

What to do before an emergency

Overview

We all have a role to play in emergency and disaster preparedness. By knowing your role, you can prepare for what is within your control.

Be prepared

Individuals and families should be prepared to take care of themselves for at least 72 hours. The following steps will assist you in building your preparedness plan.

- **Know the risks:** Knowing the risks and hazards can help you and your loved ones prepare for the unexpected.
- **Make a plan:** A plan will help you cope with the stress of an emergency or disaster.
- **Build a kit:** By taking a few simple steps you can become better prepared to face a range of emergencies. Be sure your kit includes a battery-powered/crank radio/flashlight or [Weatheradio](#) in case of a power outage.

Find out where your community will post information and updates during an emergency, and make sure to download the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) app for critical, life-saving alerts.

When individuals are prepared to the best of their ability, this allows first responders, such as police, fire, and ambulance, to focus on the emergency and provide assistance to those who need the help most.

Community

Being prepared is not only about having the right supplies. Your ability to recover from unexpected situations also relies on your connections to others.

When these situations occur, it's often the people around you, such as neighbours, co-workers and friends that are first on-scene. It is easier to offer help, or ask for help, when you know who is there.

Financial preparedness

- Speak to an insurance agent about your specific needs.
- Know your insurance policy. Make sure your home, vehicle, business and belongings are protected.

- If possible, consider an emergency savings account to cover temporary expenses while you are out of your home.
- If you can, keep emergency cash handy in case banking services are unavailable.
- If you are evacuated, keep all receipts for additional expenses.
- Prepare a [detailed list](#) of all your belongings.
- Know the [7 steps](#) for making a home insurance claim.

The Insurance Bureau of Canada is ready to answer your questions. Connect with them by email at askibcwest@ibc.ca or by telephone [1-844-227-5422](tel:1-844-227-5422). For more information on insurance preparedness visit ibc.ca.

Hazards vary depending on where you live. Identify the hazards near you so you can create your own emergency plan.

The role of your local government

Your local government is responsible to make sure your community is prepared. The Local Authority Emergency Management Regulation (2018) legislates their responsibilities, which include:

- establishing an emergency management agency and an emergency plan
- appointing a director of emergency management
- providing training and exercises for those who have a role in emergency management

Your local government also leads the development of recovery plans and initiatives, with support from the provincial and federal government.

The role of the provincial government

Every province and territory has an emergency management organization to manage disasters and provide assistance to community response teams.

In Alberta, the Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA) is the coordinating agency for emergency management activities and initiatives. AEMA monitors the province for potential emergencies and disasters on a 24/7 basis.

Other functions AEMA provides include:

- Emergency management training
- Public education on preparedness
- Emergency management conferences, workshops and forums
- Policy and legislation development
- Disaster Recovery Program delivery

The role of the federal government

Federal departments and agencies support provincial or territorial emergency management organizations.

Other roles they play are to manage emergencies that involve nuclear safety, national defence and border security.

We are all in this together

There are a number of industry, mutual aid and nongovernmental organization (NGO) partners that play important roles in preparing for emergencies in your community:

- Industry: Oil and gas or construction companies are responsible for training their staff and making plans to manage emergencies related to their operations to ensure that staff are trained and ready to respond appropriately.
- Mutual Aid: Partnerships made between nearby communities or organizations ensure they are able to assist one another when needed. For example, if a

community needs additional security they can ask their mutual aid partner to supply officers to assist.

- NGO: Not-for-profit organizations that work with local and provincial governments offer services such as first-aid training and community preparedness support.

As of 2019, the partners of the NGO Council of Alberta are:

- [Canadian Red Cross](#)
- [St. John Ambulance](#)
- [The Salvation Army](#)
- [Adventist Disaster Relief Agency](#)
- [Billy Graham Rapid Response Team Chaplaincy](#)
- [Canadian Global Response](#)
- [Mennonite Disaster Service](#)
- [Samaritan's Purse Canada](#)
- [Team Rubicon Canada](#)
- [World Renew](#)
- [Alberta SPCA](#)

For more information

Read our other fact sheets on:

- [During an emergency](#)
- [After an emergency](#)

You can find more information about preparedness through [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca), or by contacting your community's Director of Emergency Management.