

Prepare for a Wildfire



COLCHESTER
REGIONAL
EMO

72 Hours

Nova Scotians are encouraged to be ready to cope on their own for at least the first 72 hours of an emergency

April 2021

Causes: Humans or lightning.

Prepare

- Check your 72 hour safety kit to make sure nothing is missing or expired.
- Ensure your 72 hour kit also contains N95 respirators in appropriate sizes for all members in your family.
- Sign up for alerts from Alert TC to know if you are at risk.
- Know your Community's and your home's evacuation routes.
- Learn fire safety from your local fire service and teach them to your family.
- Make sure every floor and sleeping area in your home has a working smoke alarm.
- Keep old dried branches cleaned up around your property.
- Review your insurance coverage.
- See Nova Scotia's Department of Lands and Forestry's website for tips.

During

- Gather emergency supplies and monitor Alert TC, radio stations, and Municipal social media for updates.
- Evacuate as soon as authorities tell you to do so.
- If trapped - call 911.
- Move propane tanks for BBQs away from your home.
- Turn lights on to help visibility in case smoke fills the home.
- Close all windows and doors of the house.
- Move combustible materials such as light curtains and furniture away from windows.
- Use an N-95 mask to keep particles out of the air you breathe.
- If enough water is available turn on sprinklers to wet the roof and other water-proof valuables.

After

- Listen to the authorities for information instruction.
- Avoid hot ash, charred trees, smouldering debris and live (hot) embers.
- Reach out to other members of your family in case of an emergency only. Phone lines are often busy during a disaster.
- Document property damage and have all of your information ready when you are able to contact your insurance company.
- Arrange for alternate accommodations if your home sustained damage from fire or smoke.



Wildfire Checklist

Preparing for Wildfire

- Prepare emergency and first aid kits.
- Check for, and remove, fire hazards in and around your home, such as dried out branches, leaves and debris.
- Keep a good sprinkler in an accessible location.
- Learn fire safety techniques and teach them to members of your family.
- Have fire drills with your family on a regular basis.
- Have an escape plan so that all members of the family know how to get out of the house quickly and safely.
- Have an emergency plan so family members can contact each other in case they are separated during an evacuation.
- Make sure all family members are familiar with the technique of "STOP, DROP, AND ROLL" in case of clothes catching on fire.
- Make sure every floor and all sleeping areas have smoke detectors.
- Make arrangements for pets and livestock.

If you see a wildfire approaching your home

If you see a fire approaching your home or community, report it immediately by calling 9-1-1. If it is safe, and there is time before the fire arrives, you should take the following actions:

- Close all windows and doors in the house.
- Park your car, positioned forward out of the driveway. Keep car windows closed and have your valuables already packed in your car.
- Move any propane barbeques into the open, away from structures.
- Turn on the lights in the house, porch, garage and yard.
- Inside the house, move combustible materials such as light curtains and furniture away from the windows.
- Move all combustibles away from the house, including firewood and lawn furniture.
- Evacuate your family and pets to a safe location.
- Stay tuned to your local radio station, Municipal social media sites, and Alert TC for updates.