







EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS LIST

Because of recent wildfires, the Assembly of Nova Scotia Mi'kmaw Chiefs want to help you and the members of your household prepare, should you need to evacuate.

	Ensure that you have an emergency plan in place and that your emergency kits are ready in case you need them.
	Stay informed of weather conditions and advisories in your area. Be especially aware of potentially triggering weather conditions, such as droughts and lightning storms.
	Contact your local band, municipal, provincial or territorial emergency management organization to familiarize yourself with evacuation routes and procedures.
	Know and practice your primary escape route, as well as multiple routes out of your community. Remember that evacuation routes can be impacted by the wildfire.

PROTECT YOUR HOME

If you live in a potential wildfire hazard zone, take these preventative steps to ensure that your home and your property are protected:

- Remove any fire hazards in and around your home, such as dried out branches, leaves and debris.
- Keep a sprinkler that is in good working condition in an accessible location.
- Make sure smoke alarms are placed on every level of the home, and preferably in every bedroom. Test your smoke detectors once per month. Batteries should be replaced every 6 months, while the alarm itself should be replaced once every 10 years.
- If you have animals that live outdoors, sheltering them may be the wrong thing to do because a wildfire could trap your animals inside. Leaving animals unsheltered is preferable, or if time and personal safety permits, evacuation away from the danger zone should be considered.



Other considerations for your home

- Learn how to turn off the utilities in your residence. You may be instructed by local authorities to shut them off.
- Make sure that your vehicle has enough fuel. If evacuation becomes necessary, it will be hard to stop for gas. Depending on your region or the distance that you might need to drive, you may want to purchase additional approved gas cans.
- If you need assistance, place a HELP sign in your window.
- Check on elderly relatives and neighbours to see if they require assistance.
- Ensure that pets and/or service animals are accounted for. Be sure to include them in your evacuation plans.

DURING A WILDFIRE

Monitor the wildfire's progress through radio, television or local social media accounts for warnings or information from authorities and emergency officials who coordinate evacuation plans.	
If an evacuation order is issued or you have to leave your home, be sure to take your emergency kit and other essential items with you.	
If you are comfortable doing so, post a message in clear view, indicating where you are going and how you can be contacted.	
Keep all doors and windows closed in your home.	
Keep lights on to aid visibility in case smoke fills the house.	
Be aware of any downed power lines which can cause electrocution. Be sure to stay at least 10 metres away from them to avoid injury. Do not attempt to drive through areas that may be affected by downed power lines.	
Do not attempt to drive through a wildfire.	



WHEN A WILDFIRE IS APPROACHING YOUR HOME

If you see a fire approaching your home or community, report it immediately by dialing 9-1-1 or your local emergency number. If it is safe enough to do so, you should take some or all of the following actions:

- Close all windows and doors in the house.
- Cover vents, windows, and other openings of the house with duct tape and/or precut pieces of plywood.
- Park your car, positioned forward out of the driveway. Keep car windows closed.
- Pack your emergency kit(s) and any valuables or items that cannot be replaced in the car, should you need to evacuate.
- Turn off propane or natural gas. Move any propane barbeques into the open, away from structures.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage, and yard to aid visibility in case smoke fills the house.
- Place a ladder to the roof in the front of the house to assist firefighters.
- Move all combustibles away from the house, including firewood and lawn furniture.
- Follow local social media and/or stay tuned to your local radio station for up-to-date information on the fire and possible road closures.

AFTER A WILDFIRE

1	<i>Stay calm</i>
2	Remember that you may encounter conditions that make walking or driving difficult. Roads may be littered with debris, trees may be down, and traffic lights may not be working.
3	Be aware of any downed power lines which can cause electrocution. Be sure to stay at least 10 metres away from them to avoid injury. Do not attempt to drive through areas that may be affected by downed power lines.
4	Listen to the radio, television or local social media accounts for information to follow from authorities and emergency officials.
5	Only make phone calls if someone's life is in danger or if they require immediate emergency assistance. Otherwise, use alternative communication methods.
6	Seek immediate medical attention if injured.



RETURNING TO YOUR HOME

- If you have been forced to evacuate, follow evacuation orders and stay outside the evacuation zone until authorities have advised that it is safe to return.
- Work with local authorities and professional engineers to assess the structural safety of your home. Only re-enter your home after authorities advise that it's structurally safe to do so.

IN AN EMERGENCY

- Make sure you are safe before assisting others.
- Listen to the radio or television for information from authorities. Local officials may advise you to stay where you are. Follow their instructions.
- Stay put until all is safe or until you are ordered to evacuate.

EVACUATION ORDERS

- Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless they have reason to believe that you may be in danger. If you are ordered to evacuate, take your emergency kit, your wallet, personal identification for each family member and copies of essential family documents with you. Bring a cellular phone and spare battery or charger with you, if you have one. Use travel routes specified by local authorities.
- If possible, leave a note telling others when you left and where you are. If you have time, call or e-mail an out-of-town contact. Tell them where you are going and when you expect to arrive. Once you are safe, let them know. Tell them if any family members have become separated.
- Shut off water and electricity if officials tell you to do so.
- Leave natural gas service on unless officials tell you to turn it off. If you turn off the gas, the gas company has to reconnect it. In a major emergency, it could take weeks for a professional to respond.
- Take pets with you. Lock your home. Follow instructions from authorities.
- If you go to an evacuation centre, register your personal information at the registration desk. Do not return home until authorities advise that it is safe to do so.
- In an emergency, you will need some basic supplies. You may need to get by without power or tap water. Be prepared to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours.



EVACUATION PREPAREDNESS LIST

- You may have some of the items already, such as food, water and a battery-operated or crank flashlight. The key is to make sure they are organized and easy to find. Would you be able to find your flashlight in the dark?
- Make sure your kit is easy to carry and everyone in the household knows where it is. Keep it in a backpack, duffle bag or suitcase with wheels, in an easy-to-reach, accessible place, such as your front-hall closet. If you have many people in your household, your emergency kit could get heavy. It's a good idea to separate some of these supplies in backpacks. That way, your kit will be more portable and each person can personalize his or her own grab-and-go emergency kit.

BASIC EMERGENCY KIT

✓	Water – at least two litres of water per person per day; include small bottles that can be carried easily in case of an evacuation order	
✓	Food that won't spoil, such as canned food, energy bars and dried foods (replace food and water once a year)	
✓	Manual can-opener	
✓	Crank or battery-powered flashlight (and extra batteries). Replace batteries once a year.	
✓	Crank, battery-powered radio (and extra batteries) or Weatheradio	
✓	First aid kit	
✓	Extra keys to your car and house	
✓	Some cash in smaller bills, such as \$10 bills and change for payphones	
✓	A copy of your emergency plan and contact information	
✓	If applicable, other items such as prescription medication, infant formula, equipment for people with disabilities, or food, water and medication for your pets or service animal (personalize according to your needs)	
Recommended additional items		
	Two additional litres of water per person per day for cooking and cleaning	Candles and matches or lighter (place candles in deep, sturdy containers and do not burn unattended)
	Change of clothing and footwear for each household member	Sleeping bag or warm blanket for each household member
	Toiletries	Water purifying tablets
	Hand sanitizer	Basic tools (hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers, work gloves, dust mask, pocket knife)
	Utensils	A whistle (in case you need to attract attention)
	Garbage bags	Duct tape (to tape up windows, doors, air vents, etc.)
	Toilet paper	

If you think your water is contaminated, check with your band, municipality or local authorities for details. When in doubt, do not drink water you suspect may be contaminated.



ROAD EMERGENCY ADVISORIES

Visit 511.novascotia.ca/List/Alerts for emergency road closures and updates.

Province-wide Bans

A ban on all fires has been implemented throughout the province. Not following this ban can lead to a hefty fine of \$25,000, which is a significant increase from the previous fine of \$237.50.

Please note that hiking, camping, fishing, and using off-road vehicles in forests are not allowed at this time, but you can still enjoy beaches and parks, both municipal and provincial. However, all trail systems are currently closed for public use, including on both Crown and private land. Private landowners may use their properties, but they cannot host others in wooded areas on their properties.

EVACUATION CENTERS AND COMFORT CENTERS

This list can change daily. Be sure to check government websites or local news sites for an updated list. As of June 1, 2023:

Campsites available (Western Region Parks centres)

Yarmouth and Queens counties - Starting 30 May 2023, residents affected by wildfire evacuations can camp for free at Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park and Thomas Raddall Provincial Park.

Potable water is available through park taps, and campers can access washroom facilities including showers and flush toilets. Call to inquire about emergency campsite availability:

- Ellenwood Lake Provincial Park: 902-761-2400
- Thomas Raddall Provincial Park: 902-683-2664

Shelburne County - Starting 2 June 2023, residents affected by wildfire evacuations can camp for free at The Islands Provincial Park.

Potable water is available through park taps, and campers can access washroom facilities including showers and flush toilets. Call to inquire about emergency campsite availability:

- The Islands Provincial Park: 902-875-2501



Comfort centres in HRM

- Black Point and Area Community Centre | 8579 St Margarets Bay Road. The comfort centre is open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Canada Games Centre | 26 Thomas Raddall Drive. The comfort centre is open until further notice.
- Beaver Bank Kinsac Community Centre | 1583 Beaver Bank Road. The comfort centre is open beginning at 9 p.m. and will be open until further notice.

Comfort centres are temporary accommodations where food and water are provided, as well as a place to charge devices and receive up-to-date information, when residents are impacted by prolonged power outages, extreme temperatures or other significant events.

Public schools

Due to wildfires and evacuations, some Halifax Regional Centre for Education and Tri-county Regional Centre for Education schools are closed.

Restrictions for travel and activities in the woods

Restrictions in effect - Starting 30 May 2023 at 4pm, hiking, camping, fishing and the use of vehicles in the woods are not permitted. People can still access beaches and provincial and municipal parks, but trail systems are off limits. Camping is only allowed in campgrounds. Restrictions apply to Crown and private land. Forestry, mining and any commercial activity on Crown land, are also restricted.

Special air quality statements

Special air quality statements have been issued for Nova Scotia. Smoke from the wildfires has reduced visibility and air quality around affected areas.

RESOURCE SHEET FOR EVACUEES

All residents and businesses who have been required to evacuate must register with 311 for follow-up when more information becomes available.

Emergency funding

\$500 per household in emergency funding is available for people required to evacuate because of the recent fires in Halifax Regional Municipality and Shelburne County (you can register with the Canadian Red Cross online or by calling 1-800-863-6582).

Evacuation orders and centres

Find up-to-date information on evacuation orders for residents within affected areas and evacuation centres at halifax.ca and facebook.com/shelburneemo (information also includes comfort centres).



Property insurance claims

If you require the assessment account number or parcel identification number (PID) for your property for insurance claim purposes, that information can be provided to you by Land Programs free of charge. Contact Land Programs with your property address to get your account number or PID.

Phone: 902-424-5200

Toll-free: 1-800-670-4357

TTY at 1-877-404-0867

rglandtitles@novascotia.ca

WILDFIRE TERMINOLOGY

Blow-up - A sudden and unexpected major increase in rate of spread and frontal fire intensity; sufficient to upset overall fire suppression action or plans. Blow-ups can result from small or large fire situations.

Campfire - An open fire that meets both of the following requirements (as defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1):

- a. the open fire burns material in one pile no larger than 0.5 m in height and 0.5 m in width;
- b. the open fire is lit, fuelled or used
 - i. by any person for a recreational purpose, or
 - ii. by a First Nation for ceremonial purpose.

Candling - When the foliage on a single tree or a small clump of trees ignites and flares up, usually from bottom to top.

Category 2 open fire - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1); an open fire, other than a campfire, that burns

- a. material in one pile not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- b. material concurrently in 2 piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width, or
- c. stubble or grass over an area that does not exceed 0.2 ha

Category 3 open fire - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1); an open fire that burns

- a. material concurrently in 3 or more piles each not exceeding 2 m in height and 3 m in width,
- b. material in one or more piles each exceeding 2 m in height or 3 m in width,
- c. one or more windrows, or
- d. stubble or grass over an area exceeding 0.2 ha

Contained - The status of a wildfire suppression action signifying that a control line has been completed around the fire, and any associated spot fires, which can reasonably be expected to stop the fire's spread.

Control line - All constructed or natural fire barriers and treated (e.g. with retardant or water) fire perimeter used to control or contain a fire.



Danger tree - A live or dead tree whose trunk, root system or branches have deteriorated or been damaged to such an extent as to be a potential danger to human safety.

Duff - The layer of partially and fully decomposed organic materials lying on the forest floor below the litter (layer) and immediately above the mineral soil. When moss is present, the top of the duff is just below the green portion of the moss.

Escaped fire/excursion - A wildfire, or a portion of a wildfire, that has breached a control line and remains out of control following initial attack. This term is also used to describe a prescribed fire that has burned beyond its intended area.

Fire danger - A general term used to express an assessment of both fixed and changeable factors of the fire environment that determine the ease of ignition, rate of spread, difficulty of control, and fire impact.

Fireguard - A strategically planned barrier, either manually or mechanically constructed, intended to stop or retard the rate of spread of a fire, and from which suppression action is carried out to control a fire. The constructed portion of a control line.

Fire hazard -

1. the risk of fire starting, and
2. the hazard associated with an industrial activity; and
if a fire were to start, the volatility of the fire's behaviour, the difficulty of controlling the fire, and the potential threat to values at risk

Fire rank - A numerical value used to communicate a summarized *visual* assessment of fire behaviour.

Fire risk - Fire risk is a term that combines the probability of fire occurrence with the expected impacts from a fire. It can be defined quantitatively in economic terms or used more generally in a comparative sense; for example, given a similar probability of fire occurrence and spread between different landscapes; *the fire risk at X is greater than the fire risk in Y.*

Although the impacts of fire can be positive, such as when considering the ecological effects or fuel reduction benefits of a wildfire, this term is generally used to suggest negative consequences of fire.

Fire season - The period(s) of the year during which fires are likely to start, spread, and damage values-at-risk sufficient to warrant organized fire suppression; a period of the year set out and commonly referred to in fire prevention legislation.

Fuel - Fuel is any organic matter, living or dead, in the ground, on the ground, or in the air that can ignite and burn.

Available fuel - The quantity of fuel (in a particular fuel type) that would actually be consumed under specified burning conditions.

Fine fuels - Fuels that ignite readily and are consumed rapidly by fire (e.g. cured grass, fallen leaves, needles, small twigs). Dead, fine fuels also dry very quickly.



Ground fuels - All combustible materials below the litter layer of the forest floor that normally support smouldering or glowing combustion associated with ground fires (e.g. duff, roots, buried punky wood, peat).

Ladder fuels - Fuels that provide vertical continuity between the surface fuels and crown fuels in a forest stand, thus contributing to the ease of torching and crowning (e.g. tall shrubs, small-sized trees, bark flakes, tree lichens).

Medium fuels - Fuels too large to be ignited until after the leading edge of the fire front passes, but small enough to be completely consumed.

Surface fuels - All combustible materials lying above the duff layer between the ground and ladder fuels that are responsible for propagating surface fires (e.g. litter, herbaceous vegetation, low and medium shrubs, tree seedlings, stumps, downed-dead roundwood).

Fuel break - a barrier or a change in fuel type or condition (to one that is less flammable than that surrounding it), or a strip of land that has been modified or cleared to prevent fire spread. In the event of fire, may serve as a control line from which to carry out suppression operations.

Fuel management - Fuel management is the modification of forest structure to reduce forest fuel accumulations available to burn in a wildfire. The main goal of fuel management is improving public safety. This may include treatments such as thinning, spacing and pruning trees, and removal of needles and woody debris from the forest floor.

Fuel type - An identifiable association of fuel elements of distinctive species, form, size, arrangement, and continuity that will exhibit characteristic fire behaviour under defined burning conditions.

High risk activity - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1)

- a) mechanical brushing;
- b) disk trenching;
- c) preparation or use of explosives;
- d) using fire- or spark-producing tools, including cutting tools;
- e) using or preparing fireworks or pyrotechnics;
- f) grinding, including rail grinding;
- g) mechanical land clearing;
- h) clearing and maintaining rights of way, including grass mowing;
- i) any of the following activities carried out in a cutblock excluding a road, landing, roadside work area or log sort area in the cutblock:
 - i. operating a power saw;
 - ii. mechanical tree felling, woody debris piling or tree processing, including de-limbing;
 - iii. welding;
 - iv. portable wood chipping, milling, processing or manufacturing;
 - v. skidding logs or log forwarding unless it is improbable that the skidding or forwarding will result in the equipment contacting rock;
 - vi. yarding logs using cable systems



Holdover fire - A fire that remains dormant and undetected for a considerable time after it starts (particularly lightning-caused fires).

Ignition - The beginning of flame production or smouldering combustion; the starting of a fire.

Initial attack - The action taken to halt the spread or potential spread of a fire by the first firefighting personnel to arrive at the fire.

Interface fire - Interface fires are fires that have the potential to involve buildings and forest fuel or vegetation simultaneously.

Landscape fire management planning - The intent of landscape fire management planning is to create a more fire resilient landscape to mitigate impacts on priority values in an era of increasing fire hazards and risks. The planning identifies zones with a high hazard, and aims to restore fire in the ecosystem.

Litter - The uppermost part of the forest floor consisting of freshly fallen or slightly decomposed organic materials.

Mineral soil - The layer of the soil profile immediately below the litter and duff. Mineral soil contains very little combustible material.

Mop-up - The act of extinguishing a fire after it has been brought under control.

Patrol - To inspect a section of a control line or portion of the fire perimeter to prevent escape of the fire after a wildfire has been contained.

Prescribed fire - The knowledgeable and controlled application of fire to a specific area to accomplish planned resource management objectives. These fires are managed in such a way as to minimize the emission of smoke and maximize the benefits to the site.

Rate of spread (ROS) - The speed at which a fire extends its horizontal dimensions, expressed in terms of distance per unit of time, usually metres per minute (m/min) and kilometres per hour (km/h). Generally thought of in terms of a fire's forward movement or head fire rate of spread, but also applicable to backfire and flank fire ROS.

Resource management open fire - As defined in the Wildfire Regulation (s.1), an open fire that:

- burns un-piled slash over an area of any size, or
- is not a campfire or a category 2 or 3 open fire and is lit, fuelled or used for silviculture treatment, forest health management, wildlife habitat enhancement, fire hazard abatement, ecological restoration or range improvement.

Risk from wildfire - The exposure to the chance of loss from wildfire. For example, *there is a 25% chance that a value at risk will be destroyed by a wildfire sometime in the next 50 years*. Risk can also be calculated by multiplying damage (or loss) by uncertainty.

Slash - Debris left as a result of forest and other vegetation being altered by forestry practices and other land use activities (e.g. timber harvesting, thinning and pruning, road construction, seismic line clearing). Slash includes material such as logs, splinters or chips, tree branches and tops, uprooted stumps, and broken or uprooted trees and shrubs.



Smoke management - Scheduling and conducting a prescribed burning program under conditions that will minimize the adverse impacts of the resulting smoke production in smoke sensitive areas.

Spot fire - A spot fire is one that is less than 0.01 hectares (10 metres by 10 metres).

Spotting - A wildfire produces burning embers called firebrands. These firebrands are carried by the surface wind, a fire whirl and/or convection column that fall beyond the main fire perimeter and result in spot fires.

Values-at-risk - The specific or collective set of natural resources and man-made improvements/developments that have measurable or intrinsic worth and that could of may be destroyed or otherwise altered by fire in any given area.

Wildfire - An unplanned fire - including unauthorized human-caused fires - occurring on forest or range lands, burning forest vegetation, grass, brush, scrub, peat lands, or a prescribed fire set under regulation which spreads beyond the area authorized for burning.

Wildland - An area in which development is essentially non-existent, except for roads, railroads, power lines, and similar transportation facilities. Structures, if any, are widely scattered.

Wildland urban interface - The wildland urban interface (WUI) is any area where combustible forest fuel is found adjacent to homes, farm structures or other outbuildings. This may occur at the interface, where development and forest fuel (vegetation) meet at a well-defined boundary, or in the intermix, where development and forest fuel intermingle with no clearly defined boundary.