

Evacuations

Evacuations have been used over the years to move people out of hazard zones in the event of an emergency. Much like fire drills, this type of response involves coordination, communication, planning, and compliance, to ensure the safety of the general public when evacuating them away from a potentially dangerous location.

Why Evacuate

During an emergency there are often two lifesaving options available to the public, shelter-in-place, and evacuation. When disaster strikes, local authorities utilize a wide range of information, situational awareness, and subject-matter-expert recommendations to issue take-action orders to the public. An evacuation order is issued when it is too dangerous to stay put, and it is safer to relocate the community out of the hazard zone to a more secure location. Common evacuation scenarios might include a wildfire, and widespread flooding.

Alerts vs Orders

If there is potential for an evacuation, you will receive notification on your mobile device from either the Alberta Emergency Alert app, or a direct notice from Alert Ready, that will notify you of an evacuation alert. When the alert comes through, this is generally a warning that there is potentially a hazard in the area, and residents should begin evacuation preparations. If the situation requires it, an evacuation order will follow, which means there is a confirmed risk to life safety in the area, and you must evacuate.

Plan Ahead

Evacuating can be overwhelming in an already stressful situation. That's why it is important to have a plan in place, in the event you need leave in a hurry. Much like a household emergency plan, an evacuation plan can ensure you are prepared and comfortable while away from home. Here are a few tips:

Emergency Management Fact Sheet

- **Make a Plan.** Start by planning how you will leave your home. This can include shutting off lights, checking appliances, and locking doors when you leave. It's also good to plan your evacuation route and keep your vehicle topped up to at least half. Other evacuation plan considerations could include:
 - **Plan for your pets:** (food, cages/kennels, toys, beds, etc.)
 - **Livestock plans:** (resources, transportation, trailers, boarding facilities)
 - **What to Bring:** (documentation, food, water, clothes, medication, blankets)
 - **Communication Plan:** (emergency contact info outside of the impact zone)
- **Build a Kit.** Not everything can be packed ahead of time, but the more you can pre-assemble, means the less you have to worry about when the time comes. History tells us that the average time an evacuee might have before sustainable resources are available is 72 hours. This is why a 72-hour kit is recommended, for more information on this, please visit [here](#). Other things to consider are:
 - **Insurance papers**
 - **Identification documents**
 - **Appropriate clothing**
 - **Medication**
 - **Cash**
- **Stay Informed.** Stay connected to trusted sources of information and pay attention alerts on your phone. These typically contain evacuation information such as, where to go, what are the safe routes of travel, and which areas are impacted. The Alberta Emergency Alert page can be found [here](#).

For further information regarding Parkland County Emergency Management, please contact: emergencypreparedness@parklandcounty.com

For more information on evacuation planning and preparedness please visit:

<https://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness>