

# **2025 Town of Fort Smith Emergency Preparedness Guide**

**THIS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GUIDE WAS PUBLISHED  
BY THE TOWN OF FORT SMITH PROTECTIVE SERVICES**

Protective Services works closely with municipal, industrial and local community partners in ensuring the safety of our community.

The types of activities include, but are not limited to:

- Creating and maintaining the Emergency Management Plans
- Conducting training and exercises
- Implementation of Fire Prevention and FireSmart programs

This Community Emergency Guide provides you with easy to understand information on home and personal emergency preparedness. It has been designed to be unique to our community and includes guidance on dealing with the likely hazards that have been identified by the community.

Emergency prevention, preparedness and response are responsibilities we all share. We encourage you to review the Community Emergency Guide annually with your family and keep it in a place where it can be easily accessed.

A wide range of emergency situations can occur. Some emergencies may require evacuation while some emergencies may require preparing and monitoring. In other cases, an emergency may require sheltering in place at home or at a safe structure in the community.

In some cases we may have a day or two to prepare, while other situations might require immediate action. Planning ahead is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter what the situation.

## STAY INFORMED

- Register online or at the CRC for the Fort Smith Emergency Notification System
- Follow the Town of Fort Smith on Facebook or at [www.fortsmith.ca](http://www.fortsmith.ca)
- In an emergency listen to the radio, look for posters, and wait for emergency notifications.
- Become familiar with the different types of emergency notification.
  - Shelter in place - Stay home!
  - Notice - Prepare to evacuate
  - Alert - Prepare to evacuate on short notice
  - Order - Evacuate immediately
  - All Clear - Safely return home

## BE PREPARED

- Pre-fill an evacuation registration form online or at the CRC to assist in evacuation.
- Keep your vehicle fueled.
- Pack a 72 hour emergency kit.
- Pack any important documents, medication, and personal items.
- Pack an emergency vehicle kit.
- Communicate your emergency preparedness plans with everyone in your house.
- Have a family communication plan.
- Consider what you will do with your pets.
- Plan to secure your home before leaving.

## EMERGENCY NOTIFICATION TYPES

Shelter  
in Place



Evacuation  
Notice



Evacuation  
Alert



Evacuation  
Order



All Clear





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# EMERGENCY KITS

**Always have an emergency kit or "go bag" ready with supplies to support you and your family for up to 72 hours.**

## Basic Items:

- Water – two litres of water per person per day.
- Food – canned, package or non-perishable food for each member of the family (include a manual can opener)
- Wind up or battery-powered radio and flashlight (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Extra keys for your car and house
- Cash, travelers' cheques and change
- Important family documents

## Additional Items:

- Two additional litres of water per person per day
- Candles and matches or lighter (place in a sturdy container)
- Change of clothing and footwear for each person
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Toiletries and personal hygiene items
- Hand sanitizer, toilet paper and garbage bags
- Prepaid phone card and/or mobile phone charger
- Pet food and supplies
- Infant formula, baby food and supplies
- Activities for children like books, puzzles or toys
- Prescription medication and medical equipment
- Utensils, plates and cups
- Household chlorine bleach or water purifying tablets
- Basic tool kit and duct tape
- Small fuel-operated stove and fuel



## Have a Vehicle Kit

- Sleeping bags or blankets
- Small shovel, scraper, and snowbrush
- Sand, salt, or non-clumping kitty litter
- Tow rope
- Anti-freeze/windshield washer fluid
- Jumper cables
- Warning light or road flares
- Roll of paper towels
- Axe or hatchet
- All-purpose fire extinguisher (rated A-B-C)
- Extra fuel and oil

## Shelter-in-Place Items

If you are asked to shelter in place in your home there are some additional items you might want to have.

- Plastic sheeting (to seal windows, vents, and doors)
- Duct tape
- Towels (to block the bottom of the doors)
- Garbage bags
- An alternative heat source and an adequate supply of fuel (make sure there is adequate ventilation)



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# EVACUATION PLANNING

A wide range of emergencies may cause an evacuation. In some cases you may have a day or two to prepare, while other situations might require immediate evacuation. Planning ahead is vital to ensuring that you can evacuate quickly and safely, no matter what the situation.

## BEFORE AN EVACUATION



Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.



Fill out an evacuation registration form online or at the Rec Center. Sign up for the Emergency Notification System online.



Assemble supplies for an evacuation. Include a portable emergency and vehicle kit.



Tune into social media, the radio or government websites and follow instructions.



Take your pets to a designated animal shelter or with you if you have a place for them after you leave.



Close your windows and shut off your ventilation system and utilities. Lock your home



Travel safely to your destination or to the Recreation Center for travel assistance.



Register at the Evacuation Center even if you choose not to stay there.

## DURING AN EVACUATION



# PET EVACUATION PLAN

**Pets can't always go with you in an emergency evacuation. An Emergency plan for your furry family will help prepare you!**

## **Basic Emergency Items:**

- Water – 7-14 days
- Food – 7-14 days canned, package or non-perishable food. (Can opener)
- First aid kit and medications
- Treats
- Vaccination records
- Animal license
- Recent photo of you and the animal incase separated.

## **Additional Items:**

- Toys
- Extra litter
- Carrier
- Bedding
- Spare Collar and leash
- Extra cleaning supplies
- Timed feeder
- Large water dispenser

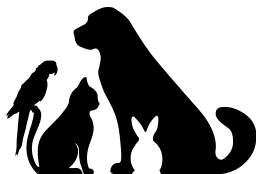


## **Evacuation by plane or bus**

- Unless it is an assistance animal no pets will be able to travel by air or bus during an evacuation.
- See the shelter in place recommendations.

## **Evacuation by personal vehicle**

- If you are evacuating by personal vehicle pets can go with you.
- No pets will be allowed at reception centers. You must find accommodations for your pets if you remove them from the community.



## **Shelter-in-Place Items**

If you are unable to take your pets, arrange for them to shelter in place.

- During evacuation every attempt will be made to provide safe communal lodging for pets but space and resources may be limited.
- Create a safe space with plenty of water and food for your pet in your yard or home.
- Do not tether them.
- Tell the evacuation center in Fort Smith or the reception center in the reception community where your pet is located.
- Leave a note on your door about the number, type, and location of animals. Include the date you left.



# KNOW YOUR PLAN - OVERVIEW

The Town of Fort Smith has an Emergency Management Plan in place for Fort Smith. You can read the full plan at <https://fortsmith.ca/emergency-preparedness-updates>

## EVACUATION

**If an emergency impacts your neighborhood you may be directed to evacuate. If you are being told to evacuate, here's what to do:**

- Close windows and doors.
- Shutoff ventilation systems.
- Turn off water, fuel, electricity
- Pack your family, pets, and evacuation supplies into your vehicle.
- If you do not have a vehicle make your way to the Recreation Center (Evacuation Center) for transportation.
- Follow the evacuation instructions provided through local media.
- Stay informed through local media updates.
- Ensure your vehicle is adequately fueled before leaving the community.

## SHELTER IN PLACE

**If an emergency impacts your neighborhood you may be directed to shelter in place. If you are being told to shelter in place, here's what to do:**

- Bring your family and pets inside.
- Lock all doors.
- Close and seal all windows and doors
- Shut off your ventilation system.
- Stay informed through Municipal updates and local media.
- Stay sheltered in place until authorities say it is safe to leave or you are directed to a defensible shelter-in-place structure in the community. (Recreation Center, Arena, or other Town Center buildings)

During an emergency, if you are in danger and require assistance, call 9-1-1.  
If you have questions, contact Protective Services at 867-872-2674

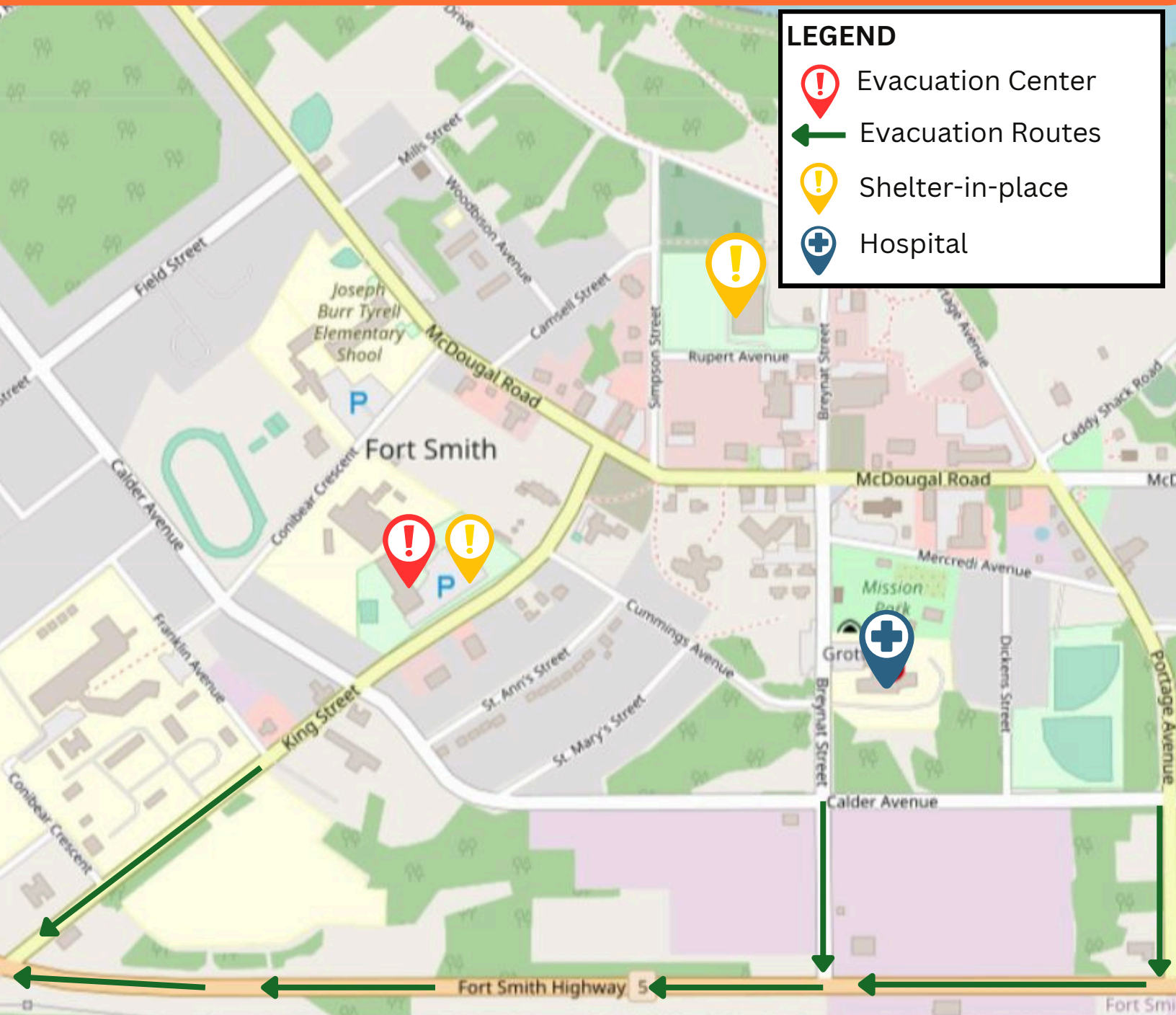


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# KNOW YOUR PLAN

## SHELTER-IN-PLACE MAP

The area shown provides the best opportunities for Shelter-in-place protection if an evacuation is not possible. The Recreation Center, Arena, and other government buildings in this area will be identified during a shelter-in-place order if staying in your home is no longer safe and evacuation is not possible.



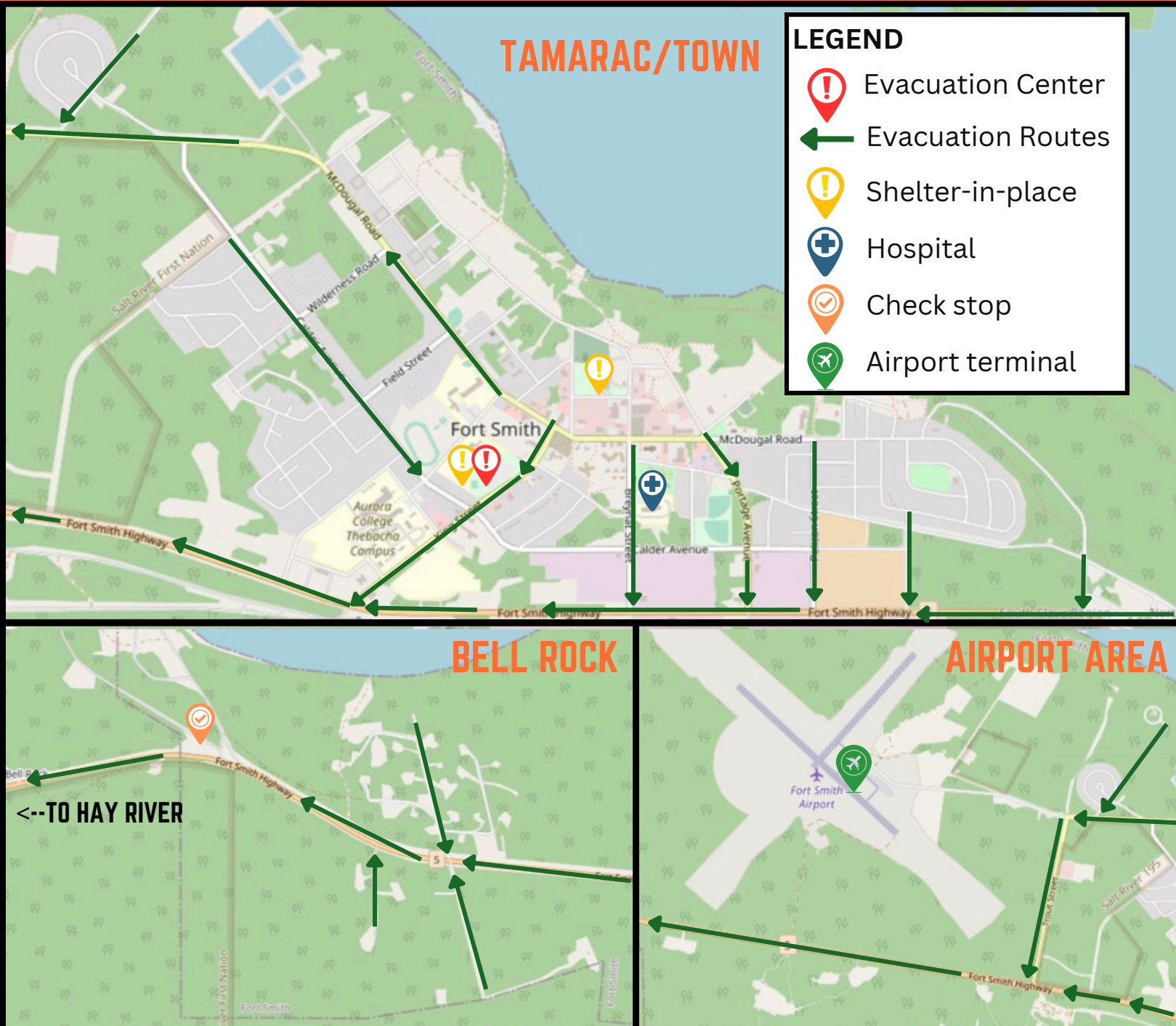
During an emergency, if you are in danger and require assistance, call 9-1-1.  
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# KNOW YOUR PLAN

## EVACUATION MAP

If an evacuation order is called - follow the quickest route to Highway 5 and evacuate in the direction the order states. Drive with caution and maintain safe distances between vehicles. Do not leave the community without having adequate fuel.



During an emergency, if you are in danger and require assistance, call 9-1-1.  
If you have questions, contact Protective Services at 867-872-2674

# SHELTER IN PLACE

IF THERE IS AN IMMEDIATE THREAT TO PUBLIC HEALTH OR SAFETY, YOU MAY BE INSTRUCTED TO "SHELTER-IN-PLACE."

Take immediate shelter where you are - at home, work or school.

## WHAT TO DO



Take your family and pets indoors.



If air quality is poor seal all windows and doors using duct tape, and plastic. Place wet towels along the base of doors.



Lock your doors and close and seal all windows.



It is important that you stay in shelter until local authorities say it is safe to leave.



Tune into social media, the radio or government websites and follow instructions.



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# EXTREME HOT WEATHER RESPONSE

## PREPARE NOW



Assess your cooling options for a hot weather event. Identify a cool space like the basement to spend time in.



Consider installing a backup cooling source incase the power fails in the summer.



Consider purchasing a backup generator to run an air conditioner if the power fails in the summer.



Have an easy to install air conditioner and fan available. Stock cooling blankets and light clothing.



Tune into social media, the radio or government websites and follow instructions.



If possible, move to an area of your home that is well insulated.



If trapped in an area with extreme temperatures call 911 or 872-2222 for rescue assistance.



Follow instructions about possible cooling shelters. Travel safely to the identified location.



Contact at risk friends and family to ensure they are safe.

## RESPOND



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# EXTREME COLD WEATHER RESPONSE

## PREPARE NOW



Assess your heating options for cold weather events.



Consider installing a backup heating source incase the power fails in the winter.



Consider purchasing a backup generator to run your furnace if the power fails in the winter.



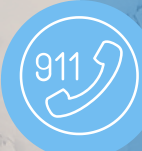
Have an easy to install space heater available. Stock blankets, extra bedding and winter clothing.



Tune into social media, the radio or government websites and follow instructions.



If possible, move to an area of your home that is well insulated.



If trapped in an area with extreme temperatures call 911 or 872-2222 for rescue assistance.



Follow instructions about possible warming shelters. Travel safely to the identified location.



Contact at risk friends and family to ensure they are safe.

## RESPOND



# WILDFIRE RESPONSE

## PREPARE NOW



Keep your fuel tank above 3/4 at all times incase evacuation is required.



Plan how you will leave and where you will go if you are advised to evacuate.



Fill out an evacuation registration form online or at the Rec Center. Sign up for the Emergency Notification System online.



Assemble supplies for an evacuation. Include a portable emergency and vehicle kit.



Tune into social media, the radio or government websites and follow instructions.



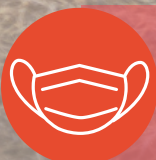
Leave when told to do so. Do not delay as roads may become blocked.



If trapped call 911 or 872-2222 for rescue assistance.



Follow evacuation instructions and evacuate safely.



Wear a face mask to keep particles out of the air you breathe

## RESPOND



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# FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST



Do you have a working smoke and carbon monoxide detector on each floor of your home?

☐

Do you have a home escape plan? Have you practiced it with your family?

☐

Do you have a certified portable fire extinguisher?

☐

Is your home address clearly visible from the road during the day and night?

☐

Are you aware of the risk of overloading an electrical circuit?

☐

Is your kitchen free of hazards?

☐

Do you always watch your food while it's cooking?

☐

Are space heaters kept away from combustible products?

☐

Are products like gas and propane safely stored outside?

☐



# COMMUNITY SAFETY



**Always wear a helmet**



**Pack tools and equipment to keep your machine maintained**



**Don't ride alone. Use the buddy system!**



**Ride to your limits and the terrain!**

## ATV/SNOWMOBILE



## BOATING



**All operators must carry proof of competency**



**Always wear a properly fitted lifejacket or personal flotation device.**



**Ensure you have all legally required safety equipment on board.**



**Never operate your boat while impaired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**



**If you fall through ice, do not panic and try to control your breathing.**



**Turn towards the direction you came from and place your hands and arms flat on the solid ice.**



**Kick your feet and try to push/pull yourself on to the solid ice on your stomach.**



**Once you are on the ice, roll away from the break**

## ICE



## BEAR



**Make your yard bear smart! Keep food, garbage, and other bear attractants properly stored.**



**Prevent bear encounters in the woods. Make noise, leash your dog, and walk in pairs.**



**Watch for bear signs like fresh scat, paw prints, and disturbed logs/stumps.**



**If you see a bear retreat slowly, remain calm and alert, use bear spray if you are being threatened.**



**Wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device! It is the most effective piece of safety equipment near water.**



**Do not swim or boat impaired or under the influence of drugs or alcohol.**



**Be aware of the weather and water temperature. Cold water immersion can be life threatening.**



**Let loved ones know where you are going and when you can be expected back.**

## RIVER





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# PROTECT YOUR HOME MAKE IT FIRESMART

## Tips to FireSmart Your Home

Taking action to FireSmart your property will dramatically decrease the risk of wildfire damaging your home. The best part is, it's surprisingly easy to do.

Clean under your deck to remove any combustible material. Establish a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around the perimeter of the house and deck.

Clean and maintain gutters and roofs. Keep decks and balconies clear of leaves and debris.

Keep grass and weeds cut below 10 centimetres.

Have a wildfire evacuation plan and make sure everyone in your household knows what to do.

FireSmart, Intelli-feu and other associated Marks are trademarks of the Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre.

Download the FireSmart home assessment and do a self-assessment of your home and property.

Hold sheds and other structures to the same standards as your home.

Relocate propane tanks 10-30 meters from your home, and keep combustible vegetation a minimum of 10 metres from propane tanks.

Move firewood and lumber 10-30 meters away from home.

Prune trees to create a two-meter clearance from the ground to the lowest branches.

Add non-combustible 3 millimetre screens to external vents (except dryer vents).

Reduce the flammability of your landscaping and plant wildfire resistant vegetation. Learn landscaping.

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
**FireSmart™**

Learn more at [FireSmartBC.ca](https://firesmartbc.ca)

 **FireSmart™**  
Canada



statistics show that as few as 4% of homes with no FireSmart Preparedness will survive a major wildfire event vs 90% with!

Learn more about FireSmart guidelines and suggestions at <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>

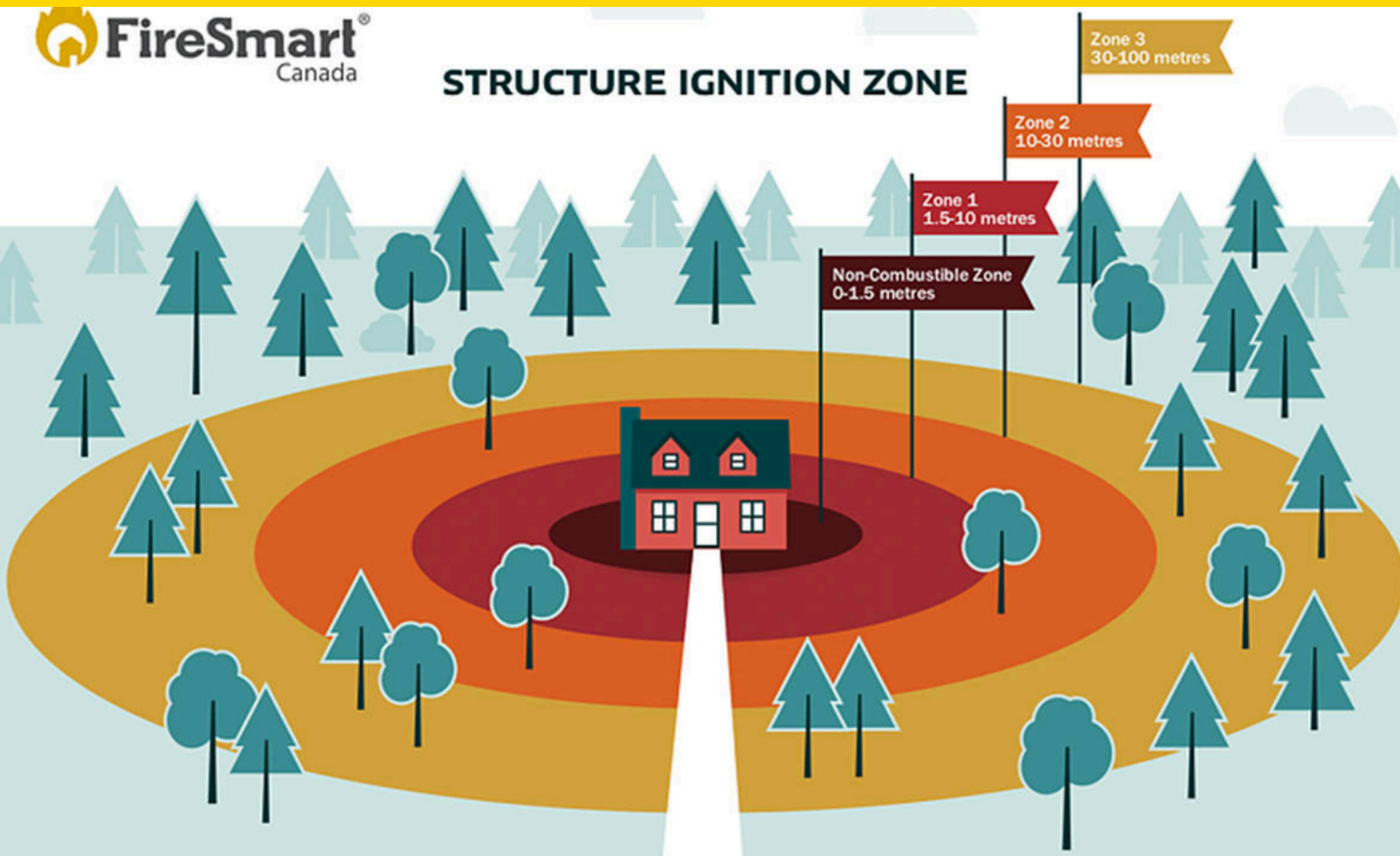


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# KNOW YOUR ZONES! MAKE IT FIRESMART



## STRUCTURE IGNITION ZONE



**Contact the Fort Smith Fire Department  
for a free FireSmart Home Assessment!**

Call 867-621-0486 to register!



statistics show that as few as 4% of homes with no FireSmart Preparedness will survive a major wildfire event vs 90% with!

Learn more about FireSmart guidelines and suggestions at <https://firesmartcanada.ca/>