

# Frequently Asked Questions on Evacuation

## 1. What is an Evacuation Alert?

An Evacuation Alert is a notification of a hazard risk in your area. Evacuation Alerts are issued to advise the affected population of the potential for loss of life from a hazard, and that they should be prepared to evacuate in the near future.

**Everyone in the affected area should prepare to move to a safe area quickly.**

To prepare for the potential evacuation:

- Gather essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers, immediate care needs for dependants, and, if you choose, valuable keepsakes, photographs, etc. Make them available for immediate access for a quick departure.
- Know the location of all family members and determine a planned meeting place should an evacuation be called while separated. Determine an out of area contact to be used for family reunification and to pass messages between impacted family members.
- Prepare to evacuate people with disabilities, elderly and children. Ensure family members all carry appropriate information on health issues and needs (particularly children).
- Relocate livestock to a safe area immediately, if possible.
- Ensure you have appropriate means to contain your pet should evacuation be necessary and you wish to take your pet with you (crate, kennel, small animal bag, leash, etc). Ensure you have a supply of special diet pet food should your pet require it. If you choose not to bring your pet, ensure that there is some indication on the outside of your residence informing responders of the presence of a pet(s) and any challenges this may present.
- If possible arrange accommodation for your family in the event of an evacuation. Emergency lodging will be provided if necessary.
- Ensure you have sufficient gasoline in the vehicle you have chosen to use for the evacuation.
- *Outline suggestions relevant to the impending hazard that could protect the property such as hosing down the house or sandbagging.*
- Follow the instructions which have been provided to you in the Evacuation Alert.

If you need transportation, the Evacuation Alert provides information regarding transportation assistance.

Community emergency plans have been prepared to ensure your safety. It is important that you follow the directives you are given by the authorities to ensure your safety.

## 2. What is an Evacuation Order?

An Evacuation Order is issued by authorities having jurisdiction in response to hazards with the potential to cause loss of life or injury the residents to identified affected area(s). Evacuation Orders are issued in the interest of life safety. Members of the RCMP, Search and Rescue, Fire Departments, and the Local Authorities may be involved in expediting evacuation through door to door contact, the electronic media, etc.

When an evacuation is ordered:

- Gather personal/family emergency kit including a flashlight and portable radio if possible;
- **Take everything you will require for an extended stay;**
- Follow the instructions which have been provided to you in the Evacuation Order;
- Proceed quickly and calmly to nearest evacuation site (temporary or permanent);
- Report to the ESS Reception Centre indicated and register with the people staffing that centre. This will allow for effective communications from the evacuation team and will facilitate contact by friends or relatives.

If you need transportation, the Evacuation Order provides information regarding transportation assistance.

Community emergency plans have been prepared to ensure your safety. It is important that you follow the directives you are given by the authorities to ensure your safety.