

# Emergency Preparedness 2025

Erica Beauchamp, Emergency Manager  
Linda Ryan, Emergency Program Coordinator  
Evan Bryn-Jones, FireSmart Coordinator

Regional District of Nanaimo  
Contact us [EmergencyServices@RDN.bc.ca](mailto:EmergencyServices@RDN.bc.ca)

# Land Acknowledgement and Agenda

Respectful acknowledgement of the Coast Salish People and land we have the privilege to live, work and play.

## Agenda

- Local Hazards
- Why Prepare?
- Personal Preparedness
- Emergency Kit / Grab-n-Go Bag
- Community Notifications
- Shelter-in-Place, Evacuations Types, What to Do, Accessing Help
- FireSmart
- Electoral Area G Evacuation Route Planning Project

# 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

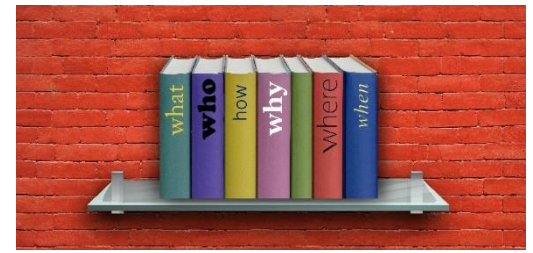


Drought



Hazardous Material  
Spills

# Why Prepare?



- Emergency responders
  - can be stretched in a large-scale event
  - will be dispatched according to priority
- You could have to
  - Self-sustain for at least 72 hours
  - Shelter-in-place
  - Evacuate
- You might not be at home or with friends/family

## Did you know?

Local government emergency plans rely on residents planning for self-sufficiency for the first 3 days and up to two weeks

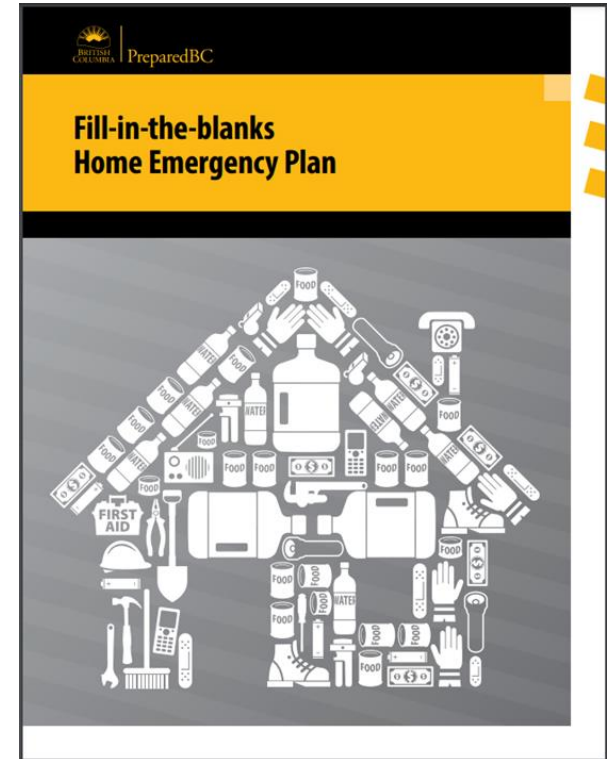
Here are the steps you can take to get more prepared...

# 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](http://rdn.bc.ca/get-prepared)





# Personal Preparedness – Build a 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**



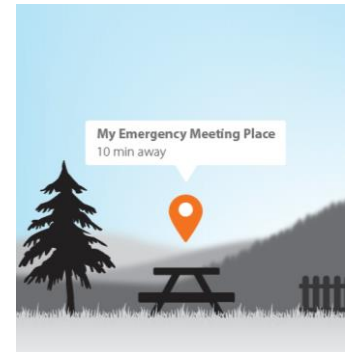
**Mask**



**Comfort & entertainment items**

# Personal Preparedness – Don't Forget

- Important documents, photos, devices
- Extra planning for
  - People with additional needs (meds., devices, abilities)
  - Kids
  - Pets
  - Livestock/farm animals
- Storing water (min. 4 litres pp/pd)
- Full tank of gas
- Designating a meeting place (primary, secondary)
- Completing an Emergency Contact Card
  - Contacts should be far away
  - A card for every household member
- Carrying a HELP/OK card in house and vehicle



# Community Notifications (ours)



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

- Local [rdn.bc.ca/Voyent-Alert](https://rdn.bc.ca/Voyent-Alert)
- Social media (Facebook and X (formerly Twitter))
- RDN website [www.RDN.bc.ca](https://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



# Shelter-in-Place and Types of Evacuations

## Shelter-in-Place

- When it's safer to stay where you are than to travel.
- Prepare for it like camping in your home!
- If there's an extended power outage: keep fridges/freezers closed, unplug appliances, turn off lights, use generators safely

## Strategic Evacuations

- Not as imminent as Tactical
- Alert versus Order
- Requires SOLE (Declaration of a State of Local Emergency)
- Carried out by first responders, emergency personnel, SAR etc.

## Tactical Evacuations

- Imminent threat to life safety
- Localized incident area
- Initiated by primary agency on scene
- Carried out by first responders, emergency personnel etc.

Learn more: [rdn.bc.ca/during-emergency](https://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](http://rdn.bc.ca/during-emergency)

# 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.
- If your neighbourhood is organized before a disaster
  - You will collectively know how to help each other
  - You will collectively be empowered to respond



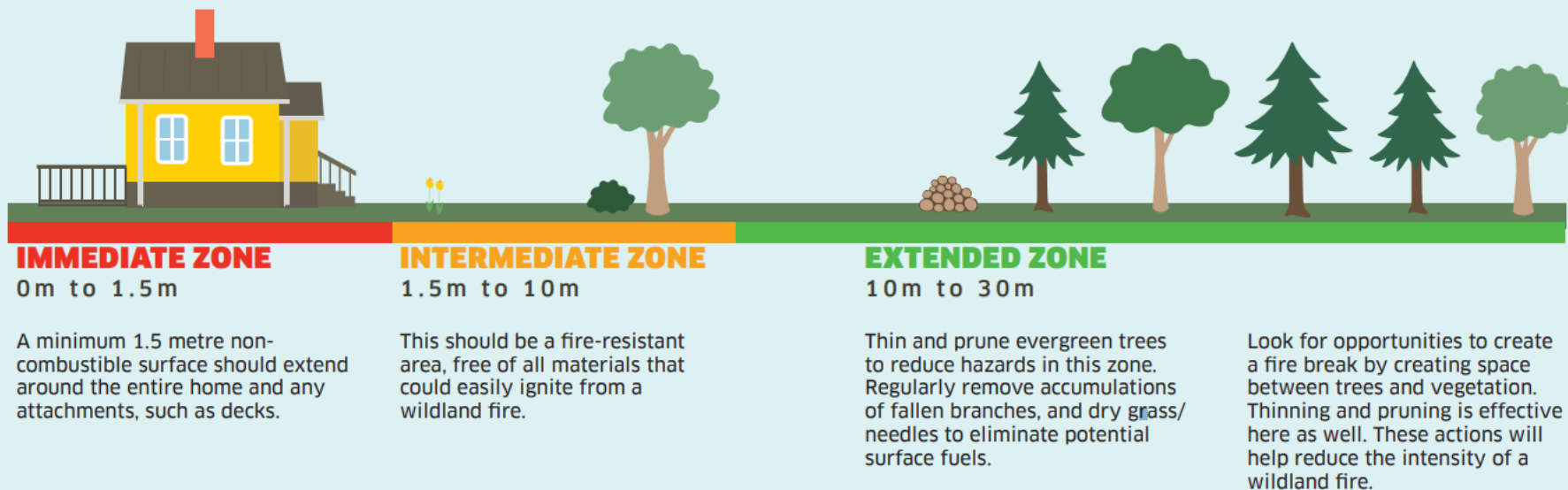
Knowing you're not alone after a disaster gives peace of mind

# FireSmart Program - [www.firesmartbc.ca](http://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](mailto:firesmart@rdn.bc.ca)



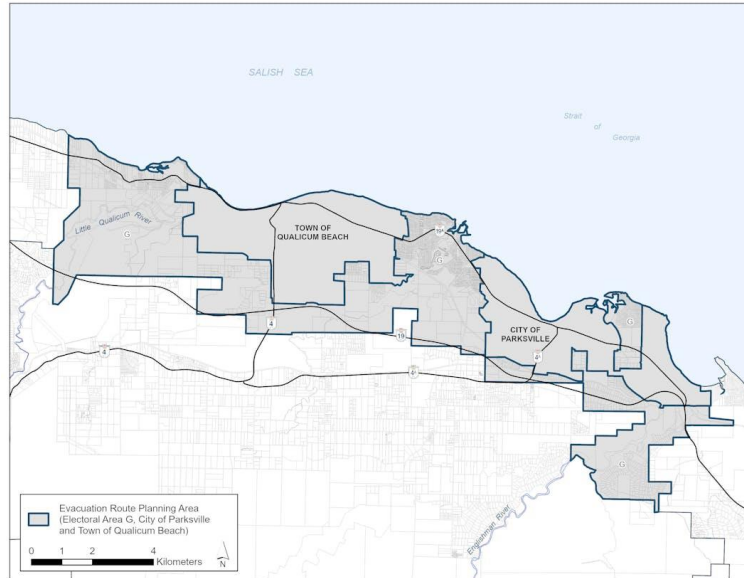
# FireSmart Home Ignition Zone





# 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.

# We're In This Together!

- RDN Voyent Alert! registration: [voyent-alert.com/ca/community/](https://voyent-alert.com/ca/community/)
- RDN Emerg. Preparedness: [www.rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services](https://www.rdn.bc.ca/emergency-services)
- Become an ESS Volunteer, email: [emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca](mailto:emergencyservices@rdn.bc.ca)
- RDN GetInvolved [www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/](https://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](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc)