



10 Steps to FireSmart Your Home

Move firewood 10-30 meters from your home



Take an inventory of the trees that grow on your property. Trees such as pine are more flammable. Birch and aspen are more fire-resistant



Keep grass cut to less than 10 cm high



Clean your roof and gutters of leaves & pine needles



Make sure everyone in your family knows where the gas, electric, and water mains shut-off are!



Trim and prune any trees or vegetation that overhang your roof



Have a wildfire evacuation plan with your household



Are your roof and chimney clean?
Do you have a spark arrestor?
Having a clean, protected roof improves the chances of an entire structure surviving.



Relocate propane tanks 10-30 meters from your home



Visit [FireSmartBC.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca) for the FireSmart Homeowner's Manual or firesmartcanada.ca for a guide to fire-resistant plants and landscaping



How to Build an Emergency Kit and Grab-and-Go Bag

Following a disaster, you may need to stay at home with your emergency kit or leave immediately with your grab-and-go bags. Gather and organize your emergency supplies now so you're ready when disaster strikes.

Building your emergency kit or grab-and-go bag doesn't need to be expensive or take a lot of time. Follow our basic supply lists below. Just remember to consider the unique needs of your household, such as including items for pets or seniors.

Emergency Kit Supplies

Put your supplies in one or two containers, such as plastic bins or duffel bags. Store them in an area of your home that's easy to get to, such as a hall closet, spare room or garage.

- Non-perishable food: three-day to one-week supply, with a manual can opener
- Water: four litres per person, per day for drinking and sanitation
- Phone charger, battery bank or inverter
- Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight
- Extra batteries
- First-aid kit and medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Copy of your emergency plan, copies of important documents, such as insurance papers
- Cash in small bills
- Garbage bags and moist towelettes for personal sanitation
- Seasonal clothing, sturdy footwear and emergency blanket
- Dust masks if you live in an area that's prone to earthquakes
- Whistle
- Help/OK Sign: Display the appropriate side outward in your window during a disaster.



Build a Grab-and-Go Bag

You may need to leave immediately in the event of an emergency. Be ready to go by having a smaller version of your emergency kit in an easy-to-access place in your home. In addition to having one at home, create grab-and-go bags for your workplace and vehicles that contain:

- Food (ready to eat) and water
- Phone charger and battery bank
- Small battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight
- Extra batteries
- Small first-aid kit and personal medications
- Personal toiletries and items, such as an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses
- Copy of your emergency plan, copies of important documents, such as insurance papers
- Cash in small bills
- Local map with your family meeting place identified
- Seasonal clothing and an emergency blanket
- Pen and notepad
- Whistle

Grab-and-Go Bag





FAQ: How to Pack Water in Your Emergency Kit

Source: PreparedBC www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc

How much water do I need?

The general rule is to pack four litres of water per person per day.

- Children, people who are nursing and people who are sick may need more.
- Hot temperatures can double water needs.
- Pets need about 30 millilitres of water per kilogram of body weight per day. An average-sized cat or small-sized dog needs at least 1/5 of a litre, or half a cup, daily.

How and where do I store my water?

- It's recommended you purchase commercially-bottled water and keep it in its original container in an easily accessible, cool and dark place.
- Make sure you don't open the water until you need it.
- Observe the expiration or "best before" dates.
- Set a reminder in your phone or remember to check the dates when the clocks "spring forward" and "fall back".

Can I purify my own water?

- It is recommended to buy commercially-bottled water.
- Knowing how to purify water can help you if your regular water supply becomes contaminated or if you are in a place where clean water is not available.
- There are steps you can take to purify your drinking water:
<https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/tf6354>

What hidden water sources are available in my home?

- There are hidden water sources in your home that can be made safe to drink.
- Ice cubes in a freezer can be melted down into potable water.
- There may be water in your hot-water tank and water pipes; but, you should purify it before using it for drinking, food preparation, or hygiene.
- Do not use water from toilet tanks or bowls, radiators, waterbeds, pools or spas.

What about water filtration devices?

- These take up less room and there are a lot of available options. Different brands offer many filter types and sizes, ranging from water bottle-sized to 18-litre containers or larger.
- If you choose filtration, it's still a good idea to store some bottled water as well.



What to Do if You Are Evacuated

Local First Nations governments are responsible for planning for and responding to emergency events. The FNHA supports governments to coordinate emergency health services and relief for community members and works with non-Indigenous governments to ensure that evacuees have access to culturally-safe care and mental wellness supports.



KNOW YOUR EVACUATION STAGES

Be prepared. Understand the evacuation stages used in British Columbia, and what to do for each. This will help you respond quickly and confidently.

Evacuation Alert:
Be ready to leave
on short notice.

Evacuation Order:
You are at risk. Leave
IMMEDIATELY.

Evacuation Rescind:
All is now safe and you
can return home.

Above image is from the Government of BC Wildfire Preparedness Guide.

What to do when you receive an Evacuation Order

During an Evacuation Order, evacuees should do the following:

1. Follow instructions on where to go provided by your First Nation or local authority
2. If you can, help Elders and neighbours who have limited mobility to evacuate
3. Visit Emergency Info BC or follow @EmergencyInfoBC for news and updates
4. Wait for the evacuation to be rescinded before returning home

If you have tested positive for COVID-19

- Connect with your case manager for the latest health system information
- If possible:
 - Evacuate by your own vehicle. If you do not have a personal vehicle, ask your case manager for instructions
 - Maintain physical distancing while travelling
 - Go to designated accommodations immediately using the most direct, safe route