

# Elmer the Safety Elephant® “Be Prepared!” Poster Contest

## If there is an emergency will you be prepared?

### PARTICIPANTS

This year, all grade two to five students across Canada are eligible to participate in Elmer’s “Be Prepared!” Poster Contest.

### THEME

The contest theme is “If there is an emergency will you be prepared”? Students can create a poster that involves how they would help prepare their family in case of an emergency. The student can draw a poster of their escape route from each room in their home, or what they would put in their emergency kit or what they would do with their family pet in case of an emergency. The poster must have a safe message and show how they would help their family prepare for an emergency.

### PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded as follows:

1st prize	\$300.00
2nd prize	\$200.00
3rd prize	\$100.00

Each grade will be awarded a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize. The teachers and schools of the 1st prize winners will receive \$100.00. All participants will receive a safety booklet.

### DEADLINE

All entries must be received by March 26, 2010.

### MATERIALS

Drawings can be on plain white paper or construction paper. Crayons, colouring pencils, markers and paint may be used. (Please no grease pencils or pastel crayons). Teachers may help their students with the written message.

### SIZE

Drawings must be between 21½ cm x 28 cm (8½ x 11") and 40½ cm x 51 cm (16" x 20").

### RULES

The student’s name, grade level, school name and teacher’s name must be printed on the back of the entry. (Omission of this information will disqualify an entry). Computer generated artwork will disqualify an entry. An entry form must accompany each entry or set of entries. All information requested on this form is important, so please make sure it is accurate. (Photocopied entry forms are acceptable).

For a greater chance at winning, the poster must show a safe message. Artwork must coincide with written message.

Please send entry forms and posters to the Canada Safety Council, 1020 Thomas Spratt Place, Ottawa, Ontario, K1G 5L5.

## TEACHER’S NOTES

The Canada Safety Council and its partner Public Safety Canada are pleased to have your students participate in Elmer’s “Be Prepared!” Poster Contest.

Thunderstorms, hail, blizzards, ice storms, hurricanes, storm surges, tornadoes and heavy rain can develop quickly and threaten life and property. These severe storms occur in all regions of Canada and through all seasons.

Taking the time to prepare in advance will help lessen the impact of an emergency. The following seven steps to safety will help prepare for any kind of emergency.

#### Step 1

#### Learn about natural hazards

Below are definitions of some natural hazards that have occurred in Canada in the past. Learning about the risks ahead of time will help you and your family “Be Prepared!” in case one of them happens in your neighbourhood.

#### Earthquakes

Approximately 5,000, mostly small earthquakes are recorded in Canada each year. In the past 100 years, at least nine earthquakes in or near Canada have registered a magnitude greater than 7.0 on the Richter scale.

Earthquakes are the shaking, rolling or sudden shock of the earth’s surface. Earthquakes happen along “fault lines” in the earth’s crust. Earthquakes can be felt over large areas and usually last less than one minute. Earthquakes cannot be predicted — although scientists are working on it!

The intensity of an earthquake can be measured. One measurement is called the Richter scale. Earthquakes below 4.0 on the Richter scale usually do not cause damage, and earthquakes below 2.0 usually can’t be felt. Earthquakes over 5.0 on the scale can cause damage.

A magnitude 6.0 earthquake is considered strong and a magnitude 7.0 is a major earthquake.

The most important thing to remember during an earthquake is to DROP, COVER and HOLD ON. So remember to DROP to the floor and get under something for COVER and HOLD ON during the shaking.

If you are at school, get under a desk or table and hold on. Face away from windows.

If you are outdoors, stay outdoors. Go to an open area away from buildings.

#### Hurricanes

Hurricanes occasionally hit eastern Canada usually between June and November – September is the peak month.

Hurricanes are severe tropical storms that gather heat and energy through contact with warm ocean waters. Evaporation from the seawater increases their power.

Hurricanes rotate in a counter-clockwise direction around an “eye.” Hurricanes have winds of at least 120 km/h. The heavy rain, strong winds and heavy waves can damage buildings, trees and cars.

The heavy waves are called a storm surge. Storm surges are very dangerous and a major reason why you must stay away from the ocean during a hurricane warning or hurricane.