



ABBOTSFORD EMERGENCY PROGRAM

Severe Weather Planning

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ABBOTSFORD EMERGENCY PROGRAM
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abbotsford.ca/emergency





Know the Risks

Don't get stuck - be storm ready.

- PACK AN EMERGENCY KIT:** If you have one of these you're pretty much prepared for anything. The basic rule of thumb is there should be enough food and water to comfortably support your family for a minimum of 72 hours. If possible, stock up on more to prepare for storms of long duration.
- LIGHT SOURCE:** Storms mean power outages. Have a good supply of flashlights around the house along with two full replacement sets of batteries. It's best to avoid candles. Keep fire safety in mind, one unattended candle can lead to another emergency situation.
- CAMPING EQUIPMENT:** Camping gear can come in handy year round. Store your sleeping bags and Coleman stove in an easily accessible place. Just remember to use your stove outside where it's not going to pose a fire or carbon monoxide risk.
- PORTABLE GENERATORS:** These can be a lifesaver, but only if used properly. Follow all manufacturers' instructions and like camp stoves, never run one indoors.
- DRESS APPROPRIATELY:** Dress to stay warm by layering. Since we lose a lot of heat via our head and hands, add gloves and a knit hat.
- GRAB & GO:** Storms don't always hit while you're at home. You could be at work or on the road. Make sure to have a kit for both the car and office.
- STAY IN TOUCH:** Have a battery-operated radio to track power outage information and directions from local authorities. Stay connected on social media, follow the #BCStorm hashtag along with these reliable Twitter handles:
 - @ECCCWeatherBC
 - @BCHydro
 - @FortisBC
 - @EmergencyInfoBC
 - @PreparedBC
 - @DriveBC

- COLD STORAGE:** If you lose power avoid opening your refrigerator and freezer as much as possible. A freezer that's fully packed will hold food safely for 48 hours. A freezer that's half full will hold food safely for 24 hours. Keeping containers of water in your fridge or freezer is a good way to fill extra space and maintain an extra water source.
- UNPLUG:** If you lose power unplug computers, TVs, stereos and other unnecessary electronics to avoid a power drain or surge when service is restored.
- STAY CLEAR:** Wind, ice and snow can bring down power lines. Stay back at least 10m and call 911 with the location.
- BE PATIENT:** Your city work crews will be inundated with calls for assistance. Be patient as they prioritize operations to assist critical areas (ie. hospital routes) first. Do not call 9-1-1 unless your emergency is life threatening. Access your city's call in lines to file reports and request assistance.
- CHECK ON YOUR NEIGHBOURS:** When safe to do so, check on the members of your neighbourhood who may require assistance.

The likelihood that you and your family will recover from an emergency tomorrow often depends on the planning and preparation done today.

While each person's abilities and needs are unique, every individual can take steps to prepare for all kinds of emergencies from fires and floods to earthquakes. By evaluating your own personal needs and making an emergency plan that fits those needs, you and your loved ones can be better prepared.

Get Ready Now.



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