

# Media Release

## Hamilton Police and City's HES, Fire and EMS on ICE (In Case of Emergency)

**For Immediate Release:** November 23, 2005  
Hamilton, ON

Hamilton Police Service (HPS) in partnership with the City of Hamilton's Emergency Services (HES), Fire and Emergency Medical Service (EMS) divisions are encouraging residents to store emergency contact details in their mobile/cell phones.

By entering the acronym ICE – In Case of Emergency – into a mobile/cell phone address directory/book, users can log the name and number of someone who should be contacted in an emergency. This is a simple way for police and emergency services personnel to retrieve contact information quickly. This will help for next of kin details for hospital staff regarding medical treatment and police officers in investigative purposes.

"With ICE, we would know immediately the most appropriate person to contact and what number to call," said Det. Sgt. Peter Abi-Rashed, "Many say they carry cell phones in case of an emergency so it's a natural that emergency contact information be stored there."

"In a medical emergency, past history is often critical information needed by the rescuers to assist them in providing the most appropriate medical treatment. Having direct access to a number to call when the patient cannot talk will be invaluable, whether it be at a medical or fire emergency scene" said Jim Kay, Chief of Hamilton Emergency Service, Fire and EMS.

Most available statistics indicate that over 80 percent of the population has cell phones and that same percentage of the population does not carry emergency contact information.

The ICE initiative began in England and is now gaining momentum throughout North America.

Hamilton Police Service and HES provide policing, fire and emergency medical services to over 512,000 residents.

HPS as the sixth largest police service in Ontario, it deploys 720 police officers and 263 civilian members. In 2004, HPS responded to over 84,800 calls for service and handled 40,541 reported offences. Considered a leader in policing, it has also been recognized as one of Canada's Top 100 Employers for the last four consecutive years.

HES employs 962 staff. In 2004, combined Fire and EMS responded to over 77,668 calls. The Fire division is one of three in Canada with the highest insurance rating for Fire Departments in Canada, and the EMS Division is amongst the highest performers in the Ontario Municipal Benchmarking Initiatives program.

-30-

Media inquiries:  
HPS EMS



Hamilton Police Service

For more information, contact:

**Catherine Martin**  
Corporate Communicator  
905-546-4764  
[cmartin@hamiltonpolice.on.ca](mailto:cmartin@hamiltonpolice.on.ca)

Bob Simpson  
HES Public Information  
bsimpson@hamilton.ca  
905-546-2424, Ext 7769

Authority:  
**Chief Brian Mullan**  
Chief of Police

Chief Jim Kay  
Chief of Fire and EMS

**Police Headquarters**  
155 King William Street  
P.O. Box 1060  
LCD 1  
Hamilton, Ontario  
L8N 4C1  
Phone: (905) 546-4925  
Fax: (905) 546-4752  
Web:  
[www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca](http://www.hamiltonpolice.on.ca)

**HES Headquarters**  
55 King William Street  
Hamilton Ontario  
Phone: (905) 546-2424, Ext.  
3345  
Fax: (905) 546-3344  
Web:  
[www.myhamilton.ca](http://www.myhamilton.ca)