



Emergency Preparedness Week: Tips from Bimose's Technical Services Team



MAKE A PLAN. Create an emergency plan with your family! Draw a floor plan with all exits, set a meeting area, and know your community's evacuation route. Stay safe and stay prepared! To get started, take a few minutes with everyone in your household to make and practice a home fire escape plan using this guide from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs: <https://www.oafc.on.ca/public-safety/fire-escape-plans>.



PREPARE AN EMERGENCY KIT. Create a 72-hour emergency preparedness kit full of essential items! During an emergency you may have no electrical power or be asked to evacuate. Create an emergency preparedness kit with essential items for you and your family for 72 hours and check the contents twice a year to ensure freshness of food and water. For a full list of kit essentials visit: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/be-prepared-emergency>



WHEN PLANNING, REMEMBER YOUR PETS. Pets are members of our households too, so be sure to include your furry friends when developing your emergency plan. Bring your pets indoors at the first indication of an emergency. If you have to evacuate, take your pets with you, only if it is safe to do so. For tips on what to include in your pet's emergency survival kit, check out Emergency Preparedness - Ontario SPCA and Humane Society



BE FLOOD-READY. Stay safe during floods. Floods can strike anytime, but spring and early summer are the most high-risk periods. Heavy rain, snowmelt, or storms can trigger floods, especially with climate change on the rise. Be prepared:

- Follow evacuation alerts and orders
- Stay tuned to local news for update
- Use safe water sources
- Turn off electricity in flood-prone areas
- Move valuables to higher ground



KNOW YOUR ENVIRONMENT. Know the risks to your community and surrounding area. In Northwestern Ontario we face many risks related to the environment. Knowing the risks in your community can help you better prepare. Ensure you are able to take of yourself and family for 72 hours. Risks in our area include: flooding, wildfires, extreme heat, extreme cold, snow storms, power outages, and tornados.



MAKE YOUR HOME FIRE SAFE. Always ensure you have a working smoke alarm, this will increase your ability to get out of your home during a fire. Fire can spread rapidly through your home, leaving you with little time to escape once the smoke alarm sounds. Ensure you have a home evacuation plan in place and a meeting place predetermined. Check out <https://www.oafc.on.ca/public-safety> to learn about ways you can make your home safe.



BE AWARE OF LOCAL FIRES & SMOKE. Don't wait for danger to strike! Be prepared, know your evacuation plan, and stay informed with online tools like these tools:

- Interactive Fire Map: Forest Fire Info Map (gov.on.ca)
- Active smoke forecast:
<https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>

If you are instructed by emergency officials to evacuate, do so immediately. Safety first!