

## INTERFACE FIRE RISK PREPARE NOW



People living in high risk interface fire areas can prepare ahead for possible evacuation by organizing a family emergency kit with necessary medications, personal toiletries, a change of clothing, identification, insurance papers and other important documents and emergency items. Residents are also advised to review fire safety procedures with family, neighbours and employees. Homeowners, residential tenants, business owners and farmers should review their current insurance policies ahead of time to ensure they have the necessary coverage if a fire impacts their area.

Have an escape plan so that all members of the family know how to get out of the house quickly and safely and know where to meet. Discuss a contingency plan so family members can contact each other in case they are separated. Have an out-of-province contact that everyone knows. Stay alert for changing conditions, listen to your local media and follow instructions of emergency officials.

Make sure you have moved all combustibles away from the house. Your vehicle should be pre-packed with basic items and ready to go. Consider how you would prepare your home if you had to leave quickly. If there is time, close and lock all windows and doors and turn off lights and utilities. You may want to consider having a sprinkler system in place ahead of time to keep the roof and areas around your home irrigated.

In the event of an evacuation order, ensure adequate clothing and footwear is available for you and your family. It is also a good idea to have a flashlight, battery-powered radio and first aid kit with you. People with special needs or disabilities may need additional help. Consider the needs of any family pets.

Phone 1-888-811-6233 for a recorded message about family emergency preparedness or go to [http://www.pep.gov.bc.ca/hazard\\_preparedness/Personal\\_Safety.html](http://www.pep.gov.bc.ca/hazard_preparedness/Personal_Safety.html)

### What should I do in the event of an interface fire threat?

- If there are reports of interface fires in your area, stay tuned to local radio or television stations for updated emergency information.
- If there is potential of a wildland fire threatening populated areas, officials may issue an **evacuation alert**.

- An evacuation alert means people are warned of possible threat to life and property, and **may be asked to leave on short notice**.
- Prepare your home and family now. If you wait until the last minute, you place you and your family at risk.
- Get your family emergency kit with any prescription medications as well as copies of important papers, identification and other essential items. Don't forget about your pets.
- If time permits, load your vehicle with items that could not be replaced if they were destroyed by fire.
- If the threat increases, an **evacuation order** will be issued and residents are required to **leave the area immediately**.
- Follow the instructions of police and emergency officials. They will advise you of your safety escape route,
- If you are evacuated, register with the local Emergency Social Services Reception Centre so that you may receive short-term assistance with housing and food. You may also receive help being reunited with your family and loved ones if separated.
- Call an out-of-town contact and let them know what has happened and where you are going.
- Fire situation updates will be provided to the public through the news media. Stay tuned to your local radio or TV station for information.
- When the threat decreases, the **evacuation order will be rescinded** and an **'all clear' notice** may be given.
- When you return to your home, you should use caution and exercise good judgement when re-entering an affected area as hazards may still exist.

07/2007