

# Virtual Conference: Emergency Management for Community Events

The following presentations were made at the Emergency Management for Community Events Forum hosted by the City of Markham and Calian on May 24, 2018. This was the first workshop of its kind in Ontario with a focus on emergency planning for community events. It provided topics addressing the changing landscape of security considerations for community events and community safety and will provide networking opportunities for municipal event planners, emergency planners and public safety professionals.

## **On the “Path to Disaster”: The Current State of Special Event Preparedness**

Presented by **Christine M. Van Winkle**, PhD, Associate Professor, Faculty of Kinesiology and Recreation Management, University of Manitoba

Events and festivals are key components of the recreation and tourism industries that pose a unique challenge for emergency management and response. Event attendees are particularly vulnerable during an emergency situation because of the event’s impermanence, irregularity, and location; as well as the visitor’s lack of familiarity with surroundings, distance from existing support networks. Event organizers may be the only ones that are able to reach the diverse audience and all stakeholders involved. As such, event organizations must be prepared for the range of possible emergency situations, but are they? [Click here to watch the presentation](#)

## **Special Event Planning: Food Safety for Thought**

Presented by Becky Hester, MBA, BAA Env, Health, CPHI (C), Manager, Health Protection Division, York Region Public Health

People attend community events for the activities but also for the food! This session will focus on the role of public health in special events where food is involved. Some of the topics that will be covered include food safety legislation, risk assessment, preventing foodborne illness, why is food safety important and what can go wrong with food preparation at community events. Examples of outbreaks, cost of outbreaks, cost of throwing out food, and how they can affect the reputation of a community event will be discussed. The session will also provide important tips in planning for food being served at special events along with contingency plans when unforeseen issues occur. [Click here to watch the presentation](#)

## **The Risky Business of Weather: Using Meteorological Tools to Manage Risk**

Presented by Ron Bianchi, Senior Associate, Meteorologist; Director of Strategic Development, Climate and Terrestrial Weather - Met-Ocean Services

Atmospheric events are becoming more intense, frequent, and unpredictable, changing our definition of “normal” weather. Understanding these changes is one thing, but emergency managers, event planners and municipalities have to be prepared to make time-sensitive decisions, based on complex meteorological information, in order to protect the public from possible life-threatening weather events. Innovative weather applications could potentially play a significant role in this process, but choosing the right tools to aid in interpreting weather data quickly and easily is key to managing risk and helping EMO’s make the right decisions in emergency situations.

[Click here to watch the presentation](#)

## **You Make It Fun, We’ll Make It Safe: Large Crowd Event Safety Planning in Brampton**

Presented by Alain Normand, Manager, Brampton Emergency Management Office (BEMO)

The City of Brampton, a growing community, organizes many outdoor events each year bringing bigger crowds all the time. The event organizers now count on the Brampton Emergency Management Office (BEMO) to coordinate all of the safety aspects of the events. BEMO has a standard operating guideline, established protocols, template questionnaires for event organizers, and onsite prevention and mitigation plans for those events. We are happy to share those with you. [Click here to watch the presentation](#)

