

## Actions for individuals

### Protecting your Farm Resources –livestock and feed crops

#### Livestock evacuation

Owners should have an evacuation plan for livestock if threatened by fire. If your animals cannot be moved onto a safe area on your property, make and confirm transportation and feeding arrangements in advance. Obtain insurance coverage for all farm resources at risk from fire including crops and livestock - government disaster financial assistance is limited and only covers uninsurable perils.

The risk to farm animals can be reduced by preparing and maintaining fuel-reduced areas onto which stock can be moved and held during a fire. Use a plowed or heavily grazed field with a minimum of grass or stubble - if possible, this field should be shaded and located well away from any forested areas and to the leeward side of your property. Water should be available. Concrete or metal buildings located away from forest vegetation provide another livestock shelter option.

As a last resort, if you are unable to move livestock into a safer area, cut fences, turning the animals loose to take their chances with the fire as long as there is no danger to people or vehicular traffic.



Brochure content provided by: Partners in Protection & Alberta Municipal Affairs

Edmonton Sun

## Important Community Contact Numbers

Police \_\_\_\_\_  
Fire \_\_\_\_\_  
Doctor \_\_\_\_\_  
Ambulance \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ 's work # \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ 's work # \_\_\_\_\_

Children's schools  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Utility companies  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Neighbours  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Other \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name, address and phone number of an out-of-town relative or friend who can act as a point-of-contact  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# Wildfire Evacuation

## Are You Prepared?

For more information contact:

**Sustainable Resource Development**

Telephone: (780) 427-6807 or

[www.srd.gov.ab.ca](http://www.srd.gov.ab.ca)

**Emergency Management Alberta**

[www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema\\_index.htm](http://www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca/ema_index.htm)

[www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca](http://www.partnersinprotection.ab.ca)



Alberta

## What to do when fire danger is extreme

On days when the wildland fire danger is extreme, or wildland fires are actively burning in the forest adjacent to your property, be cautious and prepare for a worst-case scenario.

- Do what you can, but remember that as soon as an evacuation order is given, you must leave. Large moving fires are dangerous and should be left to professional firefighters.
- Ignite no new fires and report any open fires or smoke to authorities.
- Check fire pits and burn barrels to make sure they are extinguished. Be careful if smoking outside.
- Try to remain at home until the fire danger drops. Keep in touch with any absent household members.
- Keep the radio on all day, tuned to a local station. Have a battery-powered radio ready in case of power failure.
- Move grazing animals to a central safe refuge. Keep pets close to the house.
- Ensure your vehicle is fueled and operational.

## Be prepared to evacuate your home or workplace

Do not assume an evacuation will last only a few hours. Plan to evacuate with enough items to keep your family comfortable for at least five days. Consider adding these items to your emergency supplies:

- Warm and waterproof clothing, and any other items appropriate for the time of the year.
- Extra food.
- Money and credit cards (money machines may not be working).
- Toys to comfort and amuse the children (favourite toy, stuffed animal, cards).
- Reading material and games.
- Pet food.
- Sleeping bags or blankets, in a waterproof bag.
- Medications.

## What to do if fire approaches

If a wildland fire is immediately threatening your home, take the following steps:

- If you see a fire approaching your home, report it immediately by dialing your provincial forestry office, local fire department emergency number, or 911 where available.
- Activate whatever alert signal is used by your community disaster warning system.
- Dress properly to reduce risk of burn injuries - long pants and shirt of cotton or wool and sturdy footwear.
- Have firefighting tools and ladders propped against the house in a visible place.

## When an evacuation alert is given

If there is time before the fire arrives, take the following actions:

- Place valuable documents, family mementos and pets inside the car ready for quick departure if necessary.
- Park your vehicle adjacent to the house in a cleared area (don't restrict fire service access) or in the garage, facing out with the windows closed and keys in the ignition.

### Outside the house

- Cover all openings with metal coverings or fire-resistant material such as 12 mm plywood— this helps to keep sparks and embers out. Move any combustibles well away from the house or inside.
- Attach garden hoses to tap spigots and place them so they can reach any exterior surface of the building (including the roof). Place a connected sprinkler on the roof and nail it down.
- Do not turn it on unless the fire is an immediate hazard.
- If you have an outdoor pool or hot tub, make it as accessible as possible for firefighters. Fill garbage cans and buckets with water and leave them where firefighters can find them.
- Block downspouts and fill rain gutters with water.



- Turn off propane or natural gas valves. Clear vegetation and debris from around outdoor tanks.

### Inside the house

- Close all windows and doors (closing interior doors will slow fire spread inside the home).
- Move combustibles away from windows and sliding glass doors.
- Fill sinks, bathtubs and buckets for use as extra water reservoirs. Attach inside hoses and gather buckets and towels.

## When it is time to evacuate

When you get the Evacuation Order, do not panic. Use your pre-planned route or as directed by authorities on site. Move away from the wildland fire, never toward it. If in doubt, use the principal evacuation route.

Drive carefully with headlights on, making way for pedestrians and emergency vehicles. Stop at the pre-determined marshaling point. Report in to authorities and wait for further instructions. Do not leave again without informing officials. Do not return to your property until permitted to do so by authorities.