

Emergency Preparedness & FireSmart 2025

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Land Acknowledgement

I would like to respectfully acknowledge the Coast Salish People, on whose traditional territory we have the privilege to live, work and play.

Agenda

- Local Hazards
- RDN Emergency Services
 - Emergency Information
 - Personal Preparedness
 - Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program
 - Emergency Support Services
 - Emergency Radio Communications Team – OECT and CECA
 - Emergency Operations Centre
- FireSmart Program

Local Hazards



- The Provincial Emergency Program has identified 57 hazards which can affect the Province of BC
- Top Hazards in the RDN include:
 - Earthquake
 - Wildfire
 - Flooding
 - Wind events
 - Power outages
 - Landslides

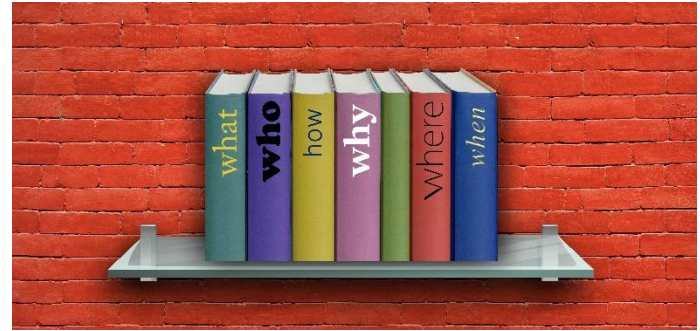
RDN Hazards

Hazard	Likelihood (1-5)	Overall Consequence (11-55)	Risk Score
Fires (Wildfire and Urban Interface)	5	37	185
Overland Flooding	5	29	145
Wind Event	4	35	140
Drought	5	28	140
Motor Vehicle Incident	4	31	124
Electrical Power Outage	5	24	120
Structure Fire	5	24	120
Rivers, Lakes, and Stream Flooding	5	23	115
Coastal Flooding	5	22	110
Human Disease	3	33	99
Intentional Acts of CBRNE	2	35	70
Active Threat	2	33	66
Megathrust Earthquake	1	55	55

Figure 1: Top 13 Hazards within the RDN (2019 HRVA)

INTRODUCTION

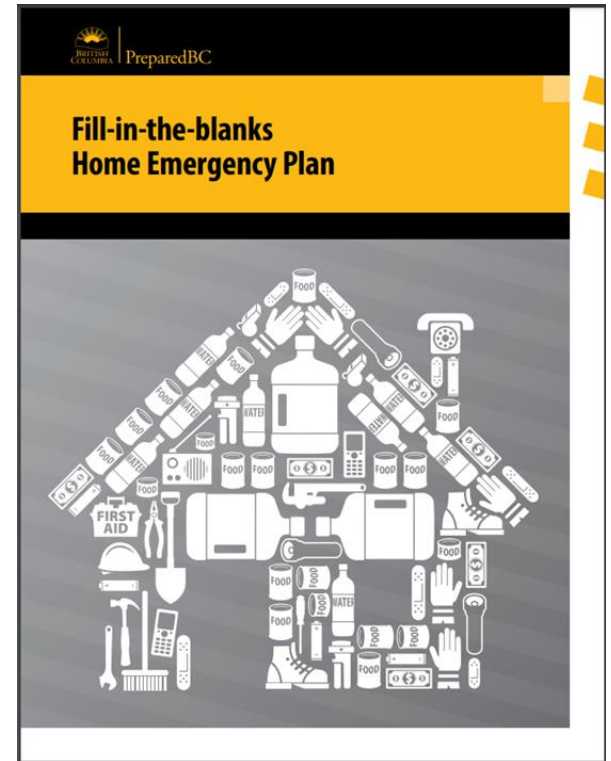
Why should we prepare?



- Emergency services may be stretched for capacity in a large-scale event and will be doing triage for where they are needed first
- Essential services and utilities may be lost
- You may be evacuated. Are you ready to leave on a moments notice?
- You may not be with your family when an emergency happens. Do you have a plan?
- Local government emergency plans are based on residents planning for themselves and their families for the first 72 hours to one week after a significant event

Personal Preparedness

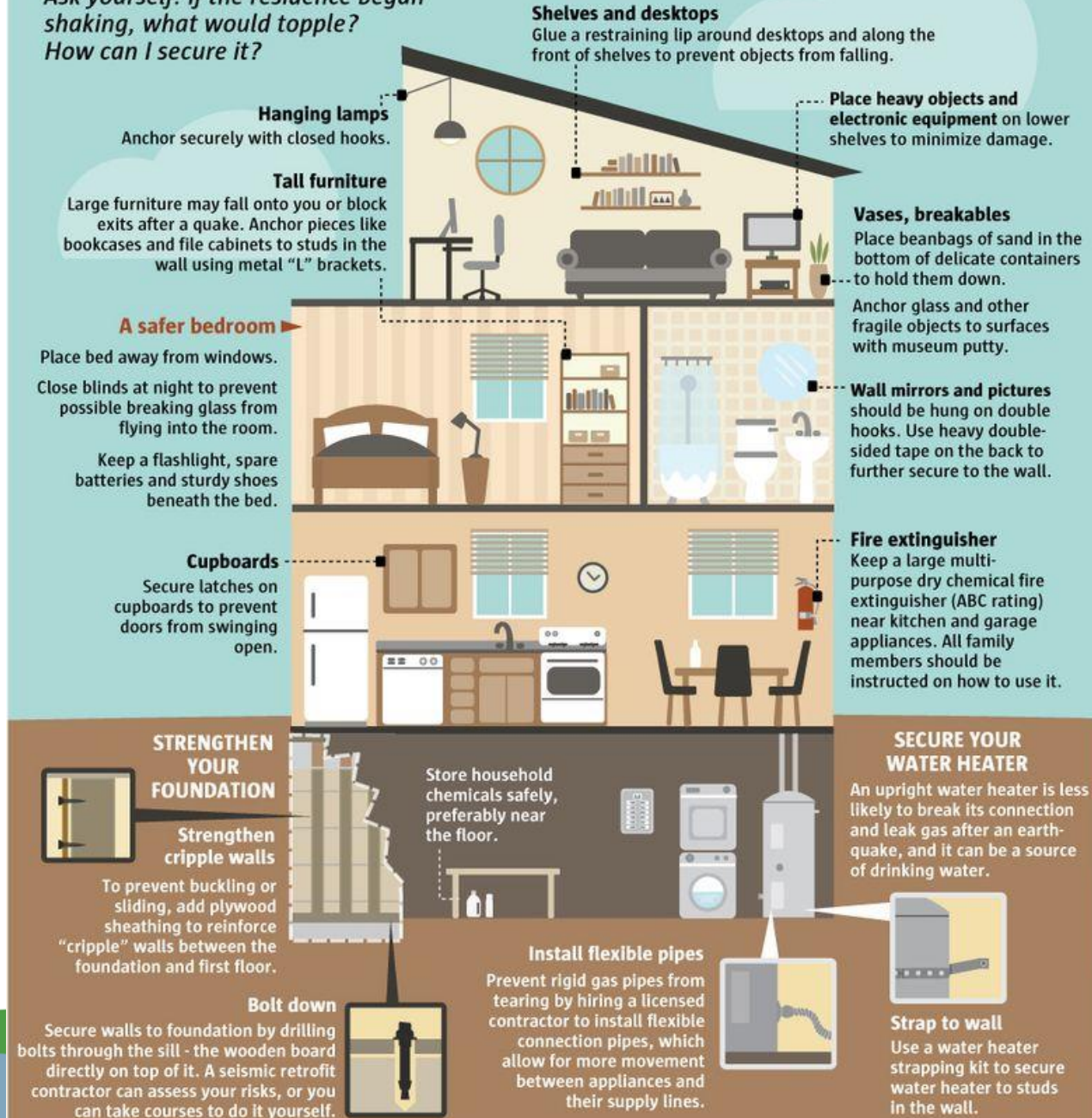
- Learn your hazards
- Make a plan for emergencies
- Sign up for Voyent Alert!
- Make an at-home emergency kit
- Make a grab-and-go kit
- Access resources from PreparedBC or at rdn.bc.ca/emergency-preparedness
- Be prepared to be self sufficient for 72 hours up to 7 days
- Join a NEPP team



How to Prepare

Evaluate each room

*Ask yourself: If the residence began shaking, what would topple?
How can I secure it?*



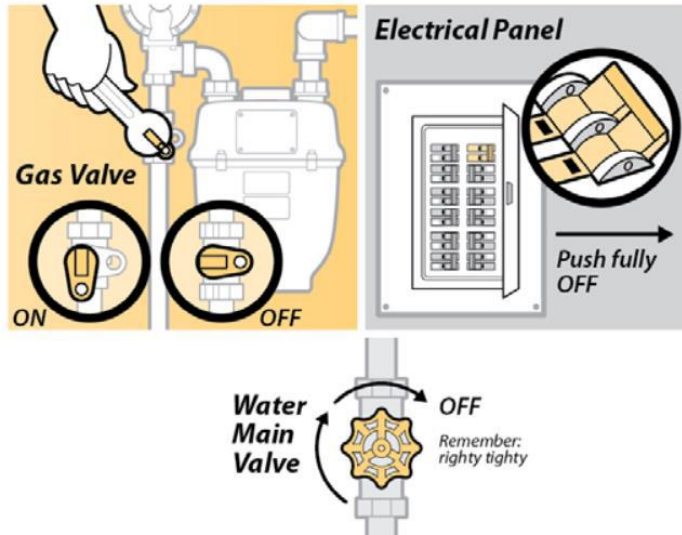
How to Prepare

Build a Grab and Go Kit

- Personal medications
- Family photos
- Personal papers (copies of insurance, emergency contacts, prescriptions, identification)
- Household emergency plan
- Extra house and car keys
- Extra eye glasses
- Cash money
- Book and/or game
- Seasonal change of clothing and footwear
- Local maps
- Thumb drive storage device
- Added to a basic kit



How to Prepare



Know Your Utilities

- Know where your electrical panel, water and gas valves are located
- Keep wrenches near shut-offs
- What appliances are operating on gas?
- If the gas is turned off, it stays off!!

How to Prepare Shelter-in-Place

- Sometimes it is safer to stay where you are than to travel.
- If you are **safe** and otherwise **unaffected** by the emergency.
- Potential examples: earthquakes, extreme weather, police actions, windstorms, which may force you to shelter in place
- Like camping in your home
- Extended Power Outage
 - Keep freezers and refrigerators closed if possible
 - Only use generators outdoors and away from windows
 - Do not use a gas stove to heat your home
 - Unplug appliances and turn off lights
 - Bchydro.com



How to Prepare

Emergency Water Supplies



Plan for a minimum of 4 litres per person per day

- Drinking (2 liters), food preparation, washing dishes, brushing teeth and other hygiene needs
- Date storage containers and keep in cool, dark locations
- Ideally replace water every six months
- Additional/Special considerations (heat, pets, children, health issues)
- Additional sources: Hot water tanks, rain barrels, lakes, streams, springs, cisterns.

How to Prepare

Don't Forget To...



Plan for...

- Seniors (consider mobility challenges; medication; etc.)
- individuals with disabilities (consider mobility; medications; special requirements)
- Infants and young children
- Pets (leash, bowls, food medication, etc.)
- Car, Workplace, Outdoor kits

How to Prepare

Communication (yours) and Reunion



- Identify reunion sites with your loved ones (Home should be first)
- Out of area contact- Emergency Contact Card
 - Someone away from the worst-case scenario
 - Every family member should carry card
- HELP/OK card in house and vehicle
 - Place where neighbours and first responders can see from road

How to Prepare

A Few Other Thoughts



- Insurance (copies of papers/information, include contact info)
- Keep gas tank full
- Communicate your plan
- Review your plans and practice your plan annually
- Inventory and keep emergency supplies current

Community Notification (ours)

If an emergency requires community notification, the RDN will use:

- Local Voyent Alert! | RDN
- Social media (Facebook and X (formerly Twitter))
- RDN website www.RDN.bc.ca

If Evacuations are needed, the RDN will also use:

- Local media (approved radio, newspapers and tv messaging)
- Door knocking by first responders, and loud speakers if required

The RDN might use

- Provincial Emergency Alerts - Province of British Columbia (if needed)

RDN Voyent Alert!



- Voyent Alert! allows residents, businesses or visitors to receive messages through: an app, text message, voice call or email, from the RDN, for critical events such as floods, evacuations, wildfires, etc.
- You can opt in or out of day-to-day communications such as RDN Service Alerts and Public Notices for recreation and parks alerts, watermain flushing and more.
- Registration for the service is FREE, simple and can be anonymous. You can choose how you would like to receive alerts.

[Register for the RDN's Alerting System, Voyent Alert!](#)

Evacuations

Tactical

- Imminent threat to life safety to a localized area often carried out by the primary agency on an incident
- Undertaken by Fire Department, Search & Rescue, RCMP – emergency services personnel

Strategic

- Not as imminent as Tactical
- Alert vs Order
- Must have a Declaration of a local state of emergency
- Can be carried out by a variety of agencies, primarily RCMP, Search and Rescue, and sometime Fire Departments

Strategic Evacuations: Stay Calm....Be Prepared



Will be communicated by the RDN

- Stage 1- Evacuation Alert
 - Take advantage of this time to prepare and s need extra time or assistance
- Stage 2- Evacuation Order
 - Leave the area NOW!!!!
 - Have a plan... know where you are going
 - Listen to local authorities messaging
- Stage 3- Evacuation Rescind
 - Return home... emergency is under control and area has been declared safe



Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

- After a major disaster, you and your neighbours will need to rely on each other for several days.
- Emergency services such as fire, ambulance, police, and utilities will be overwhelmed, unable to respond your neighbourhood's needs.
- If your neighbourhood is organized before a disaster, you and your neighbours will immediately know how to help each other, letting you respond more calmly and efficiently.
- Knowing you are not alone after a disaster can bring peace of mind.
- NEPP is simply neighbours helping neighbours prepare for a major disaster by becoming a self-reliant community.



Emergency Support Services (ESS)

- ESS is designed to provide support for disasters ranging from a single house fire to provincial level events involving large evacuations. These supports enable people to re-establish themselves as quickly as possible after an emergency or disaster.
- ESS is typically provided for a period of up to 72 hours. During this initial period, evacuees need to plan their next steps and begin their transition to recovery



Emergency Support Services continued

- During an emergency event, ESS may be offered to an evacuee for a short period of time.
- Reception Centres or Group Lodging may be opened to support those displaced
- Community volunteers to help with registration and referral services
 - Services may include food, lodging, clothing, emotional support, information and family reunification
 - New volunteers are always welcome!



Emergency Two-way Radio Communications (OECT & CECA)

- Provides back-up communication services when traditional communications are unavailable.
- OECT & CECA volunteers are deployed by the regional Emergency Program Coordinators. Most likely deployed to provide communications to our Emergency Operations Centers or for one of our Emergency Reception Centers.



FireSmart Program- www.firesmartbc.ca

- FireSmart™ is living with and managing for wildfire in your area and on your property.
- Becoming wildfire resilient is a shared responsibility across BC.
- FireSmart and its seven disciplines is an all-encompassing program, extending from the individual homeowner level up to a landscape land management level.



FireSmart Home Ignition Zone



IMMEDIATE ZONE

0m to 1.5m

A minimum 1.5 metre non-combustible surface should extend around the entire home and any attachments, such as decks.

INTERMEDIATE ZONE

1.5m to 10m

This should be a fire-resistant area, free of all materials that could easily ignite from a wildland fire.

EXTENDED ZONE

10m to 30m

Thin and prune evergreen trees to reduce hazards in this zone. Regularly remove accumulations of fallen branches, and dry grass/needles to eliminate potential surface fuels.

Look for opportunities to create a fire break by creating space between trees and vegetation. Thinning and pruning is effective here as well. These actions will help reduce the intensity of a wildland fire.

7 FireSmart Disciplines

Education- awareness of risks, prevention and mitigation

Vegetation management- accumulation, excess vegetation, gutters, grass, overhanging branches

Legislation and Planning- Is a community effort

Development considerations- Looking to the future

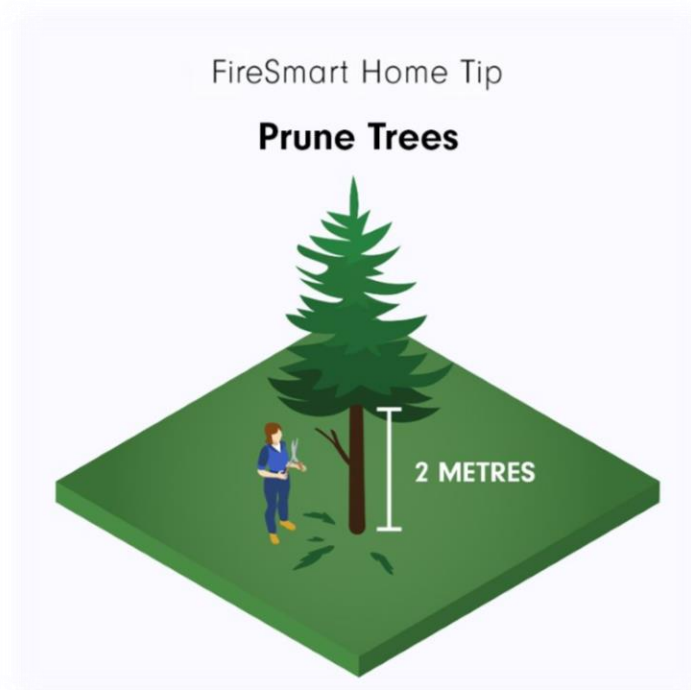
Interagency cooperation- Collaboration between various levels of gov't, local agencies, local community

Cross-training- Structural v. Wildland Firefighters

Emergency Planning- Plan for the worst, response and recovery are keys to successful programs

FireSmart Tips

- Reduce combustibles around your home.
- Prune trees up off the ground.
- Plant deciduous trees and shrubs rather than coniferous.
- Always follow burning bans.
- Be prepared with a Grab and Go Bag for Fire Season.



Role of Local Government in Emergencies

Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)

Evaluates, prioritizes, disseminates and acts on required needs of the emergency

Provides support to first responders

Provides public information

Coordinates provision of food, shelter, clothing and transportation

Liaises with volunteer groups

Develops action plans

Coordinates recovery of essential services

Exercises emergency powers (SOLE)

EOC Myths

- The RDN EOC will command an emergency scene.
- The RDN EOC will send help directly to all affected residents.
- The EOC is staffed with Emergency Services Department Staff only.



Important Links:

- RDN VoyentAlert! registration voyent-alert.com/ca/community/
- RDN Emergency Preparedness www.rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services
- Become an ESS Volunteer, email: emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca
- RDN Get Involved www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/
- Pre-register for Evacuee Registration Assistance (ERA) <https://era-evacuees.embc.gov.bc.ca/registration-method>
- Prepared BC www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc

In It Together

Response to mid to large scale emergencies and natural disasters are a shared responsibility with no one organization or entity claiming whole jurisdiction of an incident.



Questions?

- Thank you for taking the first step!
- Please take some additional resources/brochures provided

T 250-390-6565

EmergencyServices@rdn.bc.ca

