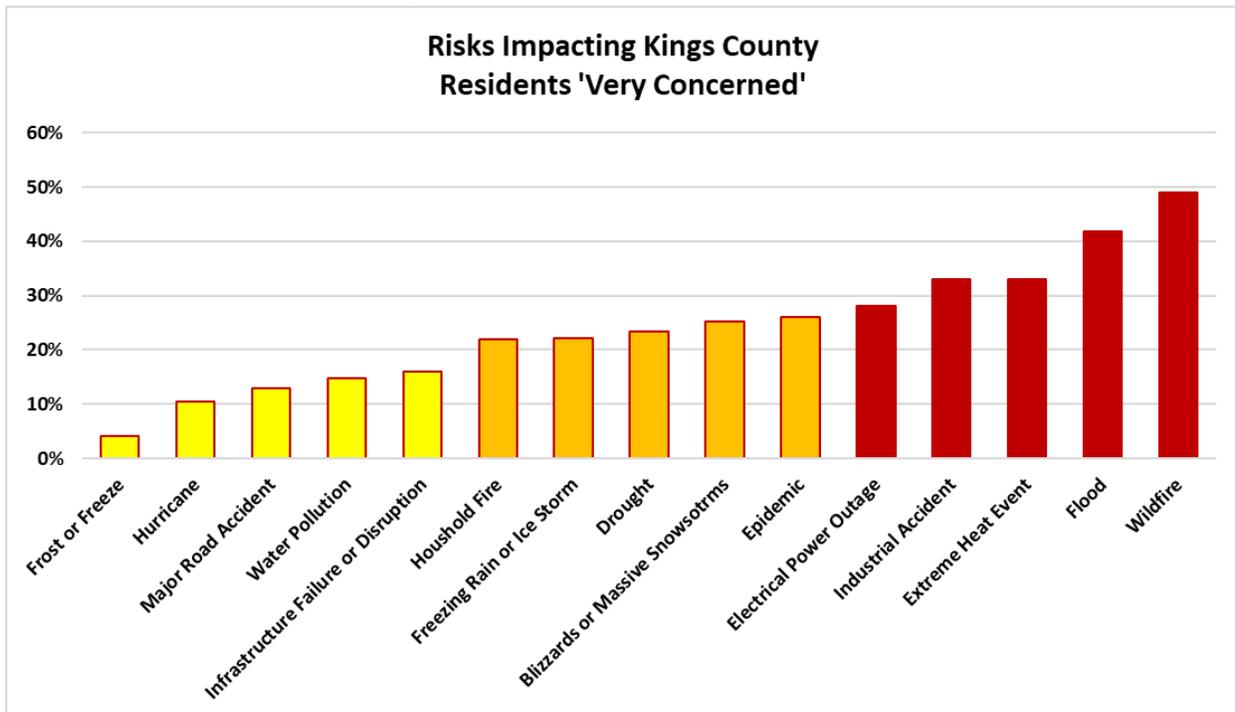
(Alphabetically Listed)

- Blizzards or Massive Snowstorms
- Drought
- Electrical Power Outage
- Extreme Heat Event
- Epidemic
- Flood
- Frost or Freeze
- Freezing Rain or Ice Storm
- Household Fire
- Hurricane
- Industrial Accident
- Infrastructure Failure or Disruption
- Major Road Accident
- Water Pollution
- Wildfire



The top five (5) hazards that Kings County residents identified as being 'Very Concerned' about were:

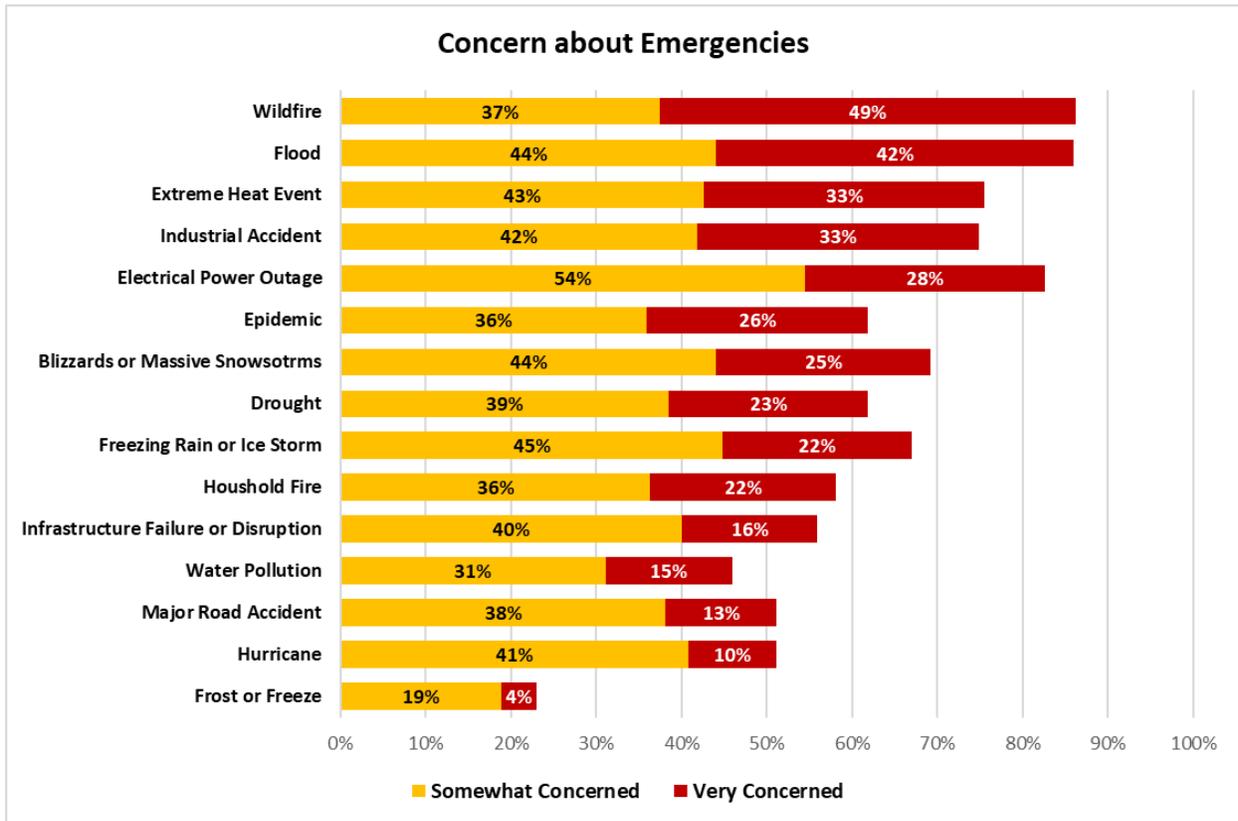
- |                                   |                           |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. <b>Wildfire</b>                | Ranked 7 in 2020 Survey   |
| 2. <b>Flood</b>                   | Ranked 10 in 2020 Survey  |
| 3. <b>Extreme Heat Event</b>      | Ranked 12 in 2020 Survey  |
| 4. <b>Industrial Accident</b>     | Not ranked in 2020 Survey |
| 5. <b>Electrical Power Outage</b> | Ranked 1 in 2020 Survey   |



The following table highlights respondents concern with hazards in relationship to being “somewhat concerned” and “very concerned” (Hazard alphabetically listed):

**Top five (5) ‘Very Concerned’:**

1. <b>Wildfire</b>	49%	Ranked 7 in 2020 Survey
2. <b>Flood</b>	42%	Ranked 10 in 2020 Survey
3. <b>Extreme Heat Event</b>	33%	Ranked 12 in 2020 Survey
4. <b>Industrial Accident</b>	33%	Not ranked in 2020 Survey
5. <b>Electrical Power Outage</b>	28%	Ranked 1 in 2020 Survey



**Emergency Preparedness**

**3. What steps have you taken to prepare for the types of emergencies and disasters that might occur in your community?**

- Collected preparedness information
- Attended meetings dealing with emergency preparedness
- Prepared and discussed family emergency plan
- Have taken special training (First Aid, CPR, etc.)
- Signed up for/follow emergency information and alert systems (Kings REMO Social Media or Emergency Email Notification System)
- Assembled an “Emergency Kit”

The Kings County ‘Emergency Email Notification System’ continues to grow monthly as awareness is spread across Kings County during Kings REMO Community Outreach sessions. The results of the preparedness actions inquiry have led the Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC) to further efforts in growing the Kings County Emergency Preparedness Community Outreach program in order to ensure that residents are provided the opportunity to attend meetings dealing with emergency preparedness.

- **2023 Community Outreach presentations**      **35**
- 2022 Community Outreach presentations      9      Limited due to impacts of COVID-19
- 2021 Community Outreach presentations      1      Limited due to impacts of COVID-19
- 2020 Community Outreach presentations      10      Limited due to impacts of COVID-19
- 2019 Community Outreach presentations      31
- 2018 Community Outreach presentations      16

**Is your community group or organization interested in learning more about Emergency Preparedness**

Contact the Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator (REMC)

[REMO\\_kingscounty@ccountyofkings.ca](mailto:REMO_kingscounty@ccountyofkings.ca)  
902-670-1514

**72 HOURS**

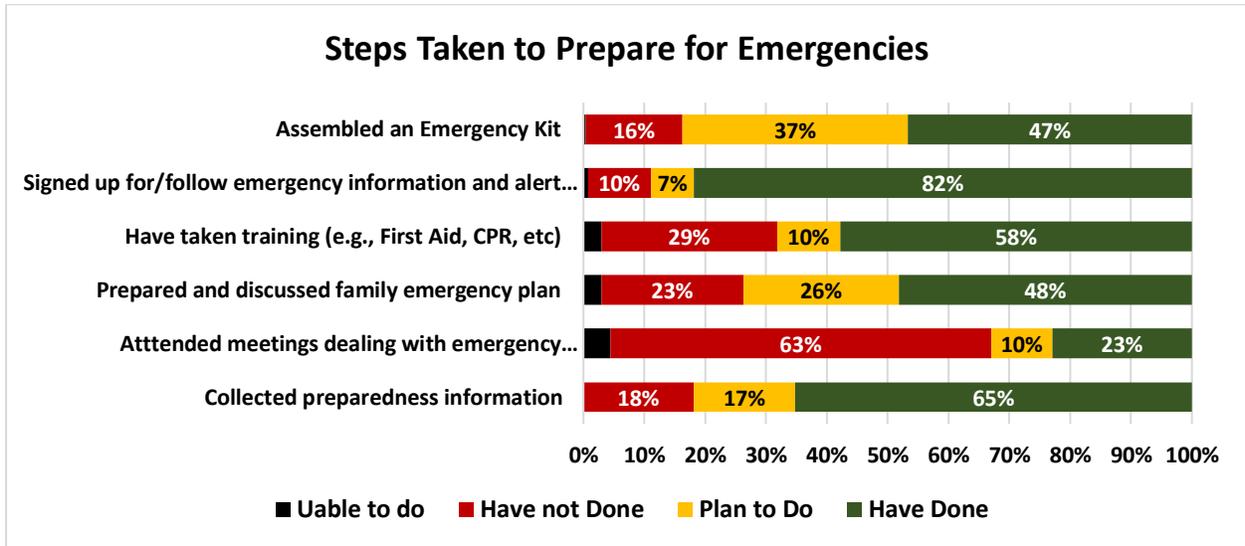
**IS YOUR FAMILY PREPARED?**

**The Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator will provide a 60-minute presentation on the Kings Regional Emergency Management Organization (REMO) & Emergency Preparedness What it means to You!**

**Know the risks**      **Make a plan**      **Get a kit**

[www.KingsREMO.ca](http://www.KingsREMO.ca)

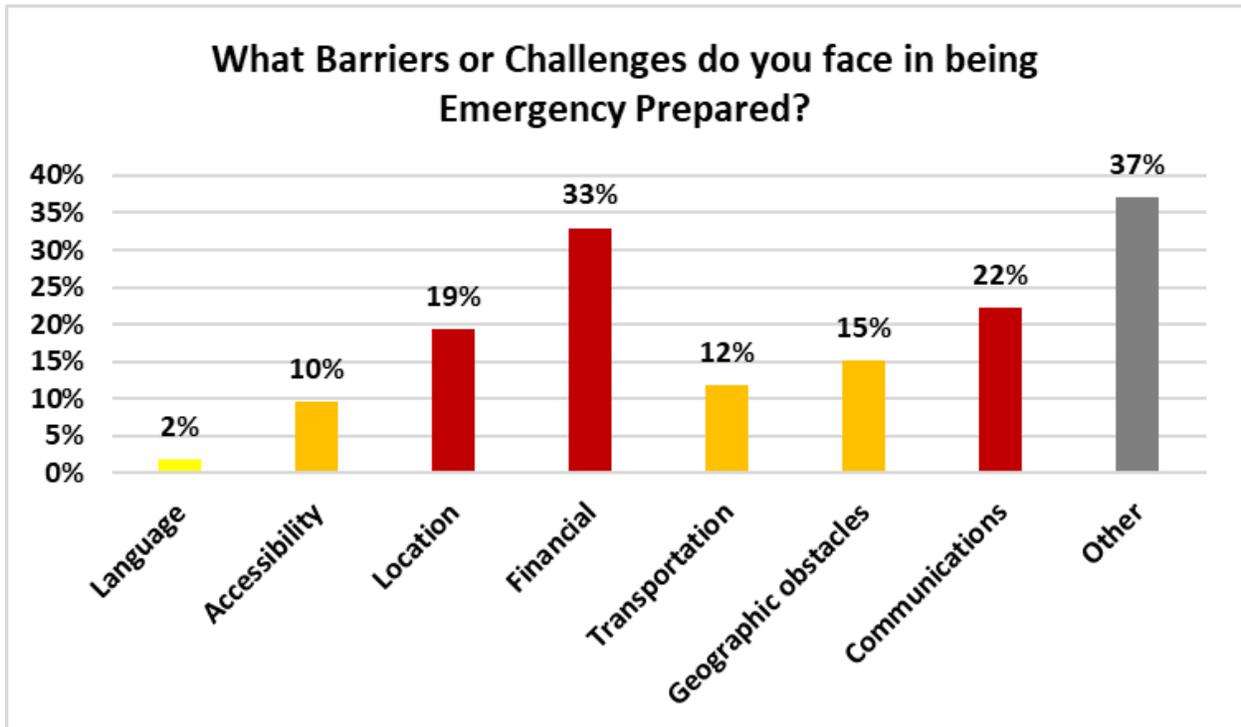
The following chart summarizes actions taken by Kings County residents, with the greatest percentage of respondents (82%) having signed up for the Kings County Alert System – ‘Emergency Email Notification’



**Barriers to Preparedness**

**4. What barriers or challenges do you face in being Emergency Prepared?**

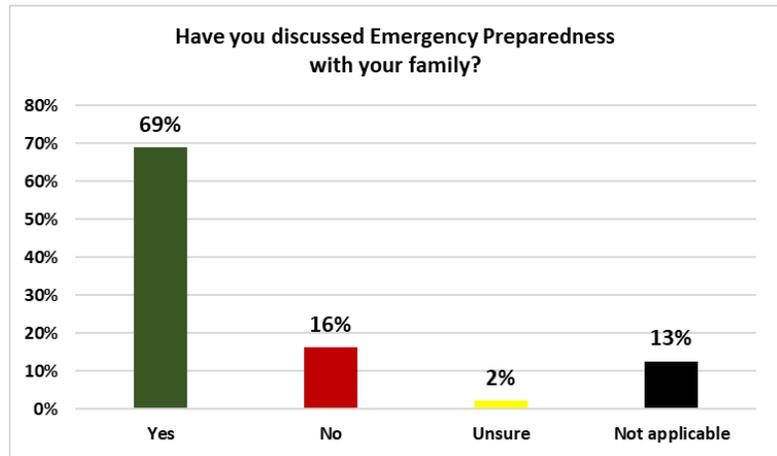
- Language 2%
  - Accessibility 10%
  - Location 19%
  - Financial 33%
  - Transportation 12%
  - Geographic obstacles 15%
  - Communication 22%
- Other (alphabetically listed):
- Access to medication refills
  - Accommodations
  - Adequate Knowledge
  - Age – getting older
  - Don't have any
  - No barriers / None 16%
  - Knowing Community Evacuation Plan
  - Knowing of how community will be taken care of from a psychosocial perspective
  - Lack of preparedness
  - Obtaining necessities during a crisis (i.e., fuel)
  - Poor cell phone coverage
  - Procrastination
  - Time



**Personal Preparedness**

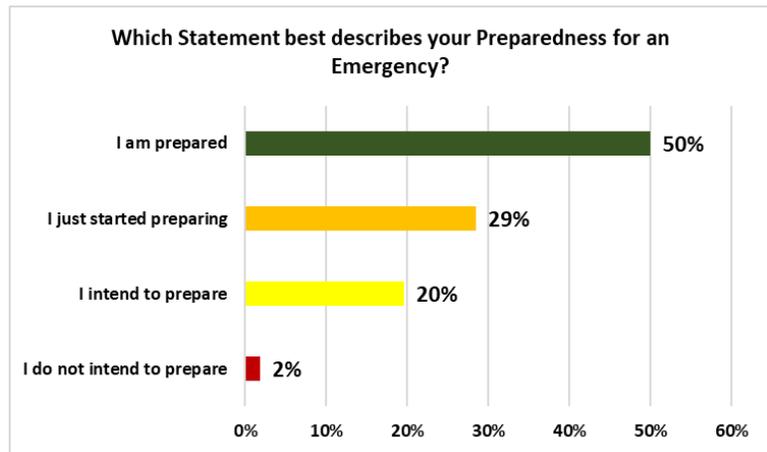
**5. Have you ever discussed Emergency Preparedness with your family?**

- **Yes** 69%
- **No**
- **Unsure**
- **Not applicable**



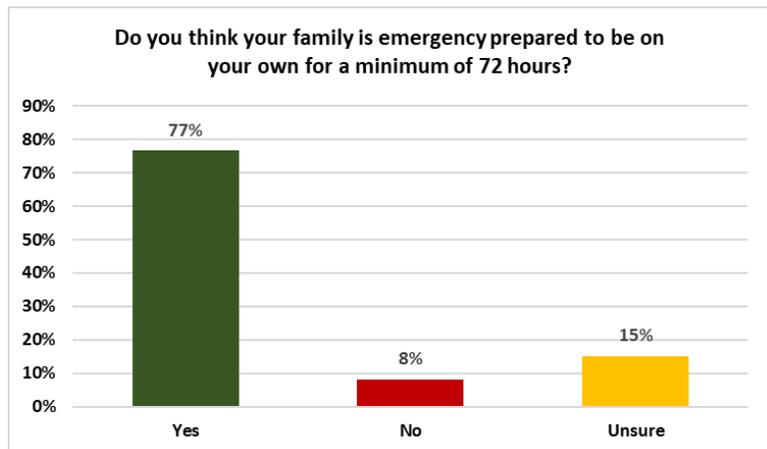
**6. Which statement represents your emergency preparedness for an emergency?**

- I do not intend to prepare
- I intend to prepare
- I just started preparing
- **I am prepared** 50%



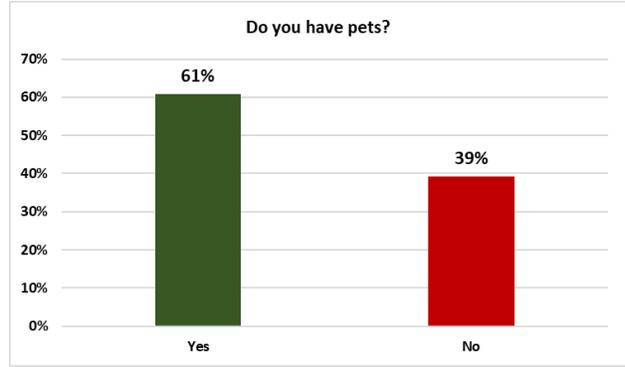
**7. Do you think your family is emergency prepared to be on your own for a minimum of 72 hours?**

- **Yes** 77%
- **No**
- **Unsure**



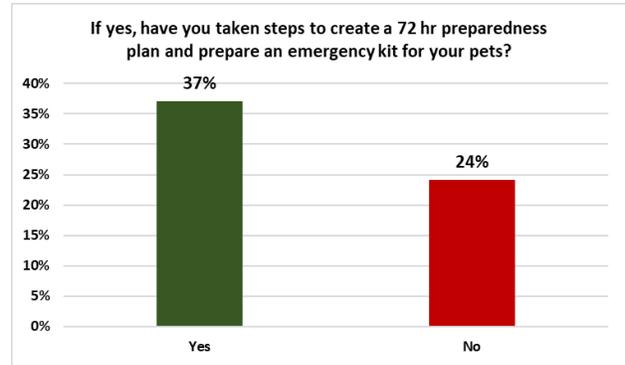
**8. Do you have pets?**

- Yes
- No



**9. If you answered yes to having pets, have you taken steps to create a 72-hour preparedness plan and prepare an emergency kit for your pets?**

- Yes
- No



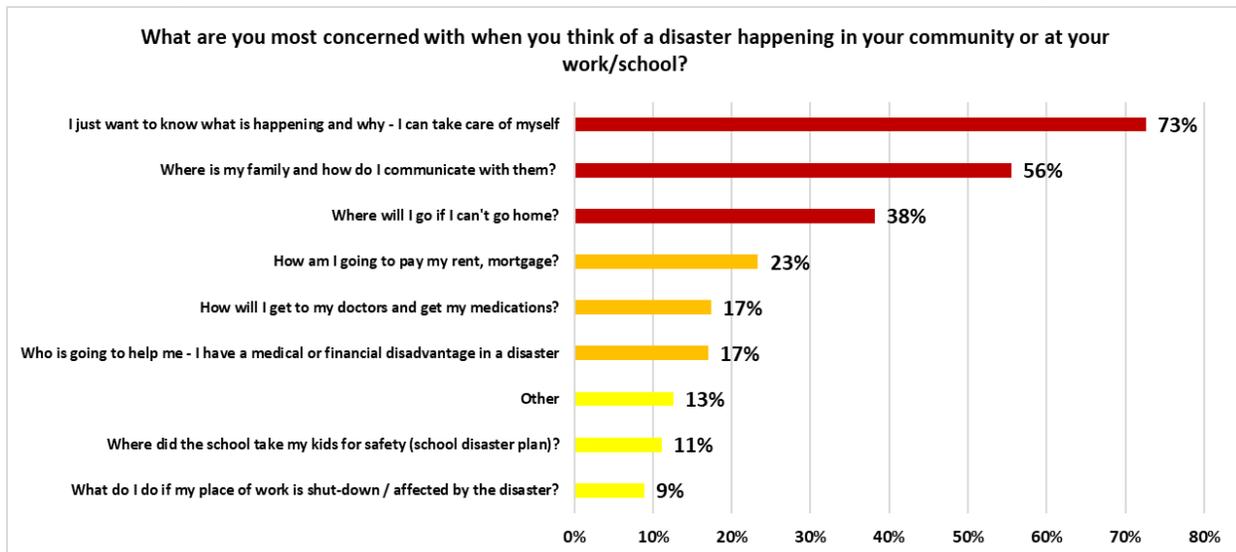
## Emergency Concerns

### 10. What are you most concerned with when you think of a disaster happening in your community or at your work / school?

- Who is going to help me – I have a medical or financial disadvantage in a disaster
- **I just want to know what is happening and why – I can take care of myself 73%**
- Where is my family and how do I communicate with them? (Don't count on cellular service in a disaster)
- Where will I go if I can't go home?
- What do I do if my place of work is shut-down / affected by the disaster?
- How am I going to pay my rent, mortgage?
- Where did the school take my kids for safety (school disaster plan)?
- How will I get to my doctors and get my medications?
- Other:
  - "Exit Routes" (1)
  - "Get what we need to keep large-scale farming operations going" (1)
  - "How to obtain current state of an emergency and assessing how affected, actions" (1)
  - "I am deaf. No person knows ASL" (1)
  - "The safety of First Responders" (1)
  - "How will we evacuate in a flood" (1)
  - "How and where can I obtain safe water for myself and my farm animals" (1)

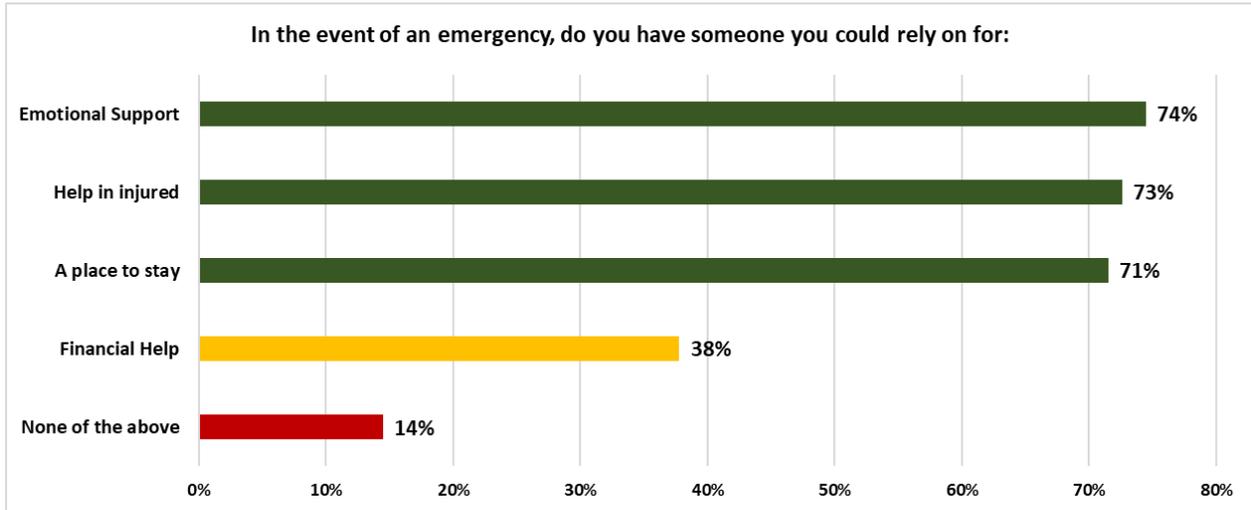
A significant portion of the respondents (73%) indicated that **they just want to know what is happening and why – they can take care of themselves**.

- The top three concerns were the same top three concerns from the 2019 survey.



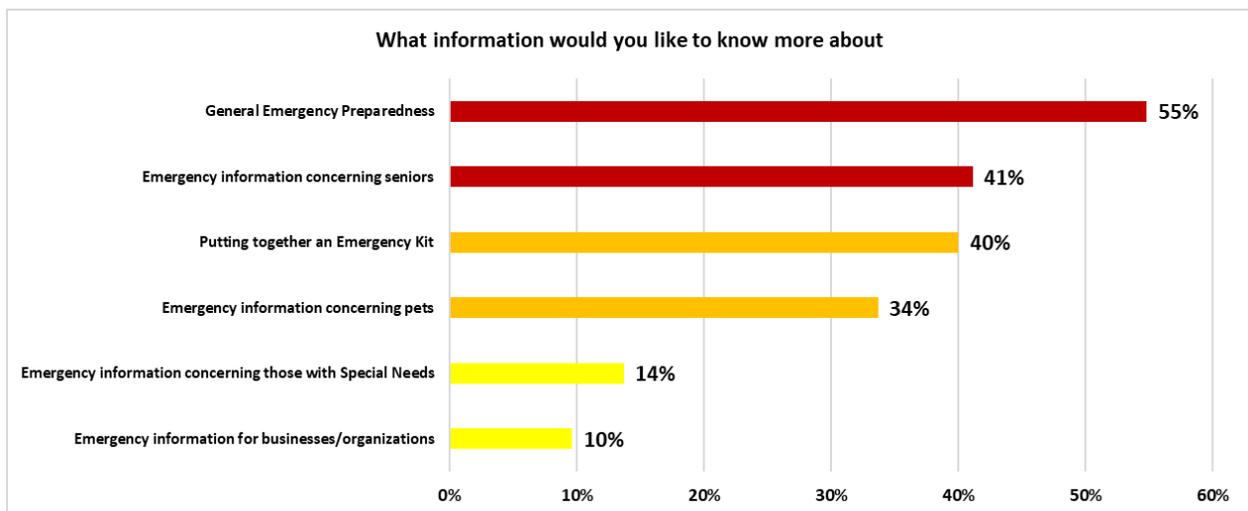
**11. In the event of an emergency, do you have someone you could rely on for:**

- Emotional Support 74%
- Help if injured 73%
- A place to stay 71%
- Financial help 38%
- None of the above 14%



## 12. What information would you like to know more about?

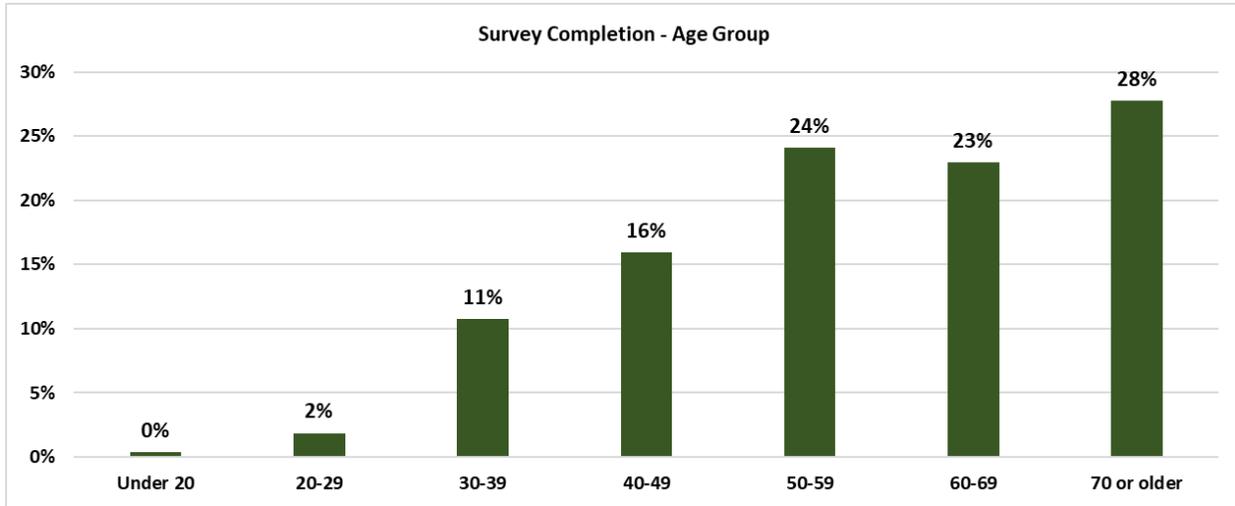
- General Emergency Preparedness
- Putting together an Emergency Kit
- Emergency Information concerning seniors
- Emergency information concerning pets
- Emergency information concerning those with special needs
- Emergency information for businesses/organizations
- Other:
  - “Disaster Funding and the risks my neighbourhood is most prone to” (New Minas)
  - “Financial Relief”
  - “How to communicate during the emergency”
  - “I already have/know most of the options relevant to me”
  - “I think I have enough”
  - “Where to go to get up-to-date information during an incident”
  - “Tornado information as that will be forthcoming more and more over the next number of years”
  - “I believe I’m well informed to-date”
  - “None – nothing comes to mind”
  - “School disaster plans”



## Survey Age Group

### 13. Please indicate your age:

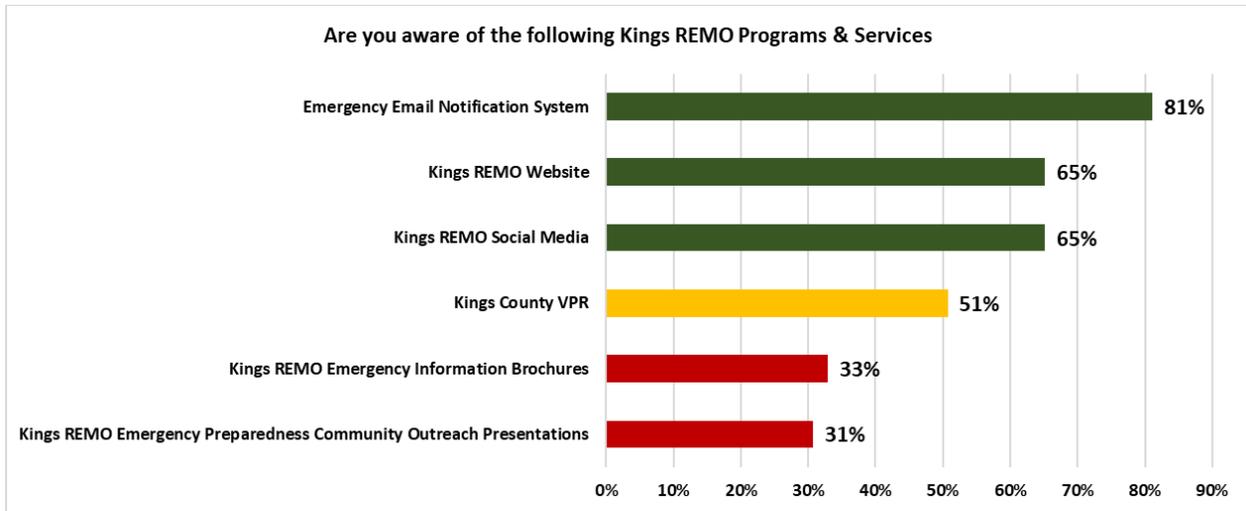
- Under 20
- 20-29
- 30-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70 or older



## Kings REMO Programs & Services

### 14. Are you aware of the following Kings REMO Programs & Services (check all that apply):

- Emergency Email Notification System
- Kings County Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)
- Kings REMO Website
- Kings REMO Emergency Information Brochures
- Kings REMO Social Media
- Kings REMO Emergency Preparedness Community Outreach presentations



**Preparedness TIP** **Emergency Email Notifications**

Subscribe to the Kings County Emergency Email Notification System  
Stay Informed about emergencies that may impact Kings County

Subscribe by sending an email to the Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator at [REMO\\_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca](mailto:REMO_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca)  
Subject: Emergency Emails

All emails are sent to subscribers "bcc" so that personal email information is not shared with other subscribers

Follow Kings REMO on Social media to Stay Informed about Emergencies  
Facebook: @REMO\_KingsCounty Twitter: @REMO\_KingsCty

**Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)**

Kings County, Nova Scotia

- Aims at improving the safety of residents living at home who would be at greater risk during emergencies
- Improves safety by providing key information to emergency response teams in order to help them be more aware when addressing large scale emergencies

**Registry is 100% Voluntary and Free**

[www.kingsremo.ca/vpr](http://www.kingsremo.ca/vpr)

VPR Coordinator: [REMO\\_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca](mailto:REMO_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca) | 902.676.3514

[www.kingsremo.ca](http://www.kingsremo.ca)

**Preparedness TIP** **Kings REMO Brochures**

**Kings REMO Brochures**  
Emergency Preparedness Checklists  
Know the Risks – Make a Plan – Get a Kit  
Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR)  
Kings County Comfort Centres

Request Kings REMO Brochures by sending an email to the Kings County Regional Emergency Management Coordinator at [REMO\\_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca](mailto:REMO_KingsCounty@countyofkings.ca)

Facebook: [REMO\\_KingsCounty](https://www.facebook.com/REMO_KingsCounty)  
Instagram: [@REMO\\_KingsCty](https://www.instagram.com/REMO_KingsCty)  
[remo.kingscounty.ca](http://remo.kingscounty.ca)

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**Additional Comments/Observations**

**15. In your opinion, what resources or support would be most beneficial for the community in enhancing overall emergency preparedness? Please provide applicable information if you would like to be contacted (email address, telephone number).**

- General comments provided around the key principles of emergency preparedness:
  - Know the Risks
  - Make a Plan
  - Get a Kit
- Comments identified by Issue (alphabetically listed)

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Survey Comment</b>
<b>Communications</b>	“Keey doing what you are doing. I appreciate the information that you send out in a very timely manner.” <b>Kingston</b>
<b>Communications (Generators)</b>	“Information about generators” <b>Kings</b>
<b>Communications (Reliable Sources)</b>	“Quick communication from a reliable source that does not give conflicting information” <b>Wolfville</b>
<b>Communications (Printed Messages)</b>	“Don't ignore the value of communicating via printed messages. The mistake is to think everyone is digital. Many seniors may have computer skills, but their life experience is to rely on print. With digital you rely on them to go searching for websites and posts they're not familiar with. Also, in a power outage they can't go on-line. I have three laptops, a tablet, a mobile phone and a landline. I have three email accounts. I am reachable - when there's power, but I don't have data turned on on my mobile because I am bombarded” <b>New Minas</b>
<b>Communications</b>	“Good communication with REMO already in place. Thanks.” <b>Burlington</b>
<b>Communications</b>	“Ongoing communication if there are emergency events” <b>Upper Pereaux</b>
<b>Communications (Timely &amp; Accurate)</b>	“Timely information that is accurate and informs on level of risk and actions to take.” <b>Kentville</b>
<b>Communications (Succinct Directions)</b>	“Being informed of emergency asap and given succinct directions and help during emergency.” <b>Wolfville</b>
<b>Communications (Regular &amp; Timely)</b>	“Regular, timely and detailed information alerts” <b>Baxters Harbour</b>
<b>Communications</b>	“Kings County are doing a great job in getting information out. Unfortunately, many people seem to ignore or dismiss the information and create panic when stressful events happen. Rural transportation does not

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Survey Comment</b>
	exist outside a few towns so in the event of a disaster, so most seniors become stranded in their homes.” <b>Wolfville Ridge</b>
<b>Communications (Community Sessions)</b>	“keep advertising about being prepared. hold community sessions at different times of day to reach everyone” <b>Kings</b>
<b>Communications (Presentations)</b>	“Presentation at schools...students can then pressure parents to get emergency ready, community preparedness events” <b>Wolfville</b>
<b>Communications (Brochures)</b>	“Brochures delivered to each home. Greater visibility” <b>Kings</b>
<b>Communications (Brochures)</b>	“Send out information brochures and info with the weekly flyers.” <b>Kings</b>
<b>Communications (Social Media)</b>	“Keep posting the updates on Facebook. Would be great if you could text message any warnings rather than just email.” <b>Kings</b>
<b>Communications (Social Media)</b>	“Social media and attracting a younger demographic.” <b>North Kentville</b>
<b>Communications (Email &amp; Social Media)</b>	“Email and social media notices of upcoming storms, emergencies, and how to prepare kits and where community gathering places are” <b>Kings</b> “Attracting a younger demographic” <b>North Kentville</b>
<b>Communications (Surveys)</b>	“Survey like this and a list of other sources is helpful.” <b>Greenfield area</b>
<b>Communications</b>	“Communication, we do not have cell service, our land line phone does not work without power and our internet is un-reliable in rural Kings County” <b>Lake Paul</b>
<b>Community Outreach (Face-to-Face)</b>	“Having a booth at local malls, maybe once per month, to actively engage people face to face” <b>Kingston</b>
<b>Community Outreach (Schools)</b>	“Presentation at schools....students can then pressure parents to get emergency ready.” <b>Wolfville</b>
<b>Community Resources (Ride Services)</b>	“Provide reminders of community resources, like warming centres and if a ride service is available to those whose yards may be blocked by snow” <b>New Minas</b>
<b>Emergency Kit</b>	“A store front to purchase items for a kit or a place to buy the complete kit” <b>North Kentville</b>
<b>Emergency Plan</b>	“A detailed risk assessment for my town and a plan” <b>Berwick</b>

Issue	Survey Comment
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<p>“Emergency preparedness should be part of school curriculum at all levels, every workspace, and it should be required for personal home insurance.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kings</b></p>
<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	<p>“Free Emergency Kits”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kentville &amp; Lockhartville</b></p>
<b>Emergency Shelters</b>	<p>“Knowing where to go/ finding a safe space to shelter and sleep during the emergency. Possibly money for food.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kentville</b></p>
<b>Evacuation</b>	<p>“A second road into the community”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Scots Bay</b></p>
<b>Experience</b>	<p>“utilize members of the public with emergency management experience (outside of the fire, EHS, and police sectors)”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wolfville</b></p>
<b>Prepare for the Unexpected</b>	<p>“Being prepared for the things that we previously thought were low probabilities. Until about 4 years ago, pandemics, fires and flooding were less likely in our area. Things have changed a lot and we need to look at how best to prepare for the unexpected”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kentville</b></p>
<b>Psychological Impacts / Mental Health</b>	<p>“We are very fortunate in our community to have a very comprehensive physical response plan to a disaster. It is unclear as to what supports and safeguards are put in place for the significant psychological impact should a large-scale disaster occur. A strategic plan for a triaged psychological response including PFA supports throughout the community.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Wolfville</b></p>
<b>Psychological Impacts / Mental Health</b>	<p>“The most beneficial thing overall in an emergency and/or disaster is a usable infrastructure. Having the ability to check on family and friends in an emergency is good for the mental health”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Ross Corner</b></p>
<b>Radio Stations</b>	<p>“I would like to have a local radio station provide us with 24-hour broadcasting in times of emergencies. There is comfort in hearing another human providing us with information and updates throughout the emergency. Most everyone has a battery powered radio and being able to sit in the dark and cold with another human giving us comfort is priceless”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kings</b></p>
<b>Resources</b>	<p>“A solid list of resources in my areas for things like where to get water. Is there water delivery for large animals”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kings</b></p>

Issue	Survey Comment
<b>Resources</b>	<p>“Provide reminders of community resources, like warming centres and if a ride share service is available to those who yards may be blocked by snow or trees”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>New Minas</b></p>
<b>Self-sufficiency</b>	<p>“Don’t rely on anybody else to come to your rescue. Make your own plan to sustain yourself for several days. Help could be a longtime coming.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kings</b></p>
<b>Self-sufficiency</b>	<p>“Having the community understand and respect the importance of looking after ourselves. That we are responsible to ourselves and family. To have community buy in with understanding the risks without causing fear/panic. The recent large-scale events are fresh in our minds. Many folks don’t get it that when they have an emergency there can many more people affected that just themselves.”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Hall’s Harbour</b></p>
<b>Vulnerable Population</b>	<p>“My biggest concern if for vulnerable population and those without financial means to prepare”</p>
<b>Vulnerable Population</b>	<p>“Neighbours are vulnerable due to mobility issues and blindness”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Kings</b></p>
<b>Vulnerabilities (Mitigation Measures)</b>	<p>“We need to know what the vulnerabilities are in our communities and neighborhoods. Are we at risk of urban interface fires, flooding? What is the municipality doing to mitigate these risks. How do I do my part in mitigating the risks?”</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>New Minas</b></p>