



TIP SHEET:

WHAT TO DO

in the event of an evacuation alert or order

Due to the ongoing threat of wildfires to communities and citizens, many B.C. communities may receive an evacuation order or evacuation alert at any time. If you live in an area at risk of a wildfire, be prepared to leave your home on short notice.

In the event an evacuation alert is issued for your area:

- Be ready to leave your home on short notice. Keep your vehicle fuelled (or charged) and ready to go. Be able to manually raise your garage door in the event of a power failure, or park your vehicle outside.
- Stay tuned to your local authority's public information channels, as well as EmergencyInfoBC for updates: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca.
- Have your emergency kit and important documents ready to go, which should include contact information for your insurance broker, personal papers such as birth certificates, cash in small bills, and computer back-ups.

Also pack:

- several days' clothing;
- medicine/prescriptions;
- comfort items for children, like a favourite toy or colouring books to help keep them busy; and
- leashes, carriers, and food for pets.
- Consider collecting precious photos and mementoes that cannot be replaced.

Also, check in on any family, friends, or neighbours who may need a helping hand due to mobility or other issues.

When placed under an evacuation order, people must leave the area immediately. Stay calm, listen to local public officials, and if possible, access social media channels like *@BCGovFireInfo* and *@EmergencyInfoBC* on Twitter or your local government website for information updates.

Have a family emergency plan that includes what to do with 15 minutes notice, one hour notice, and so on. Write it down and keep it handy. When an evacuation order is issued:

- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants, and sturdy shoes to help protect from unforeseen hazards.
- Collect family members or go to the place designated in your family plan as a meeting place.
- Have a plan for your pets; do not leave them behind. Pets are usually not permitted in public shelters; those that do accept pets will not have pet supplies. Pack what your pet will need for one week. Take your pet in a carrying crate or on a leash.
- Grab your emergency kit and follow the directions to the identified reception centre.
- Follow the routes specified by emergency officials.

Avoid shortcuts – they could lead to a blocked or dangerous area.

- Take critical items already in your kit (medicine, purse, wallet, and keys).
- Close all doors and windows. Close and latch gates, but do not lock them.
- Take your cellphone (and charger).
- If there is time and it is safe to do so, shut off water at the main line into your home and switch off electricity at the breaker panel. Leave natural gas service on.
- Stay well away from any downed power lines.
- If going to an evacuation centre, sign in at the registration desk so you can be contacted or reunited with family and loved ones.
- Contact your out-of-area emergency contact (identified in your personal emergency plan) to let them know what has happened, that you are alright and how to contact you. Alert them to any separated family members.
- Keep receipts for your living expenses while evacuated, and talk to your insurance broker about the coverage you may have for these costs and/or other losses incurred.

Local authority officials will advise when it is safe to return home. Evacuees are also encouraged to register online at: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>.

