

Evacuation & Shelter-in-Place

An evacuation may be ordered when there is a significant threat. Other times, it may be safer to remain inside (shelter-in-place). These orders are typically broadcast through TV, radio, government websites, social media or wireless public alerting.

Evacuation

- Evacuate only when ordered by emergency officials and if safety permits, take your pets.
- Take your emergency kit with you and head to your designated meeting place or reception centre.

Shelter-in-Place

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.
- Turn off all fans, heating and air-conditioning systems to avoid drawing air in from the outside.

Household Emergency Plan

- Create an emergency plan and discuss potential emergency situations ahead of time to reduce fear and anxiety.
- Review your plan yearly and practice going to your meeting places.

Meeting Places

Identify two meeting places in case you have to leave your home or can't return home right away:

- Near your home.
- Outside of your neighbourhood.

To develop your own Emergency Preparedness Action Plan visit ontario.ca/BePrepared.

Additional Resources

Learn more about what to do in an emergency through your local municipal office.

The following organizations have further information on emergency preparedness, weather warnings and other emergency information before, during and after emergencies.

- Canadian Red Cross
- Environment and Climate Change Canada
- Hydro One
- Insurance Bureau of Canada
- Public Safety Canada

Stay Connected

- Keep calls and texts short and brief to reduce network congestion.
- Call 9-1-1 for serious police, fire or medical emergencies.
- Don't waste battery life on mobile games, apps and videos. Dim your screen to preserve power for critical communication.
- Forward your home phone to your mobile phone if you're forced to evacuate.
- Alert Ready is Canada's emergency alerting system. Alert Ready delivers critical and potentially life-saving alerts to Canadians through television, radio and LTE-connected and compatible wireless devices. More info at AlertReady.ca.



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Emergency Preparedness Starts With You



Ontario 

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Emergency Preparedness Kit

During an emergency you may have no electrical power or be asked to evacuate. An emergency kit contains essential items you and your household need to survive on your own for at least 72 hours. Keep a kit at home, work and in your car. Your kit should be easy to carry and portable such as a knapsack or suitcase. Check the contents twice a year to ensure the freshness of food and water, and refresh items if needed.

Kit Essentials

- backpack/duffel bag/small suitcase (to hold kit items)
- non-perishable food and can opener
- bottled or bagged water (4L per person per day)
- medication(s)
- toilet paper and other personal items
- personal protective equipment (PPE)
- cell phone charger and power bank
- cash in small bills
- portable light source such as a flashlight, headlamp or glow stick
- radio (crank or battery-run)
- extra batteries
- first-aid kit
- candles and matches/lighter
- hand sanitizer or moist towelettes
- important documents (identification)
- extra car and house keys
- whistle (to attract attention, if needed)
- zip-lock bags (to keep things dry)
- garbage bags and duct tape

Customize your kit to meet the unique needs of your household. If you or someone in your household has a disability, check out the Emergency Preparedness Guide for People with Disabilities at ontario.ca/BePrepared for additional information on what to include in your emergency kit and household plan.

Pet Emergency Kit

Bring your pets indoors at the first indication of an emergency. If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you if it's safe to do so.

Build a pet emergency kit and keep it with your household kit. For more details, please visit [OntarioSPCA.ca/EP](https://ontariospca.ca/EP).

Designate an Emergency Contact

Ask an out-of-town friend or relative to be your emergency contact. Your contact should live outside of your home neighbourhood and everyone in your household should know their name, address and phone number. In an emergency, keep your emergency contact updated on your whereabouts and safety status.

Hazards

Learn about local hazards in your area and what to do for each hazard. These actions may save your life.



Flood

- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters.
- Stay off of bridges over fast-moving water.
- Determine how best to protect yourself based on the type of flooding. Evacuate if told to do so.
- Obey traffic barricades and road closure signs.



Winter Storm

- Avoid all unnecessary travel and postpone non-essential appointments.
- Stay indoors and keep your pets inside.
- Run a trickle of water to prevent pipes from freezing.
- If you are outside, dress appropriately for the weather and check for frostbite regularly.



Tornado

- Go to the basement, or a small interior room on the lowest level such as a closet or bathroom.
- Get under a sturdy table and use your arms to protect your head and neck.
- If you are outside, go to the nearest sturdy building or shelter, or lay flat, covering your head with your hands for protection.
- DO NOT take shelter under a highway overpass, where wind speeds can increase due to a tunneling effect.

Power Outage

- If your neighbours' power is also out, notify your electrical supply authority.
- Never use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heating equipment or a home generator indoors.
- Use glow sticks or flashlights to see.
- Keep freezer and fridge doors closed. A freezer will keep food frozen for 24-36 hours if the door remains closed.
- Stay away from fallen power lines.

