

# Evacuation

## What you need to know

Authorities will only ask you to leave your home if they have reason to believe you are in danger.

### Evacuation alerts

- Plan to evacuate with enough items to keep your family comfortable for a minimum of 72 hours.
- Keep the radio on all day and tuned to a local station. Have a battery-powered radio ready in case of power failure.
- Download the [Alberta Emergency Alert](#) app to stay up-to-date.
- Keep in touch with absent household members and ensure that a plan is in place if evacuation orders are given.

### Evacuation orders

- Vacate your home when authorities advise you to do so. Ignoring these instructions could jeopardize the safety of your family and/or those rescuing you.
- Take your emergency kit with you.
- Follow the routes specified by officials. Do not take shortcuts as they could lead to a blocked or dangerous area.
- Drive carefully with headlights on. Make way for pedestrians and emergency vehicles.
- Stop at the pre-determined marshaling point(s). Report to authorities and wait for further instructions. Do not leave again without informing officials.
- Do not return to your property until permitted to do so by authorities.
- If time permits, leave a note informing others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, leave the note in there.

- Shut off water and electricity if you are asked to by an officials.
- Leave natural gas service on, unless officials tell you otherwise.
- If you turn off the gas, the gas company has to reconnect it. In a major emergency, it could take weeks for a professional to respond. You would be without gas for heating and cooking.
- If the evacuation occurs in the winter, take extra precautions.
  - Turn off the water and then drain the water from your plumbing system.
  - Starting at the top of the house, open all taps, and flush toilets several times.
  - Go to the basement and open the drain valve.
  - Drain your hot water tank by attaching a hose to the tank drain valve and running it to the basement floor (if you have a gas-fired tank, the pilot light should be turned out - call the local gas supplier to re-light it).
  - Protect the valve, inlet pipe, and meter or pump with blankets or insulation material.

### Be prepared and have your:

- [Emergency kit.](#)
- [Emergency plan.](#)
- Essential medications and copies of prescriptions.
- Cell phone and charger.
- Pets. Plan in advance for a pet-friendly location as some shelters don't allow animals and make sure you bring your pet carrier.

Be prepared: [www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx](http://www.alberta.ca/emergency-preparedness.aspx)