

Evacuation

Authorities will not ask you to prepare to leave your home unless they have reason to believe that you are in danger.

When an Evacuation Alert is Given

- Do not assume an evacuation will only last a few hours. Plan to evacuate with enough items to keep your family comfortable for a minimum of 72 hours.
- Keep the radio on all day, tuned to a local station. Have a battery-powered radio ready in case of power failure.
- Download the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) app for alerts in your community.
- Keep in touch with any absent household members to ensure a plan is in place if evacuation orders are given.

When an Evacuation Order is Given

- Vacate your home when you are advised to do so by local emergency authorities. Ignoring such a warning could jeopardize the safety of your family or those who might eventually have to come to your rescue.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Follow the routes specified by officials. Do not take shortcuts. They could lead you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Drive carefully with headlights on. Make way for pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Stop at the pre-determined marshaling point(s). Report to authorities and wait for further instructions. Do not leave again without informing officials.
- Do not return to your property until permitted to do so by authorities.
- If time permits, leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave the note in there.

Make Sure You Take

- [Your emergency kit](#)
- [Your emergency plan](#)
- Essential medications and copies of prescriptions
- A cellular phone and charger (if you have one)

- [Your pets](#) (pets are not allowed in some emergency shelters, so plan in advance for a pet-friendly location and make sure you bring your pet carrier.)

Protect Your Home

- Shut off water and electricity if officials tell you to.
- Leave natural gas service on, unless officials tell you to turn it off. (If you turn off the gas, the gas company has to reconnect it. In a major emergency, it could take weeks for a professional to respond. You would be without gas for heating and cooking).
- If the evacuation occurs in the winter, take extra precautions. Turn off the water and then drain the water from your plumbing system. Starting at the top of the house, open all taps, and flush toilets several times. Go to the basement and open the drain valve. Drain your hot water tank by attaching a hose to the tank drain valve and running it to the basement floor (if you have a gas-fired tank, the pilot light should be turned out - call the local gas supplier to re-light it). Protect the valve, inlet pipe, and meter or pump with blankets or insulation material.
- Lock your home.

If You Have Time

- Call or e-mail your out-of-town contact. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive. (Once you are safe, let them know. Tell them if any family members have become separated.)
- Leave a note telling others when you left and where you are going. If you have a mailbox, leave the note there.
- If appropriate and available, consider registering with the evacuee registry. This will make it easier for you to attain critical information and services when they are available.

For more information on hazards in Alberta, contact your municipality or community's Director of Emergency Management or the Alberta Emergency Management Agency at 780-422-9000 (Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton). You can also visit www.aema.alberta.ca.