

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

THE STAGES OF EVACUATION

As the authority to order an evacuation can rest with different levels of government (local, provincial, or federal), a three stage evacuation process has been developed and accepted by all levels of government. The process includes:

1 STAGE 1 - Evacuation Alert

Residents are advised of the potential need for evacuation. The alert highlights the nature of the danger and that evacuation may be required at any time. Information will be provided at that time on where to go if the evacuation is ordered. Residents should prepare to evacuate and gather personal supplies necessary for several days.

2 STAGE 2 - Evacuation Order

All persons in the affected area are ordered to leave the area and are provided again with the information required. Once evacuated you are not permitted to return until the order has been rescinded. **If an evacuation order is issued, please get out.**

3 STAGE 3 - Evacuation Rescind

All persons in the affected area are advised that the emergency is under control and the area has been declared habitable and the evacuation order has been rescinded.

In the event of imminent danger to property or life, the emergency responders may go straight to an "Evacuation Order" without an alert. This is called a "Tactical Evacuation".

Once you are evacuated from your property you will not be able to re-enter until the evacuation order is rescinded. Security will be provided to the evacuation area to ensure no one re-enters until the order is rescinded.

HAVE YOU REGISTERED?

Please register for the evacuation notification system. Powered by *Voyent Alert!* this system will notify you by phone or by text of any evacuation orders or alerts during critical events such as wildfires, floods or hazardous materials incidents.

The service is **free** and available to everyone in the East Kootenay including municipalities, rural areas and First Nations. Visitors of the region can also sign up to be alerted in case of an emergency.

how to register: SMS/TEXT OR VOICE DIAL USERS

Register online at: <https://ca.voyent-alert.com/vras/register.html>

Choose "My Locations" to pin your locations to receive voice or text based alerts.



Remember to add at least one location when you register

WHAT IS A RECEPTION CENTRE?

In the event of an Evacuation Order, a Reception Centre will be established and affected residents will be notified of its location and any special instructions. A Reception Centre is a place for evacuees to meet with Emergency Support Services personnel to discuss their needs.

ACTIVITIES AT A RECEPTION CENTRE

- **Evacuee Registration** – This is important even if you don't require assistance. We may need to follow up with you if the situation changes.
- **Provide Information** about the evolving emergency information.
- **Assess evacuee support needs** and provide referrals for up to 72 hours as needed.

PLAN AHEAD

Now is the time to plan ahead. Think about where you would go and make a list of family or friends that you could stay with in the case of an Evacuation Order.

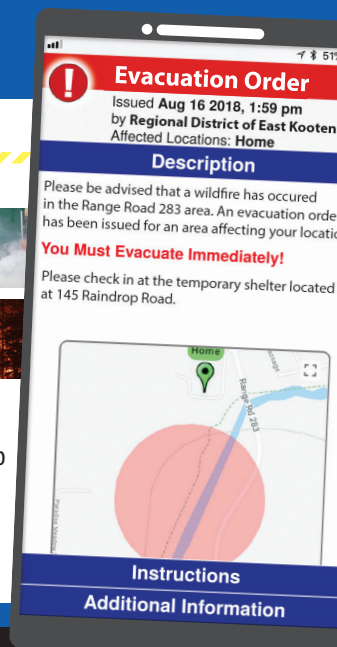
7 WAYS TO GET EMERGENCY INFO

1. LOCAL MEDIA
2. DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD NEWSLETTER: <https://sparwood.ca/residents/newsletter-signup>
3. DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD WEBSITE: <https://sparwood.ca>
4. DISTRICT OF SPARWOOD FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/Sparwood.BC
5. RDEK FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/eastkootenay
6. RDEK WEBSITE: www.rdek.bc.ca
5. INFORMATION LINE: 250-425-6834



MOBILE APP USERS

Download and install the *Voyent Alert!* app from the Apple App or Google Play stores.



STAY INFORMED

Being aware and informed about what is going on in your area can help you be better prepared and ready to act in an emergency.

When emergencies happen, it is CRITICALLY important that you trust only verified information sources.

In emergency situations, residents should follow the local media and instructions of local emergency and transportation officials. While Provincial or National media may report on local emergencies, the local media live in our communities and should be your source of media information.

Emergency personnel work tirelessly behind the scenes and the task of getting information out to the public becomes so much more difficult when people start relying on and sharing information that is not verified or from a trusted source. In an emergency, the rumour mill can put lives at risk.

If you want to share information, please be smart in what you share.

If you are sharing social media posts, please check the date before sharing and only share CURRENT information.

PREPARE NOW

You are receiving this information because an evacuation alert has been issued in your area. **Take time now to plan and prepare so that you are ready to act immediately if an evacuation order were to be issued.**

Gather important items together and having them ready to go including prescriptions/medications, important documents like insurance papers, family phone numbers, wills, photos and memorabilia, hard drives/computers. It's a good idea to fill your gas tank and to have your vehicle ready. Finally, have a family plan (including your pets) and practice it. Think about where you would go and make a list of family or friends that you could stay with in the case of an Evacuation Order.

Prepared BC has some excellent resources to help you plan and prepare.

Learn more:  prepared bc_ 

RESOURCES

In an emergency situation, it is important to stay calm. Having good information is key not only to calm us, but also so that we can stay aware and be prepared. Here are some resources for you to bookmark.

BC RIVER FORECAST CENTRE: <http://bcrcf.env.gov.bc.ca/warnings/index.htm>

ROAD CONDITIONS/CLOSURES: www.drivebc.ca

GENERAL EMERGENCY INFO: www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/

WILDFIRE INFORMATION: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status

EMERGENCY SUPPORT SERVICES

Emergency Support Services (ESS) is a local volunteer based emergency response program, providing basic needs to people affected by an emergency or disaster.

When people are forced from their homes due to an emergency (like fires or flooding) ESS volunteers step in to provide basic needs, such as food, clothing or group lodging.

ESS may be available for 72 hours immediately following the emergency, allowing affected residents the time to make more long-term arrangements and begin the recovery process. Depending on the situation/emergency, ESS can also be extended. For large scale responses, in addition to providing basic needs, ESS may also assist with family reunification, emotional support, and transportation. The goal of ESS is to help people re-establish themselves as quickly as possible following a disaster.

If you plan on moving RV trailers or boats, the Alert Stage is the time to do that. Once an "Evacuation Order" has been issued there is no time to allow that to happen.



6 Things to Remember IN AN EVACUATION

