



EMERGENCY EVACUATION INFORMATION

Evacuation instructions are determined by the situation of the emergency. The type, location and potential impacts of a disaster will be considered by experts (ie BC Wildfire Service, local officials etc.) before determining the best evacuation process.

UNDERSTANDING EVACUATION LANGUAGE

There are 3 stages of evacuation: alert, order and rescind. Familiarize yourself with these terms to understand their intended message.

EVACUATION ALERT – Be ready to leave your home on short notice. Organize your belongings, pack clothing, toiletries and medications for several days as well as a copy of your emergency plan, important documents (ie. house insurance) and personal valuables/mementos. Wait for instructions from the Alberni Valley Emergency Program Facebook page, Voyent Alert and the above sources.

EVACUATION ORDER – You are at risk. Leave the area immediately. Follow the directions from the above sources and evacuate using the route(s) that has been identified. Do not return home until you've been advised that the Evacuation Order has been rescinded.

EVACUATION RESCIND – All is currently safe and you can return home. Stay tuned for other possible alerts and orders, if the situation changes.

WHAT TO DO DURING AN EVACUATION ALERT, ORDER OR RESCIND?

In such stressful circumstances, the most important thing to remember is to stay calm, listen to local officials and follow *credible* social media sites regularly for critical information, updates and instructions.

EVACUATION ALERT

In the event an evacuation alert is issued in your area:

- Prepare to leave your home on short notice.
- Listen regularly for instructions from your local officials and credible social media sites, as well as EmergencyInfoBC for updates: <http://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca>
- Have your emergency kit and important documents ready to go. Include:
 - ✓ Important documents – such as your emergency plan, insurance policies, personal papers, identification, birth certificates etc.
 - ✓ Clothing for several days
 - ✓ Medication & list of prescriptions
 - ✓ Toiletries and personal items – including glasses or contact lenses
 - ✓ Comfort items for children, like a favourite toy or colouring books to help keep them busy
 - ✓ Pet care supplies - leashes, carriers, food etc.

- ✓ Mobile phones, chargers & battery banks
- ✓ Consider collecting precious photos, sentimental valuables and mementoes that cannot be replaced
- ✓ Ready to eat food and water
- ✓ Purse, wallet and cash
- ✓ Keys

Remember: Check in on any family, friends or neighbours who may need a helping hand due to mobility or other issues.

EVAUCATION ORDER

In the event of an evacuation order, you are at risk and **you must leave the area immediately**. An order is not given without good reason, and failing to leave when asked by officials puts you and others at risk.

When an evacuation order is issued:

- Leave immediately and do not return home until the Evacuation Order has been rescinded.
- Follow the directions from credible sources and evacuate using the route(s) that have been identified by emergency officials. *Avoid shortcuts* – they could lead to a blocked or dangerous areas.
- Wear a long-sleeved shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes to help protect yourself from unforeseen hazards.
- Gather family members or go to your designated meeting area, identified in your family plan.
- Pets – take them with you; *do not* leave them behind. Take pets in a carrier or on a leash and remember their food and other care items. Pets are not permitted in public shelters so if you have an animal, we encourage you to go to a relative/friend's home, or find a pet-friendly hotel.
- Register with Emergency Support Services (ESS) to let your friends and family know you are safe. Evacuees can register online at: <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/> or at a reception centre.
- If you need assistance with clothing, food or accommodation, follow the directions to the identified reception centre.
- Take critical items, already packed in your emergency kit (medicine, purse, wallet and keys).
- Close all doors and windows.
- Close and latch gates, but do not lock them.
- Take a cellphone, charger and battery bank, if you have one.
- If there is time and it is safe to do so, shut off water at the main line into your home and switch off electricity at the breaker panel. Leave natural gas service "on."
- Stay well away from any downed power lines.
- Contact your out-of-area emergency contact (identified in your personal emergency plan) to let them know what has happened, that you are alright and how to contact you. Alert them to any separated family members.

Local authority officials will advise when it is safe to return home.

EVAUCATION RESCIND

When an evacuation order has been rescinded, it is safe to return home. Stay connected to credible sources of information, in case the situation changes.

EVACUATION COMMUNICATION & CREDIBLE SOURCES

Stay informed and get the right information when you need it the most! Knowing where to get trusted, accurate information is a critical.

- ✔ Albemni Valley Emergency Program Facebook page: [Albemni Valley Emergency Program @AVEmergencyProgram](#). This site will provide emergency updates, information and instructions
- ✔ Register for Voyent Alert to stay informed at all times! Sign up to receive emergency updates, critical information and helpful instructions from Albemni Valley's Emergency Notification system. Download the app on your mobile phone or register now at: www.acrd.bc.ca/voyentalert. It is free, anonymous and simple to register.
- ✔ ACRD Twitter: @ACRDgov
- ✔ City of Port Alberni Facebook page: [City of Port Alberni Local Government @CityofPortAlberni](#)
- ✔ 93.3 The Peak – listen to the radio or follow them on Facebook [93.3 The PEAK](#) or on Twitter: [@933thepeak.com](#)
- ✔ AV News Facebook: [Albemni Valley News @AlbernValleyNews](#)
- ✔ EmergencyInfoBC at <https://emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca> or Twitter: @EmergencyInfoBC
- ✔ DriveBC at www.drivebc.ca or Twitter: @DriveBC

Stay informed! Stay connected! Stay safe! These sites will provide evacuation instructions during an emergency.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

DriveBC - for current updates on highway conditions and road closures: www.drivebc.ca or Twitter @DriveBC

EmergencyInfoBC – for information on evacuation orders and alerts: Twitter @EmergencyInfoBC or <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>

PreparedBC – for emergency preparedness resources and helpful information: <http://preparedbc.ca> or Facebook @PreparedBC

BC Wildfire Service – for current wildfire information, resources & updates: www.bcwildfire.ca, Facebook @BCForestFireInfo or Twitter @BCGovFireInfo (To report a wildfire, phone 1.800.663.5555 or *5555 on mobile phones)

FireSmart BC – fire prevention tips and resources: www.firesmartbc.ca, or Facebook @FireSmartBC