PREPARING FOR A GLOBAL EMERGENCY?
SOLAR STORMS, MICROSOFT FAILURE AND THE 72-HOUR WARNING

EUROPE / CANADA — Why is the European Union urging millions of citizens to prepare to survive independently for at least 72 hours?

Could governments be anticipating a catastrophic solar storm, widespread technological failure or another international emergency?

Those questions have gained renewed attention following new scientific findings about extreme solar activity and a massive Microsoft system failure affecting businesses and governments worldwide.

Although authorities have not established a connection between these developments, together they expose vulnerabilities in the electrical and communications systems supporting modern society.

On November 3, 2026, the European Commission introduced additional emergency preparedness guidelines encouraging residents across its 27 member states to maintain sufficient supplies for the first 72 hours of a crisis.

The recommendations form part of the EU Preparedness Union Strategy, originally introduced in March 2025.

European Commissioner Hadja Lahbib emphasized the importance of preparing households and communities for emergencies.

The strategy addresses military threats, cyberattacks, natural disasters, pandemics and disruptions to critical infrastructure.

However, another potential danger deserves attention: extreme solar activity.

Scientists have long warned that powerful solar eruptions could severely disrupt Earth's technological infrastructure.

Solar flares and coronal mass ejections can trigger geomagnetic storms capable of interfering with electrical transmission networks, satellites, GPS navigation and radio communications.

A sufficiently intense storm could damage power equipment and create cascading disruptions affecting transportation, banking, communications and essential public services.

Unlike ordinary electrical failures, an extreme geomagnetic event could affect geographically distant regions simultaneously.In 1859, the historic Carrington Event disrupted telegraph systems around the world.

A comparable event today would encounter a civilization far more dependent upon electricity and digital connectivity.

Canada has already experienced a serious example. In March 1989, a geomagnetic storm caused a major Hydro-Québec blackout affecting approximately six million people for nine hours.

Research highlighted in November 2026 examined the powerful May 2024 Gannon geomagnetic storm.

Scientists from Nagoya University discovered that approximately 85 per cent of certain charged particles contributing to Earth's storm-time ring current originated from Earth's own upper atmosphere.

Measurements also revealed a 40 per cent reduction in magnetic field strength approximately 16,000 kilometres above Earth during the storm.

Research leader Naritoshi Kitamura explained that understanding these storms has consequences beyond scientific curiosity, including protecting spacecraft, communications and electrical systems.

The findings suggest Earth's upper atmosphere plays a greater role in extreme geomagnetic disturbances than previously recognized.

Importantly, these measurements do not mean Earth's magnetic field weakened by 40 per cent everywhere.

Adding to concerns, a worldwide Microsoft outage beginning November 12 disrupted Outlook, Teams, Copilot and other Microsoft 365 services.

Reports originated from approximately 74 countries



and territories, affecting government agencies, financial institutions, hospitals, businesses and communication networks.

Microsoft reported infrastructure problems involving unavailable servers, excessive processing loads and network configuration issues.

The company indicated that its investigation had found no evidence of malicious activity.

There is currently no verified evidence connecting the Microsoft failure to solar storms.

Nevertheless, the incident demonstrates how a relatively concentrated technological failure can disrupt services across numerous countries.

Technology analyst Paolo Pescatore told Reuters:

"The pressure is mounting to invest in contingency plans and test whether those backups actually work when needed."

The European warning carries implications beyond Europe. Canadian communities depend heavily on interconnected electricity networks, telecommunications, electronic banking and digital public services.

The Pentagon has launched an initiative called FORTRESS (Federal Operations for Resilience, Troop Resources, Energy, Supply, and Survivability), requiring every major U.S. military base in the continental United States to operate independently off the civilian grid for at least 90 days. Unveiled by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and detailed in leaked planning documents, the multi-year program prepares bases for potential cyberattacks, sabotage, or supply chain disruptions during a major conflict.

A prolonged blackout could interrupt heating, water treatment, fuel distribution, medical services and emergency communications.

Canada's federal government also recommends maintaining at least 72 hours of emergency supplies.

There is no confirmed evidence that European authorities issued their preparedness recommendations because they expect an imminent solar catastrophe.

Nor is there evidence that Microsoft's recent outage was triggered by unusual solar activity.

However, these developments demonstrate why governments are strengthening emergency preparedness. The question is no longer whether modern infrastructure can experience major failures. Recent events demonstrate that it can. The real question is whether governments, businesses and households are adequately prepared when essential systems stop working.

For families across Durham Region and beyond, maintaining emergency supplies, reliable backup communications and independent access to important information remains a sensible precaution.

On Friday November 13th, 2026 the U.S. government Grounds all flights in the United States are grounded until further notice, “due to extraordinary circumstances and for reasons of safety,” the Federal Aviation Administration said. The issue stems from a telecommunications outage, the root cause is still unclear.

No known threat: Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin said the ground stop did not stem from a threat to the US and was not linked to this week’s disruptive Microsoft outage.

Preliminary reports indicate this was not a cyberattack.

No timetable for resolution: Mullin warned that a resolution will take time.

News of the rare nationwide ground stop is trickling in to passengers at major airports across the country as airlines start to share updates about delays and cancellations.

As it is. It appears that the world may be under a solar attack. This will come gradualy and when in it’s full strike. The electromagnetic fields may be so strong that will shut down the world for 72 hours.

Stay tuned...

FROM PAGE 5

WHITBY — RESIDENTS INVITED TO SHAPE 2027 MUNICIPAL BUDGET

The Town of Whitby is inviting public feedback on spending priorities for its 2027 budget.Residents can identify priorities involving roads, parks, community facilities and other municipal services.Mayor Elizabeth Roy is also preparing for the new council's inaugural meeting November 16.

AJAX — SWIMMING SUPERVISOR FACES SERIOUS CRIMINAL CHARGES

Durham Regional Police announced November 9 that a 20-year-old supervisor at an Ajax swimming facility had been charged following allegations involving a 15-year-old employee.Charges include sexual offences and forcible confinement.Investigators believe additional victims may exist. The allegations have not been proven in court.

OSHAWA — ATTEMPTED MURDER INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

A 28-year-old Oshawa man has been charged following the November 6 stabbing near Adelaide Avenue East and Ritson Road North.Two people suffered serious injuries.Police announced the charges November 9 and described the incident as isolated.The allegations have not been proven in court.

BOWMANVILLE — HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT CONTRACT AWARDED

Lakeridge Health and Infrastructure Ontario have awarded PCL Partnerships the contract for the Bowmanville Hospital redevelopment.The expanded hospital will more than double the existing facility's size and add private patient rooms, critical-care capacity, outpatient services and a rooftop helipad.Site preparations are expected this fall, with major construction beginning in 2027.

Thursday, November 12, 2026

PICKERING / CLARINGTON — DARLINGTON NUCLEAR PROJECT FACES COST AND SCHEDULE SETBACK Ontario Power Generation announced November 11 that its Darlington small modular reactor project is no longer expected to meet its previous October 2030 operational target.OPG also indicated that the first reactor is no longer expected to be completed within its previously estimated $7.7-billion cost.A comprehensive assessment of the project's budget and construction schedule is expected to be substantially completed by mid-2027.Meanwhile, refurbishment preparations at the Pickering Nuclear Generating Station are reportedly ahead of schedule, with major construction planned for early 2027, subject to regulatory approval.

PICKERING — FIRE TRUCKS TO RECEIVE DIGITAL WARNING TECHNOLOGY Pickering Fire Services is introducing a digital emergency-vehicle alert system designed to warn motorists when fire trucks are approaching or operating nearby.The technology can provide up to 30 seconds of advance warning through compatible vehicle dashboards and navigation applications.The system has already been installed on one ladder truck, with additional vehicles scheduled to receive the equipment.Twelve fire trucks are expected to be equipped as the program expands.

DURHAM — LAKERIDGE HEALTH RECOGNIZED FOR ORGAN DONATION PERFORMANCE Lakeridge Health has received two provincial awards recognizing its organ and tissue donation efforts.Over the past year, nine organ donors contributed 31 organs for transplantation, helping save 27 lives.Another 88 tissue donors contributed to improving patients' lives.The hospital network achieved a 100 per cent eligible approach rate, exceeding the provincial target of 90 per cent.

Friday, November 13, 2026

PORT PERRY / SCUGOG — NEW MAYOR ANNOUNCES FIRST 100-DAY PRIORITIES Scugog mayor-elect Ian McDougall has outlined his priorities as he prepares to assume office November 15.McDougall says his first 45 to 100 days will focus on reviewing municipal capital projects, identifying unnecessary expenditures and building relationships with the incoming council.He has also identified roads and recreation as priorities.On the future of the Port Perry Fairgrounds, McDougall says he wants the annual fair to remain at its existing location and hopes to resolve the issue before the 2027 event.Scugog's new council includes four new members and three returning members.

DURHAM — KEVIN ASHE ASSUMES REGIONAL LEADERSHIP THIS WEEKEND Pickering Mayor Kevin Ashe is scheduled to begin his appointment as Durham Regional Chair and Chief Executive Officer on Sunday, November 15.The Ontario government appointed Ashe for the 2026–2030 term.He will continue serving as Pickering Mayor while chairing Durham Regional Council, with only one salary paid for the two roles.

WHITBY — MUNICIPAL BUDGET AND COUNCIL TRANSITION IN FOCUS Whitby's incoming council is preparing for its November 16 inaugural meeting.Residents have also been invited to identify priorities for the 2027 municipal budget, including roads, parks and public facilities.

OSHAWA — NEW CITY COUNCIL TO BE INAUGURATED MONDAY Oshawa's inaugural council meeting is scheduled for Monday, November 16, at 9:30 a.m. at Tribute Communities Centre.Mayor-elect Tito-Dante Marimpietri and the newly elected council will begin their term.The public venue is intended to provide additional space for residents to attend.



A M114 155mm Howitzer belonging to the Br.#43 of the Royal Canadian Legion was returned to them after being refurbished by Canadian Tank Museum volunteers in honor of the Legion's 100th anniversary.