



Are You Prepared?

Everyone Needs an Emergency Plan



The first full week in May is recognized as Emergency Preparedness Week, but being aware and prepared for emergencies or disasters is a year long activity. British Columbians face a number of hazard risks, which vary from region to region. According to PreparedBC the top 10 risks for BC are:

- Avalanches
- Earthquakes
- Disease Outbreaks
- Floods
- Hazardous Material Spills
- Landslides
- Power Outages
- Severe Weather
- Tsunamis
- Wildfires

When it comes to emergency preparedness and emergency response, everyone has a role to play. Emergencies happen when least expected. The resources of emergency response organizations will be deployed closest to the incident to assist those immediately impacted by the incident.

Those who are not in the immediate emergency/disaster zone may be left to assist themselves, their families, and their neighbours until help arrives. In an emergency/disaster, British Columbians should be prepared to take care of themselves and their family for a minimum of 72 hours. The PreparedBC website contains geographical information detailing which regions may be more at risk for the hazards identified. Knowing the risks and hazards in your region can assist in preparing for potential emergencies.

This Safety Tips tip sheet provides an overview of resources available to British Columbians. Many of these resources include checklists and templates for documenting important information.

PreparedBC: www.gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC

- **Household Preparedness Guide:** provides information on how to prepare your house for emergencies, including emergency supplies and what to do in the aftermath of the emergency.
- **Household Emergency Plan:** a detailed template to assist individuals and families prepare and plan for various emergencies.
- **Guide for Apartments Condos & Townhomes:** Provides additional information for individuals living in multi-family housing complex.
- **In it Together: Neighbourhood Preparedness Guide:** provides information on how neighbourhoods can work together to assist each other in the aftermath of an emergency.
- **Resources for People with Disabilities:** provides information to assist caregivers prepare and assist individuals with disabilities/special needs during and in the aftermath of an emergency.
- **Prepare Your Pets Guide:** provides information for pet owners to assist in making a pet plan.

In addition to these resources, the PreparedBC website offers additional helpful information and links to multiple resources.

Government of Canada Get Prepared: www.getprepared.gc.ca

- **Pocket Guide to Emergencies:** provides information on different types of emergencies or hazard risks and what to do during and in the aftermath of the emergency.
- **Your Emergency Preparedness Guide:** explains in detail steps to take to become better prepared for emergencies.
- **Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities/Special Needs:** explains additional considerations for caregivers to take to assist those with disabilities/special needs during and in the aftermath of an emergency.

Canadian Red Cross: www.redcross.ca

- **Be Ready App:** gives users instant access to the information needed in order to prepare for different emergency situations.

All local governments have emergency preparedness plans. To find the Emergency Program Coordinator for your community visit the Civic Info BC Directory at www.civicinfo.bc.ca.