
Government of Alberta Emergency Preparedness Week 2021 toolkit

May 2 to May 8, 2021



Alberta

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Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week)

EP Week Overview

EP Week is a national event that takes place annually during the first full week of May (May 2 to 8, 2021). The event promotes individual preparedness and encourages Canadians to learn about the risks they face in their communities and to take action to prevent, mitigate and prepare for these risks. Every year, Public Safety Canada coordinates this event in close collaboration with the provinces, territories and other partners. The theme for this year's campaign is *Emergency Preparedness: Be Ready for Anything* and will be amplified by Public Safety Canada's advertising campaign, which can be found on [Get Prepared](#).

Together with community leaders, first responders, all levels of government and non-government organizations, we can create community resilience and help Albertans who face disruptions return to their lives and livelihoods sooner.

Protecting lives and livelihoods

As community leaders, we have a responsibility to raise awareness about being prepared for disasters, emergencies and unexpected situations. When the people living and working in Alberta are prepared, they can better navigate disruptions, which allows them to better protect themselves and their families and reduce the financial impact when situations do occur. While being prepared for emergencies is important year round, EP Week provides us a unique opportunity to strengthen the call to action and align messaging to inspire those living and working in Alberta to take action.

Small steps every day

Being more prepared is a challenge for us all. By breaking it down into simple steps and making preparedness a habit, we can build resilience over time and *be ready for anything*.

Start a conversation

Talk to your friends, loved ones and neighbours about what you can do to manage emergencies, disasters and unexpected situations before they occur. Talking gets everyone on the same page and helps identify different needs. Preparedness is different for everyone. Start a conversation to get started.

- Create [community resilience](#) – This 60 second video is a reminder that neighbours are often first to lend a hand and provide support during an emergency or when an unexpected situation occurs. Build strength in your community by getting to know one another.
- [Raise awareness in your community](#) – visit this web page for tools and materials for community members to raise awareness, such as #PrepareYourSelfie campaign and the [Get Prepared: 60-second Emergency Tip](#) video library.

Get informed

Information helps us to better prepare for emergencies, disasters and unexpected situations. When we know what is happening we can make more informed and timely decisions during times of stress.

- Download the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) (AEA) app – Alberta issues alerts to provide critical information and what action you need to take to stay safe. Apps like AEA, AB Wildfire Status and WeatherCan can help keep you safe.
- Sign up for local, provincial and federal alerts through your mobile phone.
- Only use trusted information sources such as your community's social media pages, official websites, television and radio.

If possible, keep a battery-powered or crank radio on hand in case of a power outage.

[Alberta Emergency Alert](#) tests are critical as they help us make sure that alerts work when we need them – to save lives and protect Albertans during the event of an actual emergency. When test alerts are conducted, they are sent through Alberta Emergency Alert and [Alert Ready](#), Canada's emergency alerting system. These complimentary systems distribute alerts on radio, television, online, Twitter, Facebook and the Alberta Emergency Alert app for your smartphone and compatible mobile devices via text messaging.

Sign up and follow along on these social media platforms:

- **Government of Alberta**
 - Instagram: [youralberta](#)
 - Facebook: [YourAlberta \(Government of Alberta\)](#)
 - Twitter: [@YourAlberta](#)
 - LinkedIn: [Government of Alberta](#)
 - YouTube: [@YourAlberta](#)
- **Public Safety Campaign**
 - Advertising campaign [launched](#)
 - Video ad [Get Prepared](#)
 - [Public Safety Twitter](#)
 - [GetPrepared Twitter](#)
 - [Emergency Ready in Canada Facebook](#)
 - [Public Safety YouTube](#)

Directions from authorities can vary based on the emergency and can change quickly.

Knowing what is happening in your community could save your life.

Know the risks

Know the risks. If you know what the hazards are in your community, you know what to prepare for.

- [Before, during and after an emergency](#)
- [Blizzards, freezing rain and ice storms](#)
- [Floods](#)
- [Power and water outages](#)
- [Severe weather](#)
- [Thunderstorms, lightning and hail](#)
- [Tornadoes and extreme winds](#)
- [Wildfires](#)
- [Evacuation](#)
- [Shelter-in-place](#)

Hazards vary depending on where you live.

Identify the hazards near you so you can be better prepared.

Make a plan

Disasters often cause confusion and distress. An emergency plan can help you cope with the stress of an emergency or disaster and reduce the disruption to your daily life.

- [Make an emergency plan](#) – this web page has information to help with planning. Being prepared is different for everyone. Think about your personal needs to create an emergency plan that works for you.
- [Pet Preparedness](#) – this web page includes tools and materials to help keep pets safe and comfortable, before, during and after an emergency.
- [Farm animals and livestock](#) – this web page includes tools and materials to help keep farm animals and livestock safe if you need to shelter in place or evacuate.

There are many ways you and your loved ones can become more prepared. You can build emergency kits to help you grab and go. You can make sure you have enough supplies at home in case you have to take shelter. In either case, your goal will be to have enough supplies to keep you safe, warm and comfortable.

Check out these emergency supplies and kit checklists to help get you started.

- [Gather supplies](#) – Having the supplies you need on hand can help keep you, your loved ones and pets safe and provide peace of mind, even if service disruptions occur.
- [Emergency kit checklist](#) - When an unexpected situation occurs, it is easier to prioritize your safety and well-being if you have an emergency kit you can grab and take with you at a moment's notice.
- [Emergency kit checklist for your pets](#)
- [Emergency kit checklist for your vehicle](#)

**checklists are formatted for printing*

Prepare financially

Being financially prepared is about more than just having money in the bank.

- Ensure you have adequate insurance and keep a detailed list of all property including photographs
- Keep cash on hand, as ATMs and debit services may become unavailable
- Keep receipts for all expenses incurred during an emergency or disaster
- Know the [7 steps](#) for making a home insurance claim
- If possible, create an emergency savings account to cover expenses during an emergency. Even \$5.00 a month will add up over time

To further help you determine your insurance needs, understanding [insurable vs. non-insurable](#) disaster financial assistance can help. The Disaster Recovery Program, through the Alberta Government, offers information and resources to assist.

Get involved

Go virtual

To help you with your preparedness efforts during EP Week and all year long, here are some ideas on how you can share preparedness materials, tools and information with your networks using social media and other communication channels.

- Share links to the printable emergency kit checklists with community members through email
- Share information about the hazards in your community with links to the [Alberta.ca hazard pages](#) for more information
- Share the [Get Prepared: 60-second Emergency Tip](#) videos on social media
- Download and print the *Scan to Prepare* touchless QR posters and post them in public areas allowing individuals to scan them with their smartphones to watch *60-second Emergency Tips*
- Create a preparedness presentation and share it with your community members online
- Check out [GetPrepared](#) for additional tools and materials
- Listen to a subject matter expert talk about emergency preparedness with the [EPIC podcast team](#)

Of note, the Government of Alberta emergency preparedness materials are updated regularly, and are designed for sharing (either virtually or in-person). Additionally, a number of pages are translated and more are underway (Arabic, Chinese (traditional and simplified), Tagalog, Punjabi and Spanish).

Get Prepared: 60 Second Emergency Tips



The 'Get Prepared: 60 Second Emergency Tips' video series delivers simple steps that anyone can take to become better prepared for an emergency or disaster.

Take a minute today to learn about what you can do to become better prepared, and share the videos online and within your community.

Scan to Prepare QR posters

This is a touch-free way to share preparedness information with community members through their smart phone. The posters use an embedded QR code you scan with your phone's camera app to display content directly onto the device. Download the [QR Code Posters](#) to print and display in common areas to encourage community members to take small steps towards becoming more prepared.

QR code overview

Unique QR Codes (Quick Response Coding) may be created using a third party web service. QR codes may link to pre-existing material by connecting users with material that is posted online, such as videos, pictures, guides or websites; but they can also be used to display documents that are not published on the web. Most smartphones have the ability to scan a QR code with their camera, but in some cases, a mobile app is required.



EP Week Communication plan

Preparedness is a challenge for us all. By breaking it down into simple steps and making preparedness a habit, we can build resilience over time and be *ready for anything*.

Being prepared does not have to be costly. Here are a couple of ways you can become more prepared without spending any money:

- Learn about the risks in your community – start creating an emergency plan
- Talk to loved ones about what you might do and where you would go
- Start building an emergency kit with items you already have

Learn more tips by watching the [video](#) below.

Sunday, May 2nd : Prepare on a budget



*Shortened video link: <https://youtu.be/fF8BDobEGJl>

Monday, May 3rd : Why you should have a kit

When an unexpected situation occurs, it is easier to prioritize your safety and well-being if you have an emergency kit you can grab and go at a moment's notice.

Do you know why you should have an emergency kit? Unexpected situations happen everyday. Having supplies is one thing you can do to help manage difficult situations.

Imagine a long power outage in your area:

- Do you have enough food, water and supplies to keep you safe?
- Do you have equipment to keep you informed?
- What if you had to evacuate at a moment's notice?

Learn more by watching the [video](#) below, and visit alberta.ca/GetSupplies to get ideas for your emergency kit.



*Shortened video link: <https://youtu.be/DLfrQbFakjo>

Tuesday, May 4th : Wildfire

When you know what the hazards are in your community, you know what to prepare for.

Wildfire season officially started March 1 and runs until October 31. Wildfires can affect communities in forested or grassland areas. But did you know they can affect urban green spaces like ravines and parks too?

To start to prepare for a wildfire, you can:

- Visit wildfire.alberta.ca to check on wildfire status and download the Alberta Wildfire app
- Learn [FireSmart](#) methods and share them with members of your community
- Keep your vehicle's fuel tank full, or arrange alternative transportation, in case you have to evacuate.

Learn more tips by watching the [video](#) below and visiting alberta.ca/wildfires.



*Shortened video link: <https://youtu.be/aRezNxt091o>

Being informed can help you better prepare for emergencies, disasters and unexpected situations. A few easy ways to get informed include:

- Download the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) app for life saving alerts. Alberta issues alerts to provide critical information about an immediate disaster and what action you need to take to stay safe.
- Start a conversation. Talk to your friends and loved ones about what you can do to manage emergencies and disasters before they occur.

Alberta Emergency Alert and [Alert Ready](#), Canada's emergency alerting system, often run test alerts during Emergency Preparedness Week. Tests are critical as they help us make sure that alerts work when we need them to save lives and protect Albertans during the event of an actual emergency.



Wednesday, May 5th : Get informed

Make an [emergency plan](#). Being prepared is different for everyone. Think about your personal needs to create a plan that works for you.

Emergencies and disasters such as out of control fires, blizzards or floods are common risks in agricultural communities across Alberta. For your safety, authorities may direct you to shelter in place or evacuate.

A well thought-out plan can help you respond effectively, protect your animals and property, and help you cope with the stress of the emergency or disaster.

- Set a meeting place in case an evacuation is ordered. Ensure there is feed, water and shelter for all evacuated animals.
- Make sure animals are visually identified (ear tags, tattoos, etc.)
- Store all records (animal ID, contact lists and site map) onsite, offsite and digitally.

Learn more tips by watching the [video](#) below and visiting alberta.ca/ruralprep.



*Shortened video link: https://youtu.be/6Ncan_M3tXg

Thursday, May 6th : Farm animals

Friday, May 7th : Pet preparedness

When dangerous situations arise, it is important to act quickly. Having supplies on hand can help to keep your pet safe and comfortable when it matters most. It can also help to ensure you don't run out of important supplies like food and medications for your pet, in the event of a service disruption.

Download the [Emergency kit checklist for your pets](#) (printable brochure).

Don't forget to include:

- Recent photo of you and your pet.
- Current vaccination records and insurance information.
- Blankets, towels and toys or other comfort items.

Learn more tips by watching the [video](#) below and visiting alberta.ca/PetPrep.



*Shortened video link: <https://youtu.be/wHSW8bxBe2E>

Saturday, May 8th : Community connections

Create community resilience. Neighbours are often first to lend a hand and provide support during an emergency, disaster or unexpected situation. Build strength in your community by getting to know one another, safely.

Your ability to recover also relies on your connections to others. Get to know your community virtually by:

- Going online and joining community groups that interest you.
- Planning a window-decorating contest in your neighbourhood.
- Building a community email list.

Learn more tips by watching the [video](#) below, and visit alberta.ca/BePrepared to learn other ways you can become better prepared.



*Shortened video link: <https://youtu.be/z7j-yc1KbhA>

Resources

Alberta Emergency Management Agency (AEMA)

<https://www.alberta.ca/alberta-emergency-management-agency.aspx>.

Learn more about what AEMA does and how they are involved in emergencies and disasters.

Emergency Preparedness

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

Learn how you and your loved ones can prepare yourselves for an emergency or disaster.

Alberta Emergency Alert app

<https://emergencyalert.alberta.ca/content/about/signup.html>

Stay informed by downloading the AEA smart phone app.

Alberta 511 app

<https://511.alberta.ca/about/mobileapp>

Stay informed by downloading the 511 smart phone app.

Alberta Rivers app

<https://open.alberta.ca/interact/alberta-rivers-data-and-advisories>

Stay informed by downloading data and advisories smart phone app.

Alberta Wildfire

<https://wildfire.alberta.ca/prevention/default.aspx>

Wildfire prevention is a responsibility we all share and it is important to understand safe fire practices so that everyone can enjoy Alberta's forests.

Alberta Fire Bans app

https://open.alberta.ca/blog/?page_id=327

The Alberta Fire Bans application will help you find the most current and reliable information on all active fire advisories, fire restrictions, fire bans, and Off-highway vehicle (OHV) restrictions in Alberta

The Alberta Wildfire app

<https://open.alberta.ca/interact/alberta-wildfire>

See where wildfires are burning in Alberta. Get up-to-date information on wildfire conditions and hazards or report a fire.

Alberta 211

<https://ab.211.ca>

211 is a helpline and online database of Alberta's community and social services. Search by topic or location to find programs or services in your community.

Government of Canada: Get Prepared

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/index-eng.aspx>

A webpage dedicated to emergency preparedness that allows Canadians to learn about hazards and how they can prepare for them.

Government of Canada

https://weather.gc.ca/warnings/index_e.html?prov=ab

Monitor public Weather Alerts for Alberta.

Alert Ready

<https://www.alertready.ca/#faq>

Stay informed through Canada's emergency alerting system.