

Emergency Preparedness 2025

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Regional District of Nanaimo
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Land Acknowledgement

We 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
- Electoral Area G Evacuation Route Planning Project

RDN Emergency Services Team

Manager, Emergency Services: Erica Beauchamp



Emergency Planning Coordinator: Linda Ryan



FireSmart Coordinator: Evan Bryn-Jones



Local Hazards

- Provincial Emergency Program identified 57 hazards for BC
- Top Hazards in the RDN include:



Floods



Wildfires



Earthquakes



Tsunamis



Disease Outbreaks



Severe Weather



Power Outages



Landslides

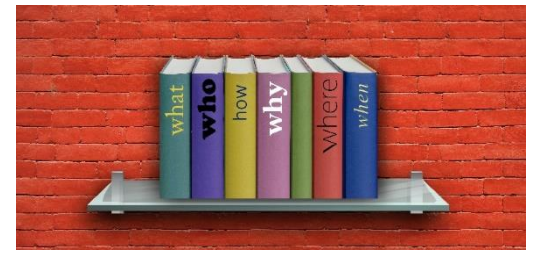


Drought



Hazardous Material
Spills

Why prepare?



- Emergency responders can be stretched in a large-scale event and will be dispatched according to priority
- Essential services and utilities might be unavailable
- You could be evacuated.
 - Are you ready to leave on a moments notice?
- You might not be with your family
- Do you have a plan?

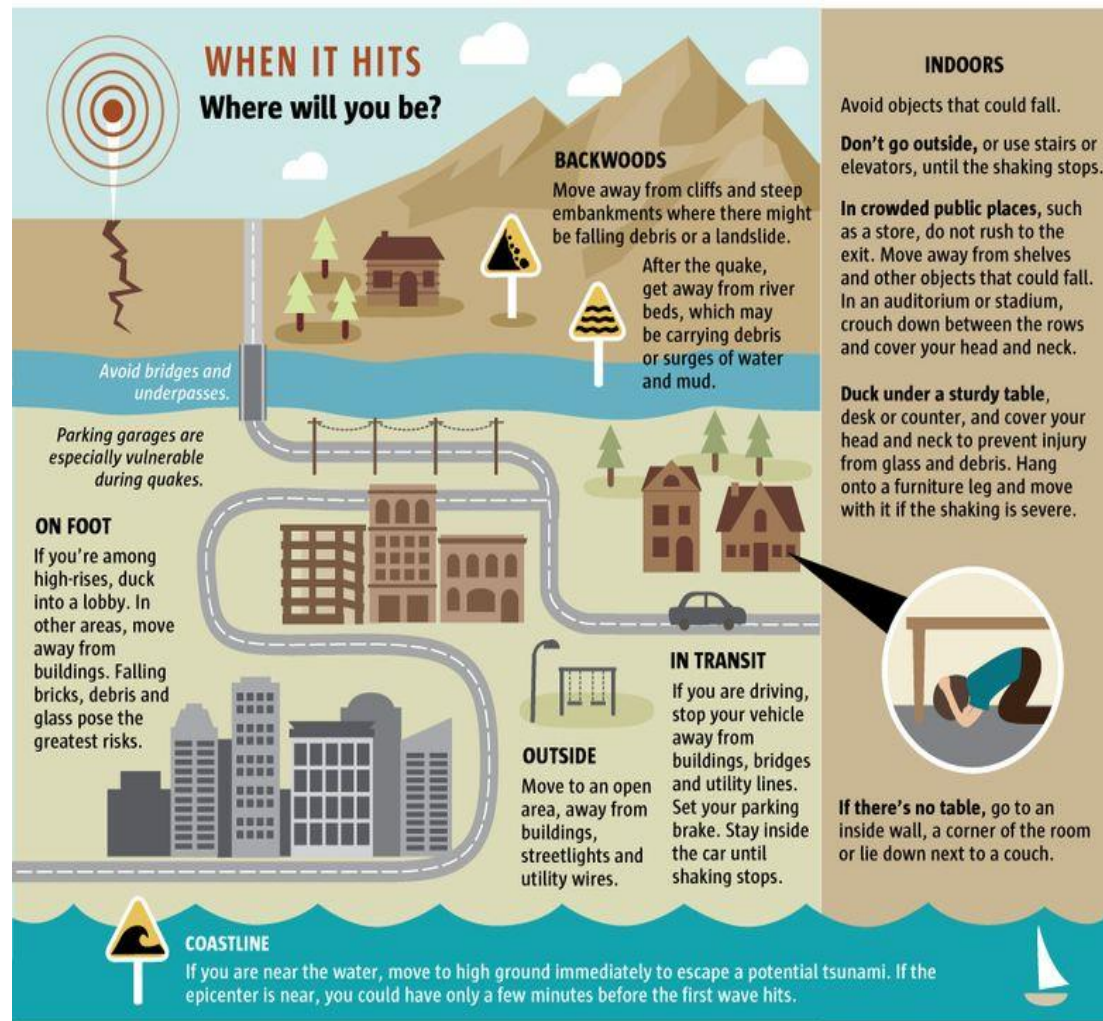
Did you know?

Local government emergency plans are based on residents planning for themselves and their families for the first 3 days to two weeks after a significant event

Have you ever thought about how to prepare for an emergency?

What if you:

- Didn't have electricity or water for 3 days to 2 weeks?
- Had to leave your home on short notice?
- Needed to contact your family and get official information during an emergency?

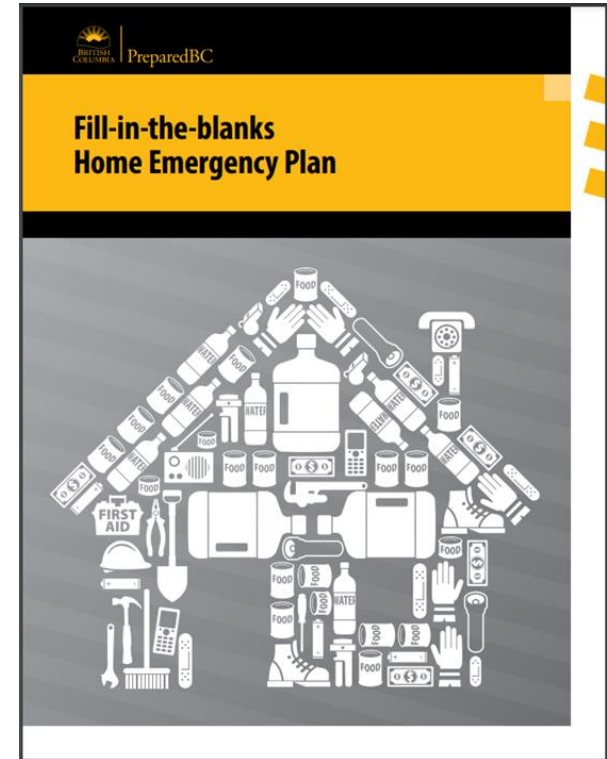


Personal Preparedness

Steps you can take

1. Learn your local hazards
2. Create an emergency plan
3. Sign up for Voyent Alert!
4. Build an emergency kit
5. Make a grab-and-go kit (can be the same as your emergency kit, just make it portable)
6. Create or join a NEPP team
7. Get support

Learn more: rdn.bc.ca/get-prepared



Prepare or buy a basic Grab-and-Go Kit



Home Emergency plan



Copies of important documents



Water



Non-perishable food



Cash



Phone charger & power bank



Battery-powered or hand-crank radio



Battery-powered or hand-crank flashlight



Extra Batteries



First aid kit & medications



Personal toiletries



Seasonal clothing and sturdy footwear



Whistle



Emergency blanket



Garbage bags & moist towelettes



Mask



Comfort & entertainment items



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Add these Suggested items to your Grab-and-Go Kit

Purchase a grab-and-go kit and add these items

- Personal medications
- Family photos
- Household emergency plan
- Extra house and car keys
- Extra eyeglasses
- Cash \$\$
- Book and/or game
- Seasonal clothing and footwear
- Local maps
- Thumb drive storage device
- Charge block for devices (rechargeable)
- Copies of important documents



Prepare to Shelter-in-Place

- Sometimes, it is safer to stay where you are than to travel.
- Especially if you're **safe** and otherwise **unaffected** by the emergency.
 - E.g., earthquakes, extreme weather, police actions, windstorms etc.
- It's like camping in your home!
- If you experience an extended power outage
 - Keep freezers closed
 - Keep refrigerators closed as much as possible
 - Use generators outdoors
 - Don't use gas stoves to heat
 - Unplug appliances
 - Turn off lights

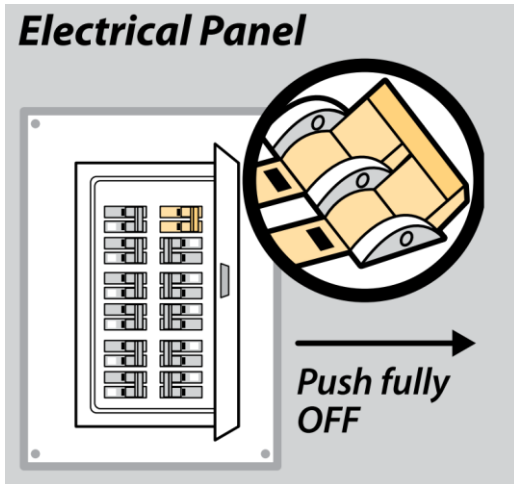


Prepare Your Water Supplies



- Plan for a minimum of 4 litres p/p, p/d
 - Drinking (2 liters)
 - Food preparation, washing dishes, brushing teeth, other hygiene needs (2 litres)
- Heat, pets, kids, health issues - increase water consumption/demand
- Date storage containers & keep in cool/dark
- Replace water every **6** months (unless long-term solution used e.g., water in cans)
- Be aware of additional sources of water incl.
 - Hot water tanks, rain barrels
 - Lakes, streams, springs, cisterns

Prepare Your Home – Know Your Utilities

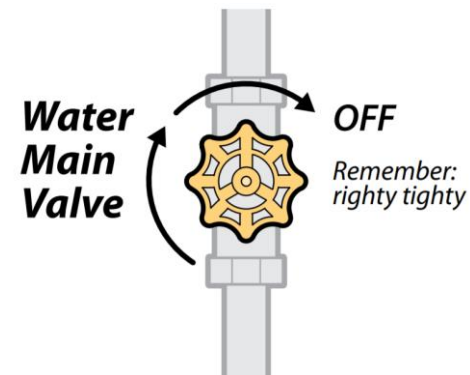


Electrical panel:

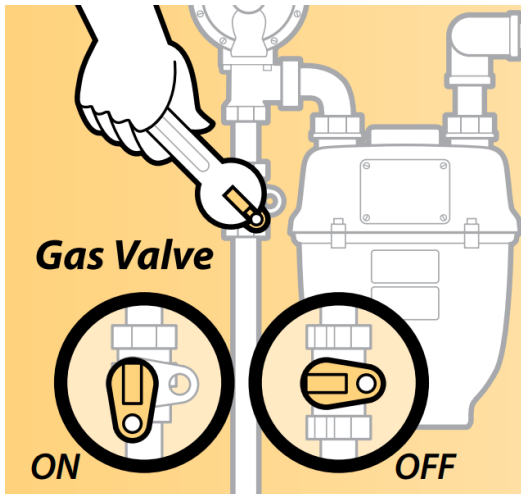
- Locate your main circuit breakers (usually a pair) and flip them to OFF
- This will shut off power to your entire home

Water main valve:

- Locate your water main valve and rotate it clockwise



Prepare Your Home – Know Your Utilities

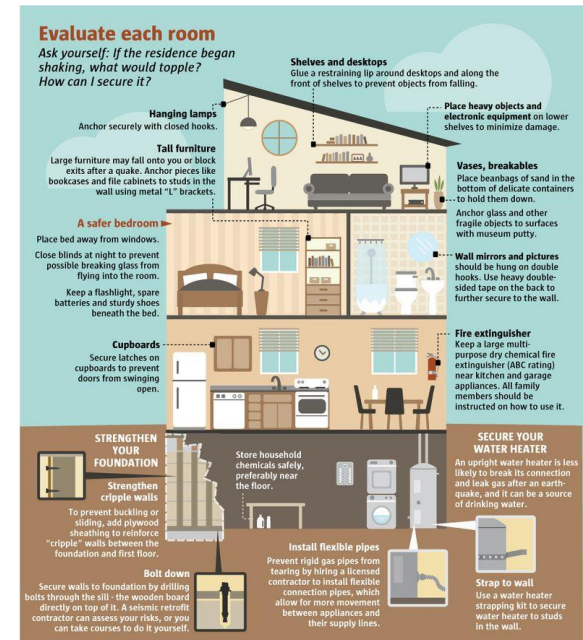


Natural gas:

- Don't shut off your natural gas if you're evacuating
- If your gas is shut off, don't try to turn it back on
- Only a licensed gas contractor can do so safely

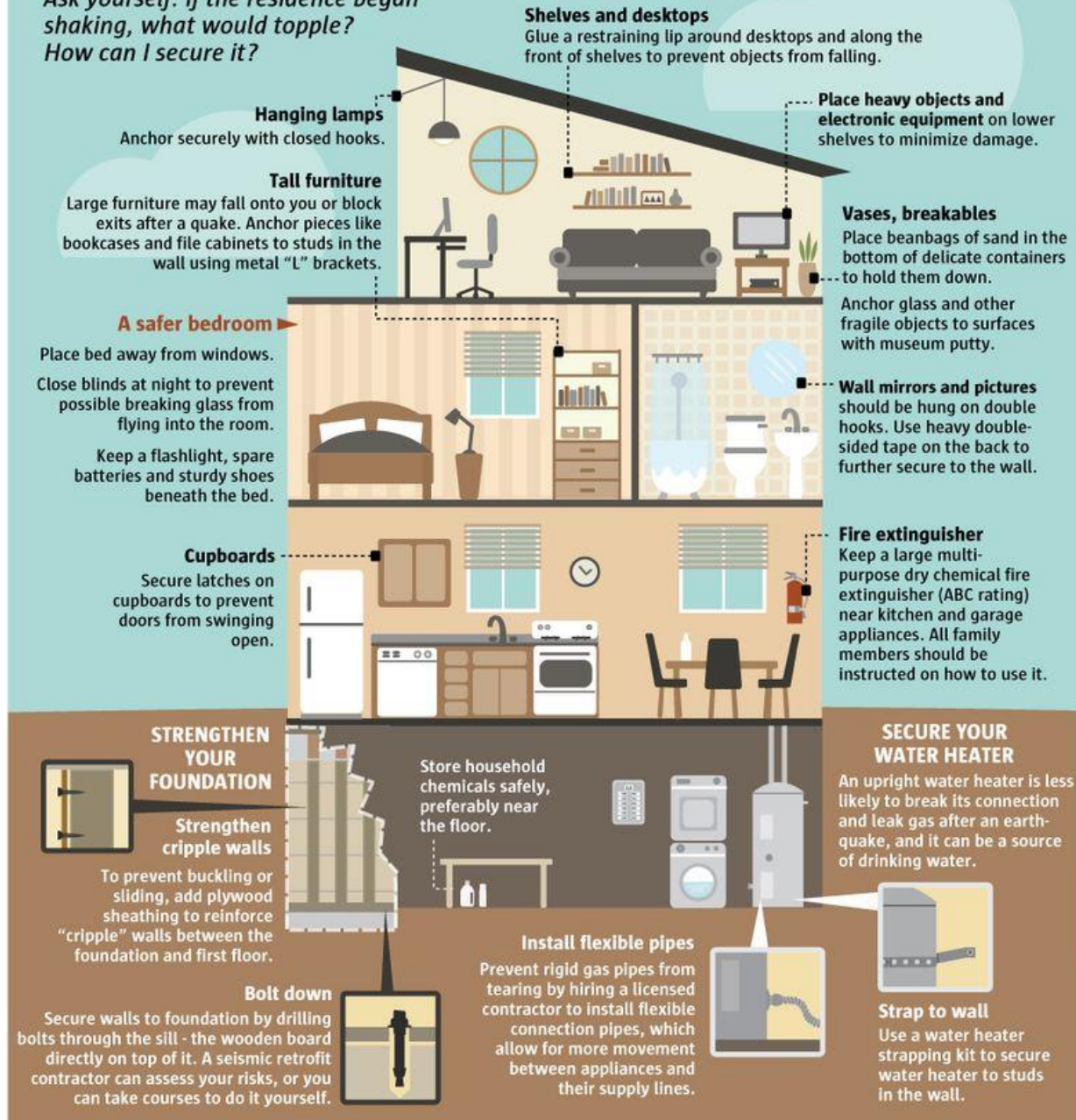
Some other key points:

- Secure furniture to the wall
- Put heavy objects on low shelves
- Place beds away from windows
- Secure your water heater
- Place latches on cupboards to prevent doors from swinging open



Evaluate each room

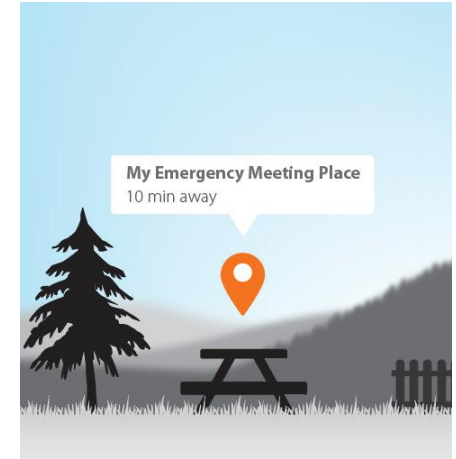
*Ask yourself: If the residence began shaking, what would topple?
How can I secure it?*



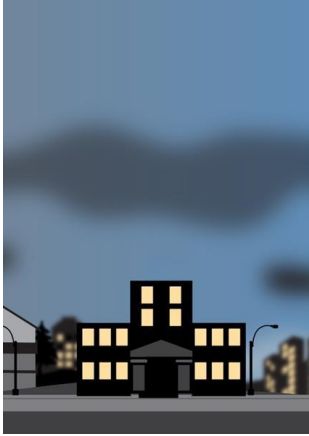
Communications and Meeting Places

- Identify a meeting place – home first
- Identify an alternative – outside immediate neighbourhood
- Complete an Emergency Contact Card
 - Contacts should be far away
 - A card for every household member
- Carry HELP/OK card in house and vehicle

Learn more: rdn.bc.ca/get-prepared

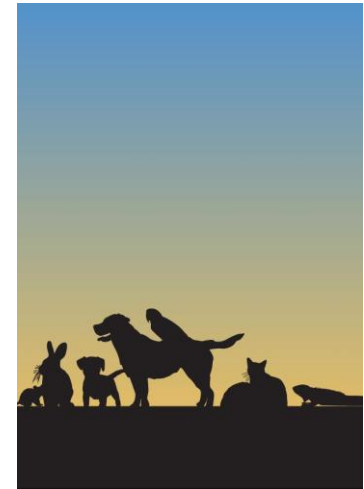


Plan for Your School Aged Children & Pets



- Know your school's emergency policies
 - Designate safe pick-up person
 - Save the school's contact info.
 - Encourage schools to run the **Master of Disaster** youth education program
- PreparedBC.ca/MasterOfDisaster

- Know locations of “pet-friendly” shelters/hotels
- Pack grab-and-go bags with pet food and water
- Save most recent information about your pets
- Include service animals in your preparation



Additional Planning Considerations



- Extra supply of prescriptions
- Manual backup for electric wheelchairs
- Extra batteries for hearing aids
- Include a pen and writing pad if verbal communication is difficult
- Keep your gas tank full
- Insurance documents
- Inventory and update your supplies
- Communicate plan
- Practise plan annually

Understand Different Types of Evacuations

Tactical

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

Strategic

- Not as imminent as Tactical
- Alert versus Order
- Must have a Declaration of a State of Local Emergency (SOLE)
- Carried out by
 - Fire Department
 - Search & Rescue
 - RCMP
 - Emergency services personnel

Learn more: rdn.bc.ca/during-emergency

During Strategic Evacuations: Stay Calm....Be Prepared

Will be communicated by the RDN

- **Stage 1-** Evacuation Alert
 - Take advantage of this time to prepare and self relocate those that 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



If Evacuated - Access 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 up to 72 hours.
- During this initial period, evacuees need to plan their next steps and begin their transition to recovery



Learn more: rdn.bc.ca/during-emergency

Community Notifications (ours)



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

- Local rdn.bc.ca/Voyent-Alert
- 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 loudspeakers if required

The RDN might also use

- Provincial [Emergency Alerts - Province of British Columbia](#) which are the broadcast intrusive alerts

Join or Form - Neighbourhood Emergency Preparedness Program

NEPP is simply neighbours helping neighbours prepare for a major disaster by becoming a self-reliant community

- After a major disaster, you and your neighbours will rely on each other for several days.
- Emergency services (e.g., fire, ambulance, police, utilities) could be overwhelmed, unable to respond your neighbourhood's needs.
- If your neighbourhood is organized before a disaster
 - You and your neighbours will know how to help each other
 - You will be empowered to respond more calmly and efficiently
- Knowing you're not alone after a disaster = peace of mind



If Evacuated - Access Emergency Support Services (ESS)

- Can [pre-register online](#) to streamline process in the event of an emergency
- ESS may be offered to evacuees for up to 72 hours (event depending)
- Reception Centres or Group Lodging may be opened to support those displaced
- Community volunteers will help with registration & referrals
 - 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
 - Emergency Operations Centers or
 - Emergency Reception Centers



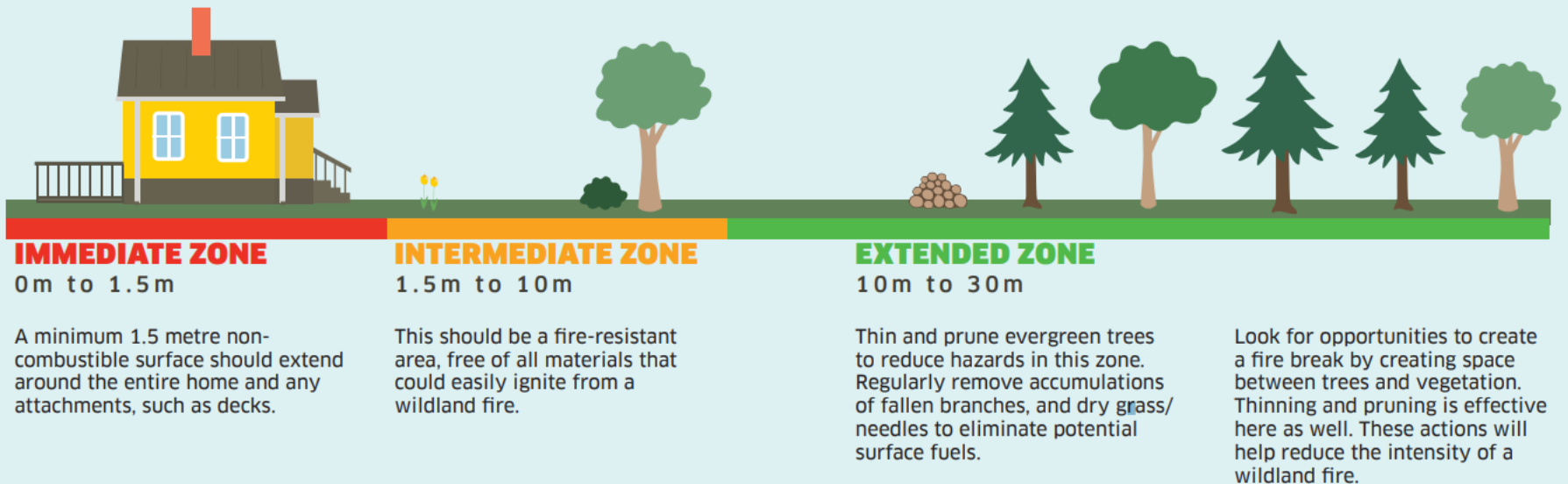
Learn more: rdn.bc.ca/emergency-amateur-radio-communication

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.
- Starts with a home ignition zone assessment performed by trained personnel
- **Your local Fire Department has a robust FireSmart program.**
- **To get more information and to request a FireSmart home assessment**
 - Contact your local fire department, or
 - Contact me firesmart@rdn.bc.ca

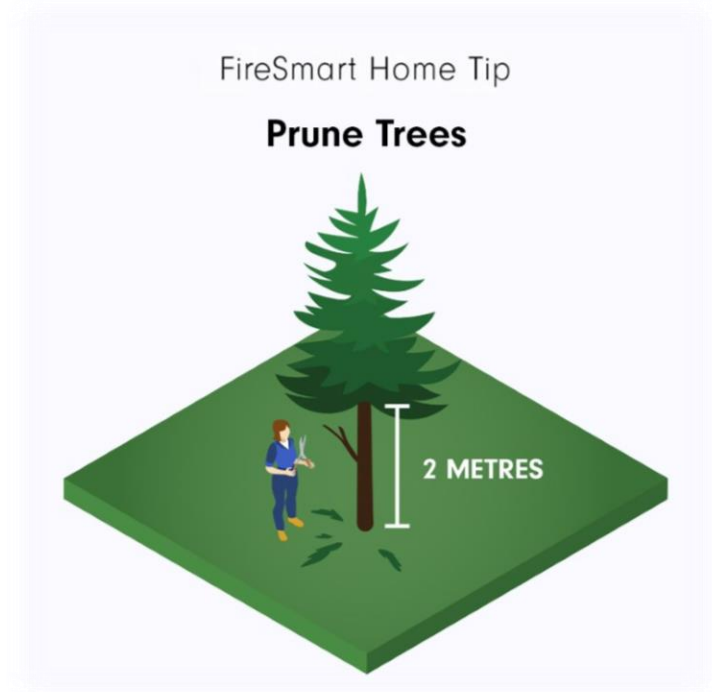


FireSmart Home Ignition Zone



FireSmart Quick 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.



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.



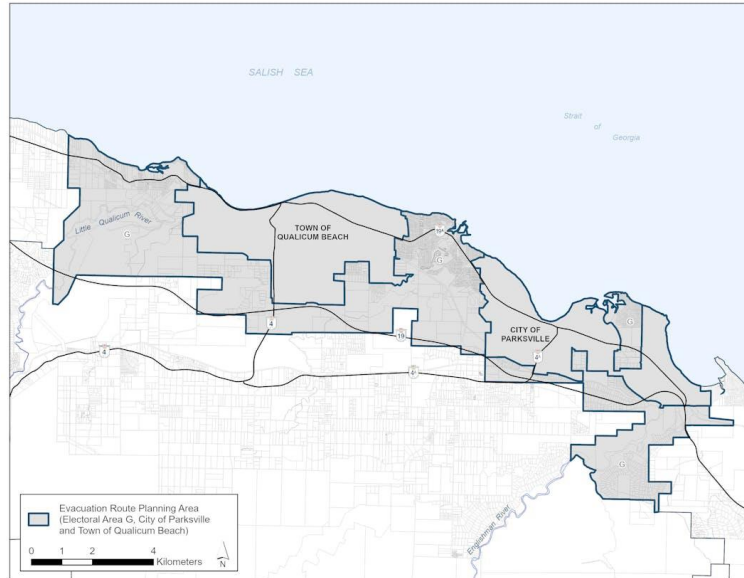
Questions?

T: 250.390.6565

E: EmergencyServices@rdn.bc.ca

Evacuation Route Planning Project

- The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN), City of Parksville and Town of Qualicum Beach are working together to develop

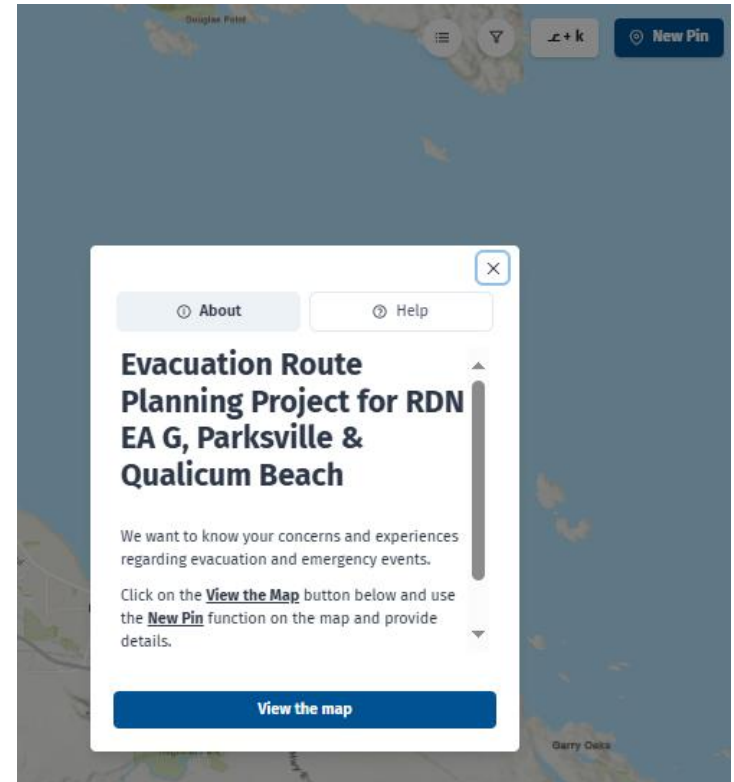


- Evacuation route plan for RDN Electoral Area G, the City of Parksville and the Town of Qualicum Beach
- Including input from the people who live and work in those communities.

Have Your Say (Evacuation Route Planning)

Learn more

- Go to www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/evac-route-planning-eag-cop-toqb
- View the maps
- Read the Frequently Asked Questions
- Complete the survey
- Map your ideas and concerns
- Post a question
- Join us at Community Engagement Events



Important Links

- RDN Voyent Alert! registration: voyent-alert.com/ca/community/
- RDN Emerg. Preparedness: www.rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services
- Become an ESS Volunteer, email: emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca
- RDN GetInvolved www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/
- Pre-register for Evacuee Registration Assistance: <https://era-evacuees.embc.gov.bc.ca/registration-method>
- PreparedBC www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc