

BE PREPARED

Floods- flooding is a common, naturally occurring event in B.C. Although it can happen at any time of year, the most severe floods typically occur in spring — known as freshet — or during fall and winter. This seasonal flooding is usually caused by heavy rain and snowmelt. Homes may be at risk when flood water spreads to adjoining areas that are normally dry. Depending on the type and severity of flooding, it could take hours, weeks and potentially months for the water to recede and the clean-up to begin.



Protect Your Home and Property- Download the PreparedBC: Flood Information for Homeowners and Home Buyers guide to learn about protecting your home and property.

Flood Information for Homeowners and Home Buyers.

Recognize the Danger Signs- Heavy snowmelt may contribute to landslides and dangerous debris in creeks and waterways. Be safe and don't go down to watch the rushing water. If you notice trees beginning to lean or bend near your home, or cracks developing in the hillside, consult an engineer or contact local authorities. If you live near a waterway, a change in water colour or rapid change in water level (especially a drop) could indicate a problem upstream. Call your local fire, police or public works department immediately if you suspect something out of the ordinary.

Sandbagging- It takes two people about one hour to fill and place 100 sandbags, giving you a one-foot-by-20-foot wall. Make sure you have enough sand, burlap or plastic bags (NOTE: you should tie the ends of plastic bags shut to prevent the sand and bags from washing away), shovels and time to prepare properly.

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LATEST UPDATES

(blog-style RSS feed that can be easily pushed out to e-subscribers)

MAP

Embed TNRD Emergency Info Map

<http://tnrd.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=8ce7f3422b724dfeb1d6412c1897c6b7>

(I'll add a blurb about searching the map below)

BE PREPARED

Types of Emergencies

- Floods
- Wildfires

Floods

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Flood Preparedness

Flood waters move fast, so develop a household plan, put together your emergency kit and connect with your neighbours. Learn about the emergency response plan for your area.

If you face a threatening flood situation, park vehicles away from streams and waterways, move electrical appliances to upper floors and make sure to anchor fuel supplies. Listen to local officials if you are asked to evacuate.

Protect Your Home and Property

Download the PreparedBC: Flood Information for Homeowners and Home Buyers guide (PDF, 2.22MB) to learn about protecting your home and property.

Flood Information for Homeowners and Home Buyers

<https://youtu.be/rNjTRyVSC0g>

Recognize the Danger Signs

Heavy snowmelt may contribute to landslides and dangerous debris in creeks and waterways. Be safe and don't go down to watch the rushing water. If you notice trees beginning to lean or bend near your home, or cracks developing in the hillside, consult an engineer or contact local authorities.

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Instructions on how to build a sandbag dike to protect your property from flood waters.

Sandbag Dike Tips

<https://youtu.be/exb2iUgH8cl>

Wildfires

Many wildfires in B.C. occur far from cities and towns, but sometimes they threaten homes, businesses and infrastructure. Help keep your family safe by preparing in advance for a potential evacuation alert or order. Develop a

household plan, put together your emergency kit and connect with your neighbours.

Wildfire Readiness

<https://youtu.be/-NmVROeq6vA>

Prevent Wildfires

Nearly half of all wildfires in B.C. are caused by human carelessness. You can make a difference by following a few simple rules.

- Heed prohibitions: check for bans and restrictions before striking the match
- Camp responsibly: In B.C., campfires can't be larger than 0.5 metres by 0.5 metres. Keep a shovel or at least eight litres of water nearby to extinguish your fire, and don't forget to create a firebreak. That means making a one-metre debris-free area around your fire by scraping down to the dirt. Before leaving, ensure your campfire is completely out and the ashes cool to touch. Check out this video to learn more
- Phone it in: call 1-800-663-5555 or *5555 on your cell if you spot smoke, flames or an unattended campfire

Evacuation Stages

- Evacuation Order: You are at risk. Leave the area immediately. You are encouraged to register all family members at the reception centre so, emergency responders know that you are safe
- Evacuation Alert: Be ready to leave on short notice. If you leave before or during this alert, it's called a voluntary evacuation
- Evacuation Rescinded: All is currently safe and you can return home. Stay tuned for other possible evacuation alerts or orders

Backcountry Closures

Wildfires can impact backcountry recreation, resulting in area closures or restrictions. Campers and provincial park visitors should check with BC Parks for fire restrictions and closures and recreation site and trail users can check with Recreation Sites and Trails BC.

FireSmart Your Property

More and more people are making their homes in woodland settings. While beautiful, these locations come with a greater wildfire risk. Ensure your home insurance is up-to-date and includes adequate coverage for fire damage. You can also help protect your property by planning ahead. Start by completing a risk assessment in BC's FireSmart Manual.

FireSmart® your property

If you wait, you may be too late



Priority Zone 1 HOME / 10 metres

This should be a fire-resistant zone, free of all materials that could easily ignite from a wildfire.



REGULAR MAINTENANCE:

Regularly clean your roof, gutters, etc. of debris.

FIRESMART RENOVATIONS:

As your budget allows, renovate your home with fire-resistant materials, mesh debris screens, a chimney spark arrestor, etc.



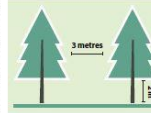
FIRESMART LANDSCAPING: Keep woodpiles, propane tanks, outbuildings and combustibles at least 10 metres away from your home. Consult the *FireSmart® Guide to Landscaping* for more tips.



YARD MAINTENANCE: Regularly mow your lawn. Remove deadfall, coniferous trees and other flammable vegetation. Sweep your decks and rake up tree needles, leaves and debris.

Priority Zone 2 10 - 30 metres

Reduce fuels in this area by thinning and pruning vegetation and trees. This will slow a fire's spread.



TREE SPACING:

Space trees at least three metres apart.

PRUNING TREES:

Prune all branches within two metres of the ground.



REMOVE SURFACE FUELS: Regularly clean up accumulations of fallen branches, dry grass, needles and other flammable debris from the ground.



PLANTING NEW TREES: If you're going to plant new trees in this zone, consider planting deciduous species like aspen, poplar and birch. They have lower flammability rates.

Priority Zone 3 30 - 100 metres

Try to thin out trees and other vegetation. This will help reduce a wildfire's intensity and slow its spread.



THIN AND REMOVE CONIFEROUS TREES:

Space dominant trees at least three metres apart, and remove any understory trees that are in close proximity that could act as a ladder for fire to move into the tree tops and spread. Retain deciduous trees which are resistant to wildfire.



NOT YOUR LAND? If there's property within 100 metres of your home that is owned by your neighbours, get them engaged in the *FireSmart® Community Recognition Program*.



GET IN TOUCH: Think your community is at risk to wildfire? Contact your municipal councillor, planning department or fire service to express your concerns.



Ministry of
Forests, Lands and
Natural Resource Operations



LEARN MORE:

BC Wildfire Service: www.bcwildfire.ca

FireSmart Canada: www.firesmartcanada.ca



FireSmart

Emergency Contacts

In the event of an emergency, please call 911.

- Emergency operation centre (EOC) information line
 - 1-866-377-7188
- Fire Department
 - 911
- [RCMP](#)
 - 911
- [BC Ambulance Service](#)
 - 911
- [BC Emergency Support Services](#)
 - 1-800-585-9559
- [Animal Lifeline Emergency Response Team](#) (formerly CDART)
- [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [Drive BC](#)
- [Emergency Management BC \(EMBC\)](#)
- [Fortis BC](#)
 - For downed powerlines, please call 911 or Fortis BC at 1-866-436-7847
 - For a natural gas leak, please call 911 or Fortis BC at 1-800-663-9911
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- [Recreation Site Closure and Warnings](#)
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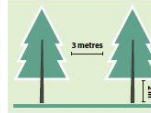
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