

Preparing for Emergencies

Fill out the information in this booklet, and keep it in your emergency kit with your emergency plans.

Download English and French versions from PreparedYukon.ca.

Keep a copy in your vehicle or at work.

Be prepared to take care of yourself and your family for at least 72 hours in an emergency.

Hazards in the Yukon include earthquakes, floods and wildland fires. We experience power outages, communication failures and highway closures.

This guide will help you think about risks, and the steps you can take to protect your life and property.

Learn more at
PreparedYukon.ca

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Call 9-1-1 in an emergency

If you or someone else is hurt or in danger, call 9-1-1 for help from the RCMP, fire department or emergency medical services (EMS).

Call 9-1-1 when there is:

- a life-threatening emergency or medical situation
- a crime in progress
- a fire
- a serious accident
- exposure to, or inhalation or swallowing of, a poisonous substance

What if the phone doesn't work?

If you can't call 9-1-1 due to a telecommunications outage or other problem, send someone to report the emergency at the nearest:

- RCMP station or detachment
- Health centre or hospital

Meanwhile, keep trying to call 9-1-1 until help arrives.

Listen to the radio for important information including other locations where emergency personnel may be stationed.

Immediately after a disaster

1. Protect your head, feet and hands from injury with a hard hat, sturdy shoes and gloves.
2. Check on your family members. Tend to injuries.
3. Check and shut off utilities if necessary.
4. Shut off water at the main valve. This will conserve the water already in your home.
5. Assess your home for serious damage: is it safe to stay?
6. Communicate, if possible, with your emergency contacts. A text is easier on the telecommunication system than phone calls.
7. If safe to do so, help your neighbours.

Make an emergency plan

Understand the risks in your community and develop an emergency plan for your family or household. You may need different plans for different circumstances. For example, you will need different plans for a house fire, evacuation from wildfire, and sheltering in place during a power outage.

Think about what you would do if an emergency happened while you were at work or your kids were at school. Where can you take your pets? Who can you stay with? What happens if roads are closed, gas stations are out of service, or telephones don't work?

Review your plans regularly.

Establish a network of friends, neighbours and family who understand your needs and can assist during an emergency.

If you or a family member has physical, medical, sensory or cognitive disabilities or requires extra assistance, be sure to include those needs in your plan.

If you have pets or livestock, include them in your emergency plan.



Create and download a personalized plan at **getprepared.gc.ca**.



Build your emergency kit

Prepare to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours in an emergency. Pack supplies in a backpack or rolling suitcase. Use more than one bag so that your kit isn't too heavy to carry.

Don't count on being home when an emergency occurs. Consider making kits for your home, workplace and vehicle.

Essentials

- Drinking water: at least two litres of water/person/day (add two extra litres/person/day for cooking and cleaning)
- Food, ready-to-eat that won't spoil: canned food (and manual can opener), energy bars and dried foods
- Battery-powered or wind-up radio and flashlight (plus extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Chargers for cellphones and electronic communication devices, plus alternate power source
- Extra keys to your car and home
- Cash, in smaller bills and change
- Copies of your emergency plan, emergency contacts, identification, and important documents such as birth certificates and insurance records
- As needed:
 - prescriptions or special medications
 - infant formula, diapers
 - medical and mobility equipment
 - extra contact lenses or glasses
 - food, water and medication for pets



Recommended additional items

- Candles and matches or lighter (place candles in deep, sturdy containers and do not burn unattended)
- Camp stove, fuel and cookware (use outdoors only)
- Seasonal clothing and sturdy footwear for each person
- Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each person
- Toiletries and personal hygiene items
- Hand sanitizer, toilet paper and garbage bags
- Water purifying tablets or household chlorine bleach
- Utensils, plates and cups
- Basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, work gloves, dust mask, pocket knife)
- Whistle (to attract attention)
- Duct tape (to tape up windows, doors, air vents, etc.)
- Activities for children (toys, games)

Visit **PreparedYukon.ca** for more info.

Emergency contacts

Identify a **local emergency contact** and an **out-of-town emergency contact**.

Ensure that these people know they are your emergency contacts. Keep their phone numbers and email addresses with you, and in your emergency kit.

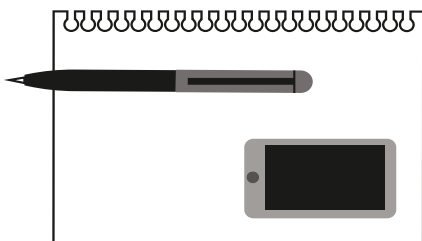
- ❑ **Local emergency contacts**, such as neighbours, can pick up your kids or pets if you can't reach your home during an emergency.
- ❑ An **out-of-town emergency contact** will not be affected by local events. They can help make arrangements, keep everyone informed, and even provide shelter if you need to evacuate. Plan for each family member to call, email or text this person in an emergency.

Important documents

In your emergency kit, keep paper copies of your identification, pet identification and photo, prescriptions and medication schedules, insurance policies and other essential documents.

Make password-protected electronic copies that you can access from another location.

Provide your emergency contacts with copies of these important documents.



Get information

Online: During an emergency, instructions and information will be posted on **yukon.ca/emergencies**. Safety tips and emergency information are also posted on the Yukon Protective Services Facebook page at **Facebook.com/YukonProtectiveServices**.

On air: Radio and television broadcasts may be interrupted with emergency messages. Local media will also receive information to broadcast.

In person: Depending on the nature and location of the emergency, responders may share information by loud speakers, radio, information posters, community meetings and going door-to-door.



For details about how to prepare for a flood, wildfire, or other emergency, visit

PreparedYukon.ca.

For the latest information on ongoing floods, wildfires, and other incidents, visit

yukon.ca/emergencies.

Home fire safety

To help prevent home fires:

- Have your woodstove, chimney and furnace inspected and cleaned annually by a licenced professional
- Never leave a hot stove unattended
- Keep a fire extinguisher in kitchens and workshops
- Turn off heaters when you leave the room or go to sleep
- Never smoke indoors and never leave candles unattended

When you hear a smoke alarm or carbon monoxide alarm, get out!

Wildfires

Protect your home from wildfires by removing sources of fuel for embers and applying FireSmart principles:

- Remove anything that can burn from a 1.5-metre zone around your house, decks, and outbuildings.
- Clean up dead branches, leaves, needles, and underbrush.
- Prune trees to create a two-metre clearance from the ground.
- Clean your roof and gutters regularly.

Power outages

During a power outage, your house may be without electricity for hours or days. If you have electric home heating, you may need to find another way to stay warm. Do you have a friend or neighbour nearby

with a woodstove? Make a plan with them before a power outage occurs.

Never use BBQs, camp heating equipment, or generators inside a building or garage. They give off carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas you can't see or smell.

Flooding

If you live near water or in an area with a history of flooding, take steps to protect your possessions and property. Consider:

- Elevating your furnace, water heaters and electric panel off the ground on wood or cement blocks
- Moving valuables out of low-lying areas
- Installing backflow valves or plugs for drains to prevent sewer water from entering your home
- Installing a sump pump

During ice breakup in spring, pay close attention to the situation around you and any forecasts, advisories or warnings.

Earthquakes

Before an earthquake happens, secure furniture and household objects that can fall and break, causing injury.

To protect yourself during an earthquake, **DROP, COVER and HOLD ON**. Drop to the ground, take cover under a table, and hold on to it until the shaking stops.

If you use a walker or wheelchair, **LOCK, COVER and HOLD ON**. Lock the wheels, bend over and cover your head with your arms, a pillow, or a book, and hold on until the shaking stops.

Landlord _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Shelter-in-place room _____

Non-work day

Phone _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Colour _____

Registration/ID _____

Phone _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Service provider _____

Phone _____

Know how to turn off utilities

A burst pipe, a leaky propane pipe, an impending flood—depending on the emergency, and whether it is safe to do so, you may need to turn off utilities to your home. Know where the electrical panel, water shut off valves, and propane or oil tank shut offs are located, and how to use them.

Remember:

- ❑ If your house is flooded, don't try to turn off your power. Water and electricity are a deadly combination. Instead, call the electric company.
- ❑ If your propane tank is damaged, stay away from it and evacuate uphill. Propane is heavier than air and will flow along the ground like water, seeking low areas.
- ❑ Do not attempt to turn propane back on yourself—call a professional.

Shelter in place

Sometimes staying where you are during an emergency is the safest thing to do.

“Shelter in place” can mean more than just staying indoors.

Follow instructions to go inside, lock doors and windows, or eliminate any ways that hazardous materials can enter the room, such as taping off vents and closing fireplace dampers.

Evacuate

Evacuation is required when life is threatened. An **evacuation order** means you need to **leave the area immediately**. If you don't evacuate, you can't expect timely rescue or assistance. The evacuation order will have instructions on where to go but may not describe the route you should take. Be sure your emergency plan includes exit routes from your neighbourhood.

An evacuation order may be issued without prior warning. However, some situations might allow for advance notice.

- An **evacuation alert** warns that you may need to leave on short notice. When an alert is issued, get ready to leave by gathering your family, emergency kit and necessities for travel. Be ready to go!
- **Early notification of a possible threat** may be given so you are aware of situations being monitored. This gives you time to activate your family emergency plan and prepare so that you are ready if the situation changes.

If you decide to leave before an evacuation order, let your emergency contacts know your plan. If an evacuation order is issued after you have left, or you were away from home during an emergency, you may be asked to check in with authorities in person or by phone.



For the latest information on ongoing evacuations, visit **yukon.ca/emergencies**.

