

Preparing for a Storm – items for homeowners to think about

- Ensure garbage cans, lawn furniture or anything that could become airborne are secured or put away so they do not cause damage or go missing.



- Clean out the gutters around your house, and if present storm drains. This will help keep the water flowing easily and have it directed away from the house. Also ensure that if you have



downspouts they are dumping away from the house to keep the water away

from the foundation.

- In the Highlands we have an abundance of trees. As such we can often expect downed trees and power outages in heavy wind and rain storms. If your power goes out you can use your phone to check on the current outages as

well as reporting your outage

<https://www.bchydro.com/safety-outages/power-outages.html>

- Keep back 10m (length of a city bus) from any downed power lines. If you are close to a downed power line shuffle away from it slowly keeping your feet close together



- Stay at home as severe weather arrives.



- In case of a power outage it is a good idea to have flashlights (and extra batteries) and a

battery-powered and/or hand-crank radio. Candles are a major source of house fires so where possible please use battery powered lights.



- Ensure mobile phones are fully charged as they are a great way to get updates if the power does go out.



- Have food that doesn't need refrigeration and 1 gallon of water per person per day. Other important items: first-aid kit, medication, and other critical supplies.



- Top off fuel tanks in your vehicles.

- If you have a generator, it is always a good idea to start it and test it out prior to any major weather systems moving in.



- Often when power goes out stores are unable to accept card payments (Credit cards or Debit) so it is a good idea to have cash on hand.
- Have essential items on hand to last at least three days — non-perishable food, water, first-aid kit, medication. Have enough for each person in your household. Please see the Prepare yourself guide on the Highlands.ca

website for more information on what you should have in your emergency kit.

<http://bc-highlands.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/5227>

Contents of a Basic Emergency Kit:

- Water - at least 4 litres per person per day for personal hygiene, drinking and cooking
- Food that won't spoil - canned goods (with a can opener), energy bars and dried foods
- Flashlight and extra batteries
- Squat, **tip-proof** candles (better yet - battery operated candles) and waterproof matches
- Solar/Battery/Windup radio (tuned to CFX 1070)
- First Aid kit
- Prescription medications, infant formula
- A copy of your emergency plan and contact information
- Copies of important household papers, extra clothing and cash

Keep your kit in a plastic tote in an accessible spot - small out building or in a closet near a door.

- For more information on Emergency Preparedness please visit the Emergency Preparedness section of the Highlands website. <http://bc-highlands.civicplus.com/183/Emergency-Preparedness>