

Stages of Evacuation

As the authority to order an evacuation can rest with different levels of government (local, provincial, or federal), a three stage evacuation process has been developed and accepted by all levels of government. The process includes:

1 STAGE 1 - Evacuation Alert

Residents are advised of the potential need for evacuation. The alert highlights the nature of the danger and that evacuation may be required at any time. Information will be provided at that time on where to go if the evacuation is ordered. Residents should prepare to evacuate and gather personal supplies necessary for several days.

2 STAGE 2 - Evacuation Order

All persons in the affected area are ordered to leave the area and provided again with the information required. Once evacuated you are not permitted to return until the order has been rescinded.

3 STAGE 3 - Evacuation Rescind

All persons in the affected area are advised that the emergency is under control and the area has been declared habitable and the evacuation order has been rescinded.

In the event of imminent danger to property or life due to fire or explosion, the local fire department may go straight to an "Evacuation Order" without an alert. This is called a "Tactical Evacuation". Once you are evacuated from your property you will not be able to re-enter until the evacuation order is rescinded. Security will be provided to the evacuation area to ensure no one re-enters until the order is rescinded.

Preparing for an Evacuation

Create a Personal Evacuation Plan

- **Have a designated meeting location outside of the hazard area.** This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated the area. Once an "Evacuation Alert" or "Evacuation Order" has been given, the information included will include the location of the designated reception centre.
- **Know several different escape routes from your home and community.** The evacuation order as well, will outline the designated travel way for the particular event.
- **Plan for your pets.** If you have pets or livestock you should also have an evacuation plan for them; methods of transport, location to move them to, etc...
- **Create a "Family Communication Plan".** This plan should designate an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation.

What is a Reception Centre?

A Reception Centre is a designated site to receive evacuees.

- They register evacuees. This is critical even if you intend to leave the area. This gives us accurate information of numbers evacuated and serves as a point of contact for friends and family if they are trying to locate you. It also gives them information to contact you if required.
- They can give you information on lodging options. If you are evacuated from your primary residence you may be eligible for up to 72 hours paid lodging.
- They may provide urgent supplies to evacuees.
- Provides up to date information to the evacuees concerning the status of the event.



Evacuation Notice

Various methods will be used to advise residents in the event of issued evacuation alerts or orders.

- **"Door to Door"** - door to door canvassing will be performed by emergency personnel. These may be local firefighters, RCMP, or Search and Rescue personnel.
- **"Radio"** - local radio stations will broadcast alerts or orders.
- **"Social Media"** - the RDEK has a Facebook page that will also be used to give information to the public. To like our page, visit www.facebook.com/eastkootenay
- **"E-mail"** - the RDEK provides ongoing emergency information to everyone who has signed up for our e-mail list. To join, e-mail Loree Duczek at lduczek@rdek.bc.ca and include your community name in the subject line (i.e./ "Jaffray Mail Group).

Emergency Evacuation Information - Continued



Prescriptions, vitamins, glasses



Important Papers, Phone Numbers



Plastics (credit, debit) and Cash



Photos and Memorabilia

6 Things to Keep Ready...

Emergency Evacuation CHECKLIST



Computer, hard drive & discs



People and Pets



Checklist to Prepare for an Evacuation

*An "Evacuation Alert" has been delivered for an approaching Wildfire!
How are you going to prepare?*

If an evacuation is anticipated and time allows this is a good checklist to follow to prepare you and your home for an impending wildfire.

Inside the House:

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains, and close metal shutters.
- Remove light weight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the centre of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off your gas meter or propane. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so fire fighters can see your house under smokey conditions.
- Shut off the Air Conditioning.

Outside the House:

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (furniture, toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.).
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Move BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in heavy smoke conditions or the darkness of night.
- Put an emergency supply kit in your vehicle.
- Back your car into your driveway with the vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your keys with you.
- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Patrol your property if you feel threatened.
- Check on neighbours and make sure they are preparing to leave.

Animals:

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

If you plan on moving RV trailers or boats, the **Alert Stage** is the time to do that. Once an "Evacuation Order" has been issued there is no time to allow that to happen.

