

Emergency Preparedness at Home

Make a Plan!

You can help your children feel prepared in the event of an emergency or disaster. Use the planning guide linked below to make a household plan and to provide your children with the information they should have at their fingertips. A prepared child is a confident child.

[PreparedBC Household Preparedness Plan](#)

Fire Safety

Fire remains a significant hazard in the home. Home fire drills are recommended at least six times per year. A family plan should be created, whereby all family members know where to meet in the event of an evacuation of the house due to fire or for any other reason. Practicing this ensures children are familiar with the escape routes and can easily locate the meeting place. If a fire or other cause for an evacuation does occur, children will feel more confident in knowing what to do and how to help. At least yearly, check your smoke detectors, test them and ensure the battery is fresh.

Fire Safety Resources:

- homefiredrill.org
- [Three Steps to Fire Safety](#)
- What to Do in a Fire from kidshealth.org
- [NFPA Safety in the Home](#)
- [Fire Prevention Information & Education Resources from the BC Government](#)
- sparky.org from NFPA (doesn't work on some browsers)
- Wildfires BC [BC Wildfire Service](#)
- [Wildfire Evacuation Checklist](#)

Earthquake Preparedness

BC is an active earthquake zone. Earthquake drills should be held at least three times per year. Students need to be trained to find a safe spot and remain there until the all-clear signal is given. Supplies of food, water and blankets should be stored ready for an earthquake event. In the event of serious damage to the building, a plan should be in place for a family meeting place after evacuation of the building. The more practiced children are, the more confident they will feel if they find themselves alone during an earthquake event.

Earthquake Preparedness Resources:

- [The Great British Columbia Shake Out](#)

- [Get Prepared for an Earthquake in British Columbia](#)

Accidents and Injuries

Accidents happen. Children can be prepared for accidents, and can also be involved in preventing them. Children should know and practice basic skills such as rudimentary first aid, how to keep a person warm, and how/when to contact a trusted adult or emergency services. Children should carry identification and their medical number when they are out and about in the community.

- [SafeStart Home Checklist](#)
- [SafeStart Brochure](#)
- [Canada Safety Council](#)
- [UK Red Cross First Aid Education](#)
- [Babysitter Training](#)
- [Parachute Canada: Injuries](#)

Disaster Preparedness

If an emergency happens in your community, it may take emergency workers some time to reach you. You should be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for a minimum of 72 hours. Learn how quick and easy it is to become better prepared to face a range of emergencies.

- [PreparedBC Household Preparedness Plan](#)
- [Get Prepared Canada](#)
- [Get Prepared Canada: Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)
- [EmergencyInfoBC: Resources](#)
- [Canada Safety Council: Community Safety](#)
- [Get Prepared Canada: Regional Hazards in BC](#)
- [Prepare Yourself: A Guide to Emergency Preparedness in the Capital Region](#)
- City of Vancouver Hazards
<http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/prepare-for-other-disasters.aspx>
- Learn to Protect Yourself from a Tsunami
<http://www.victoria.ca/assets/Departments/Emergency~Preparedness/Documents/tsunami-brochure.pdf>
- Evacuating in Severe Floods
<http://www.comoxvalleyemergencyprogram.com/pdf/5%20-%20Evacuating%20Your%20Home.pdf>
- Preparing Ahead for Evacuations - BC Hydro
<https://www.bchydro.com/safety-outages/safety-in-emergencies/evacuations.html>

Wildlife Encounters

Learn how to deal with different wildlife if you see them in the wilderness, in a park, or if they enter a habitated area. In BC, it can be important to know about interacting with a cougar, bear, wolf, coyote, deer, raccoons and rattlesnakes, depending on the part of the province you are living in or visiting. Take it even further and learn about other species you could encounter such as the beaver, fox, moose, skunk, or animals in the marine environment. Also learn about conservation of these important species and how human-wildlife interactions can be even more problematic for the animal.

Staying Safe around Wildlife

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/wildlife/human-wildlife-conflict/staying-safe-around-wildlife>

WildSafe BC <https://wildsafebc.com/species/>

Western Wildlife Outreach <http://westernwildlife.org>

Emergency Services Notification to Evacuate or Shelter-In-Place

If there is a threat of some kind in your neighbourhood, local authorities or emergency services personnel from an organization such as police, fire department, ambulance service, wildlife conservation, a utility (gas, hydro), etc. Situations could be caused by extreme weather, potentially dangerous wildlife, or an environmental situation such as a chemical leak. Some possible threats to discuss could be a cougar sighting in the neighbourhood, a gas leak in a neighbour's home (or in your own home), hydro lines fallen in the area, a power outage in the home, or even a person behaving unpredictably in the neighbourhood.

Officials may instruct people in the area to evacuate your home, to "Shelter-In-Place" or to "Lockdown" your home due to a threat of some kind. Children should know to follow instructions of known officials, and could practice closing/locking all the windows and doors in the home to be prepared.

Emergency Info BC (Provincial Alerts & Advisories) <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>

Shelter-In-Place BC

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/prepare-dbc/know-the-risks/hazardous-material-spills/shelter-in-place>

Shelter-In-Place Healthlink BC <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/health-topics/zr1202>

Evacuation - City of Vancouver

<http://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/when-to-evacuate-or-take-shelter-in-a-building.aspx>

Evacuation Stages

https://portal.columbia.ca/pluginfile.php?file=/6971/mod_page/content/33/Emergency%20Preparedness.pdf

Evacuation - Nanaimo <http://www.rdn.bc.ca/cms.asp?wpID=773>

Gas leak <https://www.fortisbc.com/NaturalGas/GasSafety/Pages/Gas-leaks.aspx>

Natural Gas Safety <http://www.dpic.org/faq/natural-gas>

Other Information

BC Drug and Poison Information Centre <http://www.dpic.org>

Emergency Preparedness Kits - St John's Ambulance

<https://www.sja.ca/English/Safety-Tips-and-Resources/Pages/Emergency%20Preparedness/Tyres%20of%20Emergency%20Kits/Emergency-Kits.aspx>

Emergency Evacuation Checklist <http://www.phantomranch.net/comunity/evaclist.htm>

Emergency Planning Guide for Schools

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/emergency-management-guide.pdf>