

# Outside the house

If time allows, follow these steps to protect your home and structures before you evacuate.

- Turn off and disconnect your propane tanks. Remove weeds and other debris from area around large stationary propane tanks so there is no combustible material near tank.
- Close all doors, garage doors, and windows. If the weather seal or doors have gaps, seal with duct tape.
- If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home secure the gate in an open position.

## Inside the house

- Shut all windows and doors and lock the door when you leave.
- Remove window shades and curtains.
- Close metal shutters if you have them.
- Move furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Turn off all heating and ventilation systems, including air conditioning.
- Follow the direction of your local emergency authorities regarding your utilities, otherwise turn off your water, electricity, and gas (at the meter) and turn off all pilot lights.
- Post a message on your door in clear view, indicating where you are going and how you can be contacted.



## Wildland fire evacuation preparedness checklist



For more information please visit:

[www.getprepared.ca](http://www.getprepared.ca)  
[www.firesmartcanada.ca](http://www.firesmartcanada.ca)

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## Before a wildland fire

Wildland fires can affect communities in forested or grassland areas, including urban green spaces like ravines and parks. Conditions can change very quickly and the requirement to evacuate your home can occur at a moment's notice. If a wildland fire is near, protect yourself and loved ones by following directions provided by your local authorities and be prepared to evacuate.

### Before a potential wildland fire, consider the following actions:

#### Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 m (30 ft) of your home.

Remove everything combustible within 10 m (30ft) of your home, such as toys, tires, vehicles, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants that are on, or under your deck.

- Prioritize the first 1.5 m (5 ft) around your home and deck and then move outwards from there.
- Move all combustible items into your shed, home, or garage.

- Download your local emergency alert app.

#### Make an evacuation plan. Get together with your family and friends and work on your emergency plan together. Make sure everyone understands what would happen and what to do in the event of a major emergency.

- The plan should include a muster point in case you become separated from each other.
- Provide directions to care providers for young children or elderly family members.
- Provide directions for pets and livestock, including where they should be taken and how they will get there.

- Put together an emergency kit. Store it somewhere that is easy to access. Your kit should be light enough to lift into your vehicle. Keep your vehicle's fuel tank full throughout the season.

- Visit [www.getprepared.gc.ca](http://www.getprepared.gc.ca) for helpful tips, evacuation plan templates, and a complete list of emergency kit supplies.



## During a wildland fire

In the event of a wildland fire nearby, first responders will be busy managing the fire. You should be ready to look after yourself and your family for at least 72 hours. Your ability to be self-sufficient will help free up resources to assist those in greater need.

- Stay informed on the current fire situation by monitoring your local radio, television, social media accounts or local emergency alert app.
- Review your evacuation plan with your family and loved ones, ensuring everyone is familiar with their responsibilities.
- Ensure vehicle(s) that are to be used for an evacuation are serviced and full of fuel.
- Have your emergency kit in your vehicle or readily available.
- Continue to work on your yard and house as per FireSmart recommendations and guidelines.
- Gather patio furniture, children's toys, trash cans, etc. from outside of the house and bring them inside or place them at least 10 m (30ft) from buildings and vegetation.



## During an evacuation

You will be informed of potential evacuations as early as possible, but it's important that you are ready to go on a moment's notice.

Evacuation routes, timing, and affected areas will change depending on the situation. Follow your local community social media and local radio stations to get up-to-date evacuation information and directions.

### If an evacuation order is issued or you must leave your home, be sure to:

- Take your emergency kit and other essential items (such as medications) with you.
- Follow designated evacuation routes indicated by the local authorities.
- Proceed in a calm and orderly manner.
- Stay informed by monitoring local radio stations and emergency alert apps.
- Check in at a designated evacuation centre to register with authorities and inform them you have evacuated safely.

## Returning home

- Follow directions of local officials to understand how to safely turn your home utilities back on, what remaining hazards may still be present, and how to clean and discard any debris left behind.
- Your home may have been damaged, be cautious when returning. Assess the damage and contact your insurance company or a professional to arrange for necessary repairs.
- Remove spoiled food from refrigerators and freezers. Depending on the length of the evacuation, authorities may recommend sealing your refrigerator and freezer and removing it from your house for pick up.