



Know the risks



Wildfires:

Wildfires are large, destructive fires that can spread quickly over brush. They literally burn wild! During the summer months in B.C., the dry, hot weather can have a huge impact on how fast wildfires spread. British Columbia endured a major wildfire season in 2015 that saw aggressive fire activity (1,836 wildfires), significant impacts on communities (more than 50 structures were burned) and an above-average number of hectares scorched (280,465 ha– that’s almost half a million football fields!). While lightning accounted for more than two thirds of wildfires in 2015, several of the most destructive fires were human-caused, and therefore completely preventable.

Many wildfires in B.C. occur far from cities and towns, but sometimes they threaten homes, businesses and infrastructure. Help keep your family safe by preparing in advance for a potential evacuation alert or order.

WARNING SIGNS: A thick fog-like smoke in the air often means there are wildfires in the distance. Local officials will warn you when a wildfire is fast approaching and whether you need to evacuate, or be prepared to do so.

For information on the difference between an evacuation order and alert, visit the Definitions You Should Know page.

For more information on how to prevent wildfires, what evacuation stages exist in wildfire response and where to find information, visit Know the Risks > Wildfires on PreparedBC.