



With recent wildfire activity throughout the province and two fires in/near the Village in the past two weeks, individuals are looking for information on what to expect in the case of an emergency threatening people and property. The Village of Nakusp is committed to providing as many avenues of communication as possible to ensure residents and businesses are aware of potential threats to their safety. This document explains the evacuation process and provides useful links related to wildfire.

About evacuations

Evacuations can be chaotic and a time of worry and strain. **Make yourself aware and be prepared.** Fire fighters and other emergency personnel cannot work on the fire or other issues until life and safety issues are under control.

In extreme conditions, some people may want to make arrangements to stay with relatives, friends or neighbours. Keep an eye out for neighbours who may be at-risk in severe conditions. **Always follow the instructions of first responders and local emergency officials.**

Ensure a supply of basic essentials in your home for at least 72 hours. If you must leave your home on short notice, remember to take your "[Grab and Go" Emergency Kit](#)". The most important items are:

- Emergency supplies including water, food and necessary medications
- First aid kit
- Important documents, cash and family identification
- Fueled up vehicle
- Pets / Pet items: food, water, leash and carrier
- [Grab & Go Kit \[PDF - 138 KB\]](#)

Evacuations may be small scale (just a few buildings) or large scale (affecting entire neighbourhoods).

There are 2 types of evacuations:

A Tactical Evacuation is an evacuation that requires immediate action allowing for little warning or preparation. It is ordered by the Incident Commander (IC) at the scene of the event and executed by first responders **immediately** without formal documentation. Fires that present an immediate threat may require a tactical evacuation. It is then executed immediately by first responders usually under the leadership of the RCMP.

A Strategic or Planned Evacuation is an evacuation that allows time for formal documentation to be issued. Usually, the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will order a strategic evacuation following the three (3) stages below, although an Evacuation ALERT is not always issued. A State of Local Emergency will be declared before an Evacuation Order can be issued.

Stages of a Strategic (Planned) Evacuation:



Stage 1 - Evacuation Alert

This is the time to get prepared to leave your home on short notice. Get your grab-and-go bags ready (which should include several days of clothing, toiletries and medications), your emergency plan, copies of important documents, immediate care needs for dependants and valuable keepsakes.

An evacuation alert is a warning about a potential imminent threat to life and property. It is a precautionary measure. It is meant to give affected residents within an impacted area time to prepare in case they are told to evacuate.

Listen to local emergency officials for further information on the situation.

Plan for your pets. It may be best to evacuate certain pets on the Alert rather than waiting to see if an Order will be implemented.

Evacuation Alerts are active until the Rescind Notification is published.

Stage 2 - Evacuation Order

This is an order issued to residents within the affected area that they are to **leave the area immediately**. Information on where to go will be included on the order.

Leave the area immediately. **Follow the directions of local emergency officials and evacuate using the route(s) they have identified.** Do not return home until you have been advised that the Evacuation Order has been rescinded.

If you are evacuated, local officials will provide you with information about the location of a Reception Centre. Everyone must register at the Reception Centre and this can be done in person or online (ess.gov.bc.ca). This ensures that we know you are safe. We can then communicate this information to concerned family and friends.

Short term assistance for immediate needs of food, shelter, clothing and emotional support may be available at the Reception Centre. Emergency Support Services volunteers (ESS) provide assistance to people for the first 72 hours after a disaster. Assistance includes needs assessment and referral to services, short term help for food, clothing and shelter, emotional support and family reunification.

If you receive an Evacuation Order, you must heed it. When moving from an Evacuation Alert to an Evacuation Order, authorities base their decisions on information that may not be immediately available to the public, which means your situational awareness may not be as good as you think.

When people choose not to evacuate during an Order, they not only affect the ability of the authorities to respond to the actual emergency, but they also put the safety—and potentially the lives—of the responders at risk if they require rescuing. The RCMP will enforce the Evacuation Order.

So make sure you maintain situational awareness, but please cooperate with authorities when it comes to Evacuation Orders. It might mean your life, or someone else's.

May I return briefly to my home during an Evacuation Order?

ONLY if you have the permission of the local government and emergency personnel. Security will be in place.

Where will I stay if I'm evacuated?

It is recommended that you find an alternate place to stay with local accommodations, family or friends. The Reception Centre will be able to provide you with detailed information at the time of the evacuation.

Evacuations and your animals

If you are issued an Evacuation Alert, prepare by having cages for your pets, as well as food and food/water bowls. Also make sure that your pets are wearing identification. Emergency Support Services (ESS) will have limited space for evacuated pets. If possible, please arrange to have your pets stay with friends or family. Contact local pet boarding companies when an Evacuation Alert is issued.

For more information on Livestock Relocation, please visit: [Emergency Management for Agriculture](#)

Stage 3 - Rescind

People under an evacuation order may return when an Evacuation Rescind notice is issued. An evacuation order or alert may be reinstated by the local authority if the threat returns.

Being aware of what is happening around you is of utmost importance in ensuring you and your family are safe. Not all emergencies happen in a way that gives enough time for the authorities to communicate what you need to do, and what you need to be aware of. Maintaining situational awareness means that you are looking out for yourself and paying attention to your environment to notice changes that could indicate a pending event. You could be the person that alerts the authorities!

It is also good to maintain this situational awareness when there is a known emergency occurring and your area is on an Evacuation Alert. This allows you to make your own decision if you want to leave before an Order is declared--everybody's threshold for risk is different.

USEFUL LINKS

Nakusp is an [area at risk of wildfire](#), it's important that you take time to get prepared.

Understand what to do before, during and after a wildfire on [PrepareBC's page](#) for ideas on how to prepare for before during and after a wildfire.

Ways to Prepare for a wildfire:

- Read [RDCK's Tips for Preventing a wildfire from threatening your Home](#)
- [BC's Guide to FireSmart](#) your property
- [Build a "Grab and Go Emergency Kit"](#)
- [Sign up for RDCK Emergency Notifications](#)
- Stay informed! www.nakusp.com and Village of Nakusp on Facebook

Air quality

Stay informed with the current air quality at the [BC Air Quality site](#).

Visit the [Interior Health website](#) for information about the effects of wildfire smoke.

For information about Active Wildfires

[BC Wildfire Service](#)

Information on [Wildfires of Note](#)

To report a Wildfire *5555 (mobile) or 1-800-663-5555