



October 23, 2017

(Municipal Fire Chief)

Dear Sir:

RE: First Responders Training Guide

In 2016, about 150 new road signs were installed in the Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Region. Almost 800 of these provincially-standard signs will be erected across Ontario on both municipal and provincial roads. The signs identify where well-used roads enter into zones where contaminant spills could quickly reach municipal drinking water sources.

As a follow-up to the Road Signs Awareness project, we have drafted a Firefighters Training Guide to provide more information for first responders who receive a call within these drinking water protection zones – areas surrounding municipal water sources – in order that prompt steps may be taken to protect public health in the event of an accidental spill.

Prompt notification of Ontario's Spills Action Centre (1-800-268-6060) and the local water treatment plant operator can help to prevent the contamination of public water supplies with accidentally spilled pollutants that may be harmful to public health. The goal is to shut off the raw water supply before contaminants can enter the public water treatment and distribution system.

Drinking Water Source Protection is working with local municipalities to ensure that this information and the applicable maps of the drinking water protection zones are included in local municipal emergency response plans. We are also advising the municipal CAOs and Clerks in our region to ensure that everyone knows about the new Guide.

The Guide explains the different protection zones and some of the chemicals that are of the greatest threat to a drinking water supply. We trust that this awareness and understanding will help to protect our water sources and public health.

If you have any questions or you would like additional training or information for your staff, please do not hesitate to contact me at 519-470-3000 Extension 102, or toll-free at 1-877-470-3001 Extension 102 or c.seider@waterprotection.ca.

Thank you for sharing this important information with your staff and for your vital work to keep our communities safe.

Yours truly,



Carl Seider, Project Manager
Drinking Water Source Protection

Enclosures:

Drinking Water Protection Zone Road Sign Fact Sheet
First Responders Training Guide
Source Protection Plan Map for local Municipal System

Background

The road signs are a part of the implementation of provincially-approved local source protection plans that set out how public water supplies will be protected. The Saugeen, Grey Sauble, Northern Bruce Peninsula Source Protection Plan, effective July 1, 2016, was developed by a local committee and then reviewed and approved by the province.

We have worked closely with our local municipalities and the province on drinking water source protection since the passing of the *Clean Water Act* in 2006. The signs are approved by Ontario's Ministries of Transportation and Environment and Climate Change.

Maps of the drinking water protection zones, also known as vulnerable areas, surrounding local municipal drinking water sources are available at <http://home.waterprotection.ca/source-protection-plan/>.

An interactive mapping tool can be found here: <http://home.waterprotection.ca/>

Road sign factsheet can be found here: <http://home.waterprotection.ca/resources/publications/>