

# HOME SAFETY PROGRAM



FIRE AND INJURY PREVENTION GUIDE





## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

FIRE / POLICE / AMBULANCE  
**911**

RCMP COMPLAINT LINE  
**403.343.5575**

THE CENTRAL ALBERTA CRIME  
PREVENTION CENTRE  
**403.986.9904**

CRIME STOPPERS  
**1.800.222.TIPS (8477)**

FIRE & INJURY PREVENTION INFORMATION  
**403.346.5511**

HEALTH LINK ALBERTA (HEALTH ADVICE 24HRS)  
**811**

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG  
**1.800.242.3447**

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## SPONSORS

## **WHAT IS THE HOME SAFETY PROGRAM?**

Red Deer Emergency Services is proud to offer The Home Safety Program for the citizens of Red Deer thanks to the generous support of major sponsors Intact Insurance, ATCO Gas, Insurance Brokers Association of Alberta, Canadian Home Builders Association - Central Alberta and Border Paving Ltd. The Home Safety Program is a free comprehensive home safety check that looks to identify fire and injury hazards in the home as well as installation of smoke alarms where needed.

The goal of the program is for the resident to become aware of hazards in their home and take precautions to reduce or limit their potential for fire and injury.

The information regarding the hazards identified in the home is collected for the benefit of the resident. Red Deer Emergency Services will not keep this information. The only information that Emergency Services will retain is if a smoke alarm is given or installed in the home by Emergency Services.

## **WHY ARE HOME SAFETY CHECKS IMPORTANT?**

Home safety checks are included in this program because injuries are the leading cause of death among Canadians from one to 44 years of age. The injury rate leading to death or hospitalization is higher for seniors than any other age group in Canada and is expected to grow as the Canadian population ages.

Every year, injury takes a staggering toll on children, seniors, families, and communities across the country. New data from The Cost of Injury in Canada Report quantifies the financial and societal burden on our citizens, our health care system and the Canadian economy. The financial costs of preventable injuries are rising and unsustainable:

- \$27 billion lost to the economy annually
- 3.5 million visits to emergency rooms
- More than 60,000 disabilities
- Injury costs Canadians more than heart and stroke disease

### **THE HUMAN COSTS ARE CATASTROPHIC:**

- 16,000 Canadians die each year
- 43 Canadians die every day
- Injury is the #1 killer of Canadians aged 1-44
- The loss of life is equivalent to a jumbo jet crashing every 10 days.



## **HOW WILL THE PROGRAM BE CONDUCTED?**

Red Deer Emergency Services goal is to visit 10% of the City's homes each year.

Red Deer Emergency Services personnel carry out the Home Safety Program. Fire Crews are assigned areas of the city in which they conduct door-to-door home safety checks.

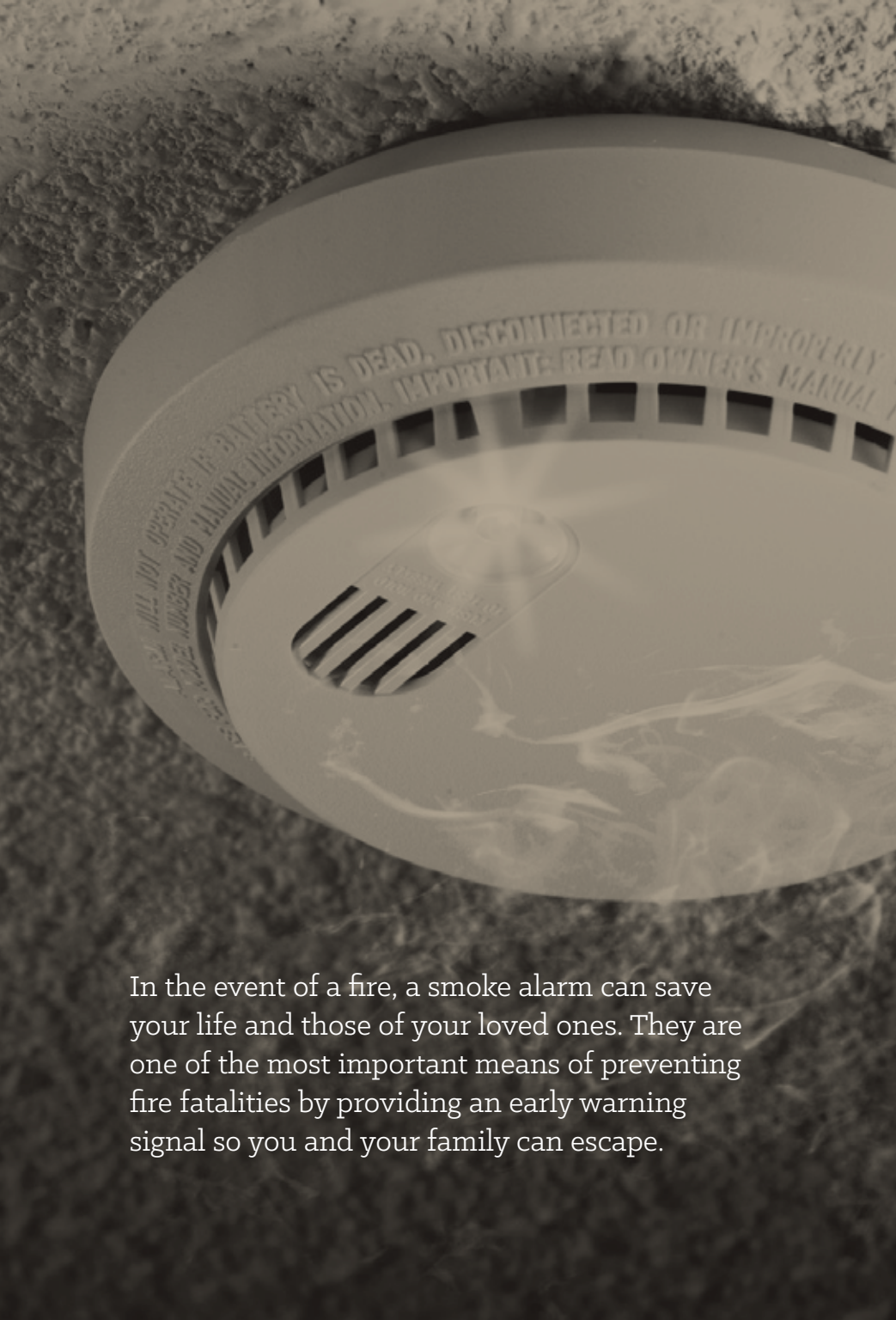
Two RDES personnel conduct each home safety check. The homeowners or tenants must be in attendance and must grant permission for the safety check to occur. RDES personnel follow a uniform home safety check sheet, which is taken from the National Fire Protection Associations (NFPA) Code 1452, "Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Dwelling Fire Safety Surveys."

The entire program is done at no cost to the homeowners including installation of smoke alarms which are provided by the programs sponsors.



# SMOKE ALARMS

## SMOKE ALARMS



In the event of a fire, a smoke alarm can save your life and those of your loved ones. They are one of the most important means of preventing fire fatalities by providing an early warning signal so you and your family can escape.



## SMOKE ALARMS - WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Most importantly, smoke alarms should be installed near sleeping areas. Many fatal fires begin late at night or in the early morning. For extra safety, install smoke alarms inside bedrooms.

The best location to install smoke alarms is on the ceiling. Since smoke rises, installing your smoke alarm at the proper level will provide you with the earliest warning possible. Always follow the manufacturer's installation instructions.

### MAINTAINING YOUR SMOKE ALARM

#### MONTHLY



Test your smoke alarm by pressing the "Test Button" on the face of the alarm. Pressing the button indicates that the power supply (120 volt or battery) is functioning. Remember this only tests the power supply.

#### YEARLY



The sensing chamber should be tested to ensure it is still active. The proper way to test a smoke alarm sensing chamber is by producing a small amount of smoke that drifts up into the device. The smoke alarm should go off in 20 seconds or less. This test should be done yearly when you change the batteries.

#### BATTERIES



Batteries should be changed once a year or when your smoke alarm gives off a faint beep every few minutes. This beep is an indication that the batteries are weak. A good time to change batteries is in the spring or fall when we change our clocks.

#### KEEP THEM CLEAN



Dust and debris can interfere with their operation, so vacuum over and around your smoke alarm, this will help prevent false alarms as sometimes the sensing chamber triggers when too much dust has accumulated inside.



## NUISANCE ALARMS

If you have a “nuisance alarm” that goes off frequently with cooking fumes or humidity from the bathroom, do not remove the battery. Move the smoke alarm further from the kitchen or bathroom, or consider a photo electric smoke alarm in those areas.

Newer smoke alarms have a hush feature button that can be activated silencing the alarm for a set time allowing the sensing chamber to clear.

## REPLACEMENT

- Replace the battery in your smoke alarm once a year.
- Replace your smoke alarm every 10 years. The sensor in your alarm will wear out and dependability diminishes with time. (30% failure rate after 10 years). Look for the replacement sticker (now required on new smoke alarms) reminding you in which year you need to replace the smoke alarm with a new one.



For information on where to purchase  
Smoke alarms for people with hearing loss,  
contact Red Deer Emergency Services at  
403.346.5511 or [prevention@reddeer.ca](mailto:prevention@reddeer.ca)



# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



# CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS



## **CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) - WHAT IS IT?**

- Poisonous gas that is odorless, colorless, tasteless and non-irritating.
- It crowds out life-sustaining oxygen from red blood cells and prevents the body from absorbing oxygen.

## **CARBON MONOXIDE WARNING SIGNS**

- Exposure to CO can cause symptoms such as dizziness, headache, nausea, fatigue, burning eyes, vomiting or loss of muscle control.
- If you experience any of these symptoms or the CO alarm goes off, leave the home immediately and call 911 from a safe location.

## **PLACEMENT OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS**

- Install Carbon Monoxide alarms near each sleeping area.
- Never cover or block alarms with furniture

## **TYPES OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS**

Most CO alarms work on the same principle and come as either battery or A/C powered while some have both.

## **TESTING**

- Test at least once a month by pushing “test” button, replace if it fails to respond.
- Know the difference between the “alarm” sound and the “fault” sound. This is usually found on the back of the alarm.

## **LIFE EXPECTANCY OF CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS**

The typical life expectancy of CO alarms is five to ten years as stated on packaging and should be replaced as specified as sensing chambers deteriorate over time.

## THE FIRST LINE OF DEFENSE

- Proper installation, use, maintenance and inspection of your fuel burning appliances is always your first line of defense.
- Fireplaces can use up to ten times as much air in your home as your furnace. Ensure there is adequate combustion air for all appliances.
- Never use a charcoal barbecue grill, portable gas grill or similar equipment inside a home, tent, trailer or garage.
- Never operate vehicles in an enclosed area.
- Keep all flue vents and chimneys clear of debris and other blockages.
- Never block or plug a furnace combustion air intake or a fresh air vent.
- Don't store anything close to your appliances that could restrict air circulation.
- Regular tune-up of fuel fired appliances by a qualified person gives you the peace of mind that there are no defects and units are running at peak efficiency.



# PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS



# PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS





## HOW TO USE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER

The best time to learn how to use the fire extinguisher is before you ever need it. It's easy to remember how to use a fire extinguisher if you can remember the acronym PASS which stands for Pull, Aim, Squeeze and Sweep.



### PULL THE PIN

This allows you to discharge the extinguisher.



### AIM AT THE BASE OF THE FIRE

Avoid aiming at the flames. Instead, you want to smother the source of the fire. Aim at what is actually burning.



### SQUEEZE THE TOP HANDLE OR LEVER

This releases the pressurized extinguishing agent in the extinguisher.



### SWEEP FROM SIDE TO SIDE

Start using the extinguisher from a safe distance, then move forward attacking the fire, sweeping side to side as you work.



A typical five pound extinguisher will last approximately 10-15 seconds. If you cannot put out the fire in that time frame it is time to leave the building.

## PLACEMENT OF PORTABLE EXTINGUISHERS

It is recommended that a minimum 5lb ABC (also known as a 3A-10BC) portable extinguisher is kept in the home including the garage.

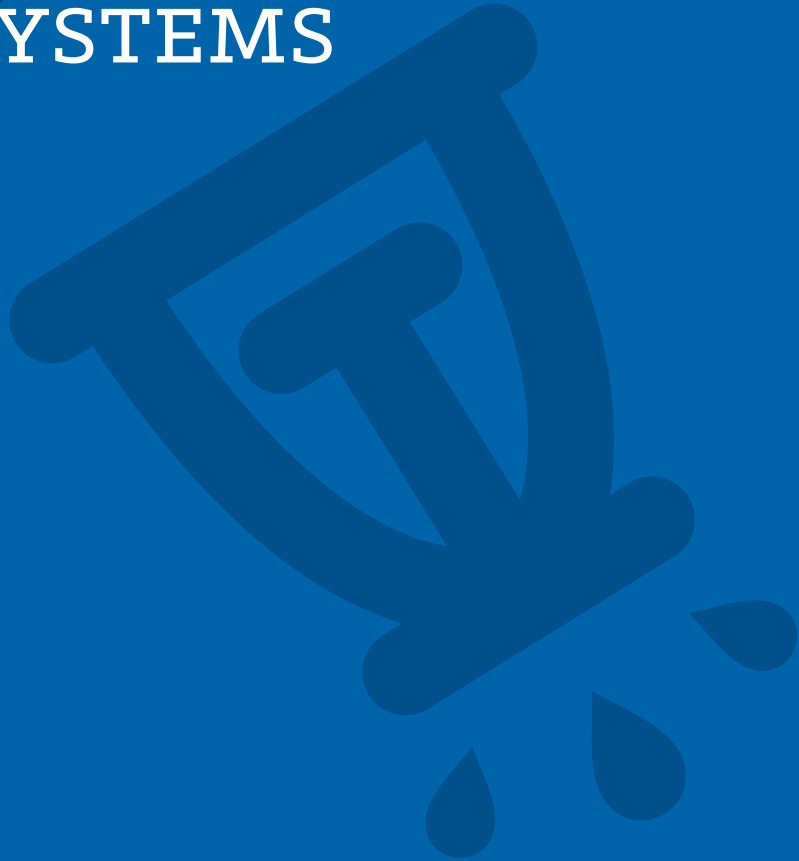
Secure extinguishers to a wall in a location away from hazards for easy access in the event of an emergency.

## MAINTENANCE

- Check your extinguisher gauge monthly for proper pressure.
- Portable extinguisher must be serviced after each use.
- It is recommended that a qualified person service the portable extinguisher every year.



# RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



## RESIDENTIAL SPRINKLER SYSTEMS



Fire sprinklers have no equal, but the best protection from home fire is a total system of safety: early warning (Smoke Alarms), suppression (Fire Sprinklers) and prompt evacuation (Fire Safety Plan).

## RESIDENTIAL FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS HELP SAVE LIVES.

Because fire sprinkler systems react so quickly, they can dramatically reduce the heat, flames, and smoke produced in a fire.

Fire sprinklers have been around for more than a century, protecting commercial, industrial, and public buildings. What many people don't realize is that the same life-saving technology is also available for homes, where the majority of civilian fire deaths occur.

Home fire sprinklers can contain and may even extinguish a fire in less time than it would take the fire department to arrive on the scene. Fire is controlled at an early stage resulting in cost savings.

### ACCORDING TO THE SCOTTSDALE REPORT, A 15-YEAR STUDY OF FIRE SPRINKLER EFFECTIVENESS:

- A fire sprinkler uses, on average, 341 gallons of water to control a fire
- Firefighters, on average, use 2,935 gallons of water
- Average fire loss per sprinklered incident was \$2,166
- Average fire loss per un-sprinklered incident was \$45,019
- There were no civilian deaths in sprinklered homes



#### COST

On average, home fire sprinkler systems cost less than 2% of the value of your home in new construction.



#### INSURANCE COMPANIES

Shop around, more insurance companies now offer a reduction in premiums for installed residential sprinkler systems.



#### FIRE SPRINKLERS ARE GREEN

FM Global conducted full-scale fire tests to compare the environmental impact of sprinklered and non-sprinklered home fires. The tests showed that in the event of a home fire:

- Greenhouse gas emissions were cut by 97.8%
- Water usage was reduced between 50% and 91%

## MYTHS

### ALL SPRINKLER HEADS WILL ACTIVATE AND FLOOD MY HOME.

- Only the sprinkler closest to the fire will activate, spraying water directly on the fire. Ninety percent of fires are contained by the operation of just one sprinkler head with minimal water damage.

### IF I BURN TOAST THE SPRINKLER SYSTEM WILL GO OFF

- Sprinkler heads are heat activated; smoke, cooking vapors, or steam will not set off a sprinkler head.
- Sprinkler heads are activated by heat. At approximately 65 degrees Celsius the sprinkler head will activate and spray water.

### FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEMS ARE NOT RELIABLE

- Sprinkler head failure rate is one in 16 million.
- Domestic plumbing ruptures and leaks are over a 1000 to 1 ratio compared to sprinkler system ruptures and leaks.

### A SMOKE ALARM PROVIDES ENOUGH PROTECTION

- Smoke alarms save lives by providing a warning system but can do nothing to extinguish a growing fire or protect those physically unable to escape on their own, such as disabled, elderly or small children.

### "SPRINKLERS ARE UGLY; I DON'T WANT THEM IN MY SPACE."

- Modern residential sprinkler heads come in a variety of unobtrusive styles and models. Some can be mounted flush with the ceiling line, and concealed behind protective covers.

Facts Provided By: U.S. Fire Administration



To find more information please visit "Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition" [www.homefiresprinkler.org](http://www.homefiresprinkler.org)



# WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT



WATCH WHAT YOU HEAT





## PREVENT COOKING FIRES

Cooking fires are one of the leading causes of home fires and home fire injuries in Red Deer. The majority of kitchen cooking fires occur when people leave their cooking unattended. Fire Investigators often hear “I only left the kitchen for a minute” as residents recount the events leading to a devastating home fire. On average 20% of all destructive residential fires start in the kitchen.

### SOME COMMON EXAMPLES OF UNATTENDED COOKING INCLUDE:

- Distracted or pre-occupied (phone, shower, answer the door).
- Sleeping.
- Under the influence of alcohol.
- Drowsy from medication or fatigue.

Home cooking fires, injuries and deaths, are preventable. By paying attention to what you are cooking, you may be able to foresee potential fire hazards and remove them before they have a chance to ignite.

### KITCHEN FIRE AS A RESULT OF OVER HEATED GREASE.



20 seconds  
from first flame



2 minutes 30 seconds  
from first flame



## BE ALERT ABOUT COOKING HABITS

- Never leave food that is cooking unattended.
- Don't heat oil or shortening in an open cooking pot.
- When cooking with oil or shortening use a deep fat fryer with a thermostat and sealed lid which is specially designed to prevent the oil from igniting.
- Only use fresh cooking oil, reused oil catches fire at a lower temperature.
- Keep pot handles turned in at all times.
- Keep cooking areas clear of combustibles such as potholders, towels, drapes and food packaging.

## IN CASE OF A GREASE OR PAN FIRE:

- Never move the pot or pan, simply slide a tight fitting lid over the pot or pan to smother the flames and turn off the heat.
- Never throw water or flour on a grease fire.
- In case of an oven fire, close the oven door and turn off the oven.
- If the fire is not brought under control immediately, get you and your family out and call 911.

## WHAT OTHER SAFETY STEPS CAN I TAKE?

- Keep children and pets away from cooking areas by creating a one-metre "kid free zone" around the stove.
- Always check to make sure appliances are off before leaving the kitchen.
- Examine cords and plugs on stoves, ovens, toasters, coffee makers, and other cooking devices for signs of cracking or fraying.



# CIGARETTES AND PEAT MOSS A PERILOUS MIX

CIGARETTES AND PEAT MOSS A PERILOUS MIX



## CIGARETTES AND PEAT MOSS A PERILOUS MIX

Every year, Red Deer Emergency Services investigates fires started by smokers using plant pots as ashtrays. In 2014 there was over \$1,000,000 in property loss due to improper disposal of cigarettes.

Many potting soil mixes on the market today contain as much or more organic material as inorganic material. For example, potting soil can include shredded wood, bark, and/or peat moss with minimal amounts of what we call real soil (dirt). Styrofoam pellets, perlite and vermiculite are some of the other items that are often added to the soil mixture for aeration and water retention. In addition, many mixtures also include different types of fertilizers. Some fertilizers are oxidizers, which will make a fire that does start, grow at an even faster rate.

When you use a dried out plant pot as an ashtray it will work to insulate the lit cigarette. The soil heats to ignition temperature and begins to smolder. Smoldering can continue for several hours, consuming more and more plant pot material. When sufficient oxygen is available the material can break into flame. If other combustible material is in close proximity to the planter or flowerpot it may become involved resulting in a serious fire.

Have you taken proper precautions with planter pots in and around your home to keep your family and property safe? Be a responsible smoker, planter pots are not ashtrays.



“There should be none of these fires.  
They are 100 percent preventable.”



## SAFETY TIPS

### PLANTER POTS ARE NOT ASH TRAYS



- Smokers should discard butts and matches in appropriate metal disposal containers, rather than planters or garden beds.
- Gardeners should keep planters well watered to reduce flammability and remove dead plants to lessen available potential fuel for a fire.



- Planters should not rest on or against flammable surfaces such as wooden decks or siding.
- Stored peat moss should be protected from contact with heat sources.




- Should a fire begin, thoroughly wet the contents of the planter. Empty the contents on a non-flammable surface and spread them to verify that all burning substances have been extinguished. In a garden bed, use a rake or shovel to separate the burning peat and then apply water.



# TARGET ARSON



# TARGET ARSON



If you have information regarding a deliberately set fire, or for further intervention information please call Emergency Services at 403.346.5511.



## **WHAT IS ARSON?**

Arson robs communities of its valuable assets – lives and property. It destroys more than buildings: arson can devastate a community resulting in the decline of the neighborhood through increased insurance premiums, loss of business revenue and a decrease in property values.

## **IS ARSON A SERIOUS PROBLEM?**

The crime of arson causes 35 million dollars in losses of public and private property in Alberta every year. Arson in Red Deer is one of the leading causes of fire. that accounts for 30% of all destructive fires.

Every year in Alberta intentionally set fires in homes result in over 16 million dollars in direct property damage. The average dollar loss for an intentionally set fire in a residential home is \$73,146. 12% of all fire injuries are arson related.

## **WHAT ARE THE PENALTIES?**

Arson is a crime. The penalties for fire-setting can be very severe. Sentences of imprisonment up to life may be imposed on the crime of arson.

## **THERE ARE MANY REASONS WHY PEOPLE SET FIRES:**

- Mischief is behind nearly half of all cases of intentionally set fires in Red Deer.
- Fraud is commonly associated with business failures, particularly during a depression when people try to collect insurance money illegally for economic or other reasons.
- Anger or Revenge are motives that stem from political or social problems.
- Juvenile Fire-Setting presents an enormous risk to children, their families, and the community. Fire involvement can be a sign of other problems in a child's life. Fire-setting can start at any age.

While most people have a fascination with fire, young people lack the experience necessary to make appropriate decisions in regard to fire. The key to a solution for this problem lies in linking the child and their family with the appropriate agency to address the behavior.

## HOW DO I PROTECT MY PROPERTY?

To minimize the occurrence of arson and reduce its devastating effect residents should take measures to safeguard their homes.



### CLEAN HOUSE

- Oftentimes, arson is a crime of opportunity. Remove excess vegetation and piles of leaves. Clean around your house and garage, removing unused and unneeded paper, trash, cleaning supplies, partial cans of paint and other materials that could become kindling and fuel a fire for an arsonist.



### TRIM OR REMOVE SHRUBBERY

- Make sure that nothing blocks the view of the house. During the growing season, bushes and trees may need to be trimmed frequently.



### ILLUMINATE EXTERIOR AND ENTRANCES

- Install lights covering all sides of the house. Motion-activated lighting, which is inexpensive, should be placed near the entrances. Interior lights on timers give the illusion a residence is occupied.



### KEEP DOORS AND WINDOWS LOCKED AND BOLTED

- All external doors on your home, garage, and shed should be equipped with locks. A simple locked door or window could be the deterrent that saves a house from arson.



### ESTABLISH A COMMUNITY PROGRAM

- For more information on how to reduce and prevent crime please contact "The Central Alberta Crime Prevention Centre" where you will find information and resources available in the community including "Neighborhood Watch Association, "Citizens on Patrol", and Crime Stoppers"
- The goal of "The Central Alberta Crime Prevention Centre" is to educate and empower communities leading to a safe environment.

Call: 403.986.9904 Email: [crime-prevention@hotmail.com](mailto:crime-prevention@hotmail.com) Web: [www.cacpc.ca](http://www.cacpc.ca)



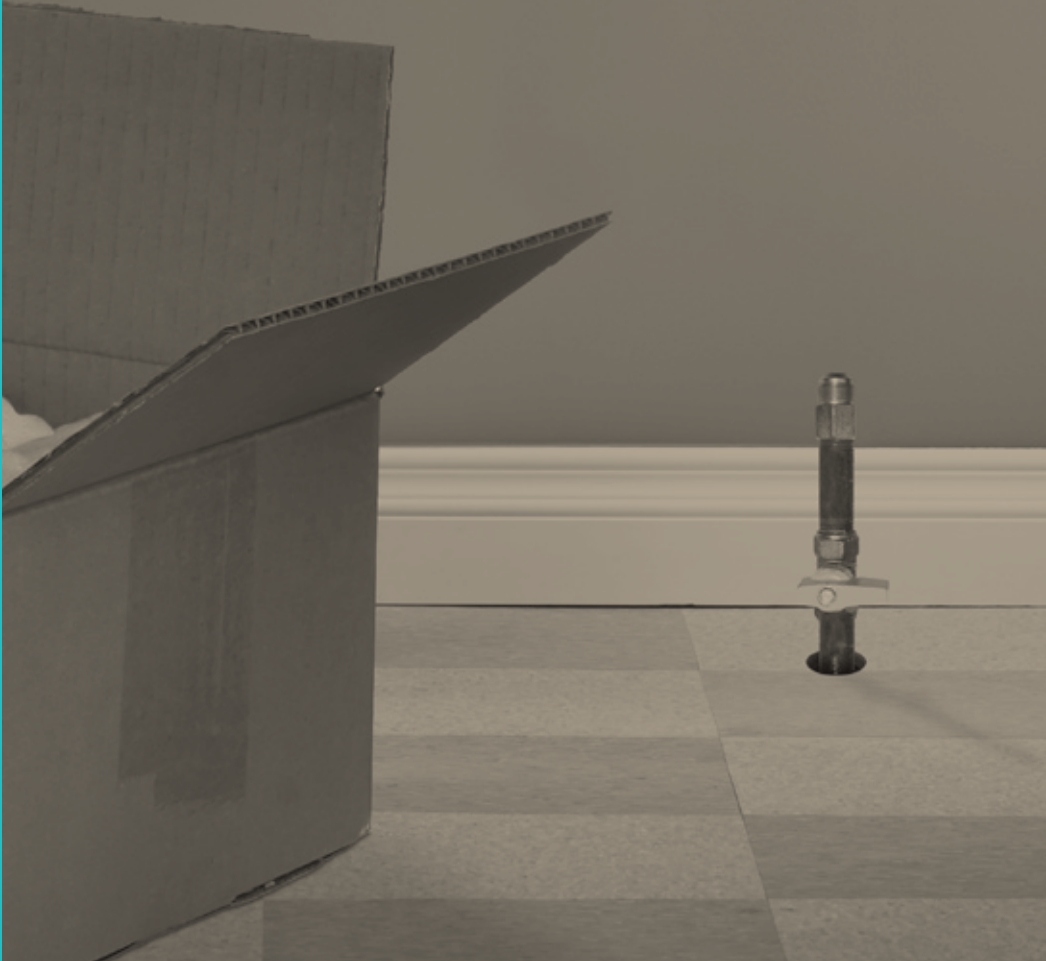
# UNCAPPED GAS LINES

***ATCO Gas***



UNCAPPED GAS LINES

**ATCO Gas**



## DO YOU HAVE UNCAPPED NATURAL GAS LINES IN YOUR HOME?

Even if you don't currently use a natural gas stove or clothes dryer, your home's previous occupants may have. Are you sure the natural gas lines and valves were properly sealed when those appliances were removed?

### THIS COULD BE DANGEROUS

Uncapped natural gas lines and valves can let natural gas leak into your home. While natural gas is not toxic or poisonous, it is highly flammable. Check your appliances to make sure they aren't hiding a potentially dangerous situation.

#### CHECK BEHIND AND AROUND YOUR:

- Stove
- Oven
- Clothes dryer
- Barbecue
- Space heaters (home and garage)



When in doubt, contact a qualified gas fitter, a heating contractor or ATCO Gas.

## WHAT TO LOOK FOR

### AN APPLIANCE CONNECTOR THAT IS LEFT BEHIND

This piece is part of the appliance's connecting hose, yet it is often left on the natural gas line. If you spot this, the connector must be removed and the line properly sealed.

If you are unfamiliar with natural gas safety, please contact a qualified gas fitter, a heating contractor or ATCO Gas to seal the line.

### A PROPERLY SEALED NATURAL GAS LINE

This threaded cap is one way to properly seal a natural gas line.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOU SMELL NATURAL GAS

For your safety, a smell much like rotten eggs is added to natural gas so you can detect even the smallest leak, indoors or outdoors.

Leave the house immediately if you smell natural gas.

**Call 911 or ATCO Gas at 1.800.511.3447.** We're always on call to respond to natural gas emergencies



To find more information on natural gas safety visit [www.atcogas.com](http://www.atcogas.com)



CALL BEFORE  
YOU DIG

***ATCO Gas***



CALL BEFORE YOU DIG

**ATCO Gas**





## CAN YOU LIVE WITH THE CONSEQUENCES OF A HIT LINE?

Hitting a natural gas line can lead to major property damage, serious injury and even death.

Those responsible also pay the repair and service restoration costs. This may be as low as a few hundred dollars or as high as thousands of dollars.



### **DO: CALL BEFORE YOU DIG - IT'S FREE**

Call Alberta One-Call at **1.800.242.3447** at least two days before you dig. They will locate all underground utilities at no charge.

#### **CALL BEFORE YOU:**

- Plant trees or remove tree roots
- Dig fence post holes
- Anchor supports for decks or swing sets
- Drive landscaping stakes into the ground
- Start any other construction or landscaping project



### **DO: USE A SHOVEL TO EXPOSE THE GAS LINE**

If your project requires digging within one metre on either side of locate marks, you must hand expose the line. This means carefully using a shovel to visually verify the location and depth of the natural gas line.



### **DON'T: OBSTRUCT NATURAL GAS LINES**

Do not construct buildings, additions, eaves, garages or enclosed patios over natural gas lines.

Provincial regulations allow small, portable, free-standing garden sheds to be placed over natural gas lines provided no permanent foundation is installed.

### **IF YOU HIT A NATURAL GAS LINE (EVEN IF THERE IS NO ODOUR OR HISSING SOUND)**

1. Immediately get safely away from the hit line.
2. At a safe distance, **call 911 or ATCO Gas at 1.800.511.3447.**  
Do not use a cell phone close to the hit line.

#### **YOU SHOULD ALSO:**

- Clear all people from the vicinity of the leak
- Do not attempt to repair the leak or stop escaping gas
- Shut off or remove any sources of ignition, including cell phones
- Extinguish cigarettes and open flames



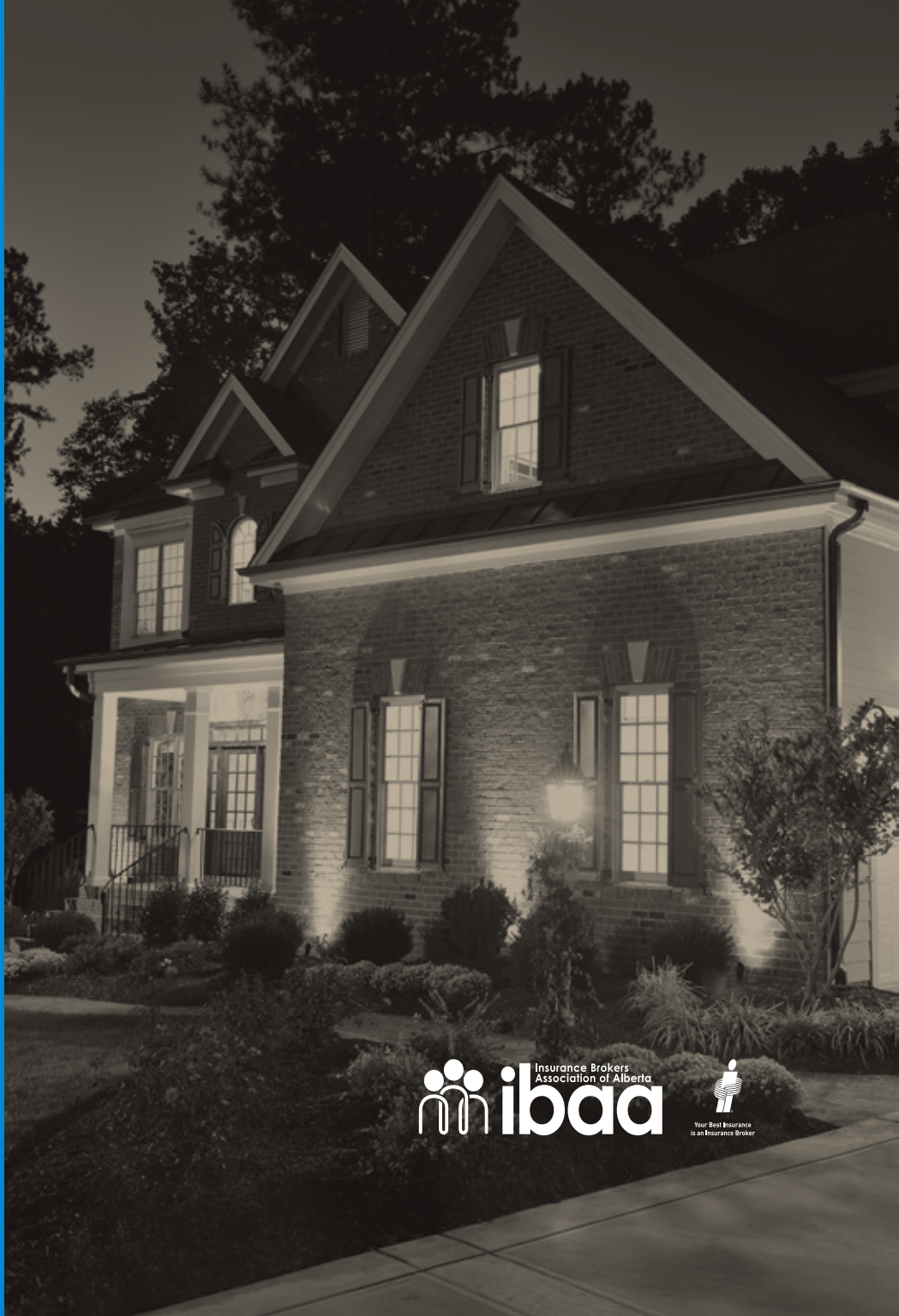
To find more information on natural gas safety visit [www.atcogas.com](http://www.atcogas.com)



# PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM CRIME



PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM CRIME



 Insurance Brokers  
Association of Alberta

  
Your Best Insurance  
is an Insurance Broker

## PROTECTING YOUR HOME AND PROPERTY FROM CRIME



- Ensure all windows and doors lock properly.
- Use high quality locks and reinforcement devices on any points of entry into the home.
- Engrave your Driver's Licence number on bicycles, lawn mowers, barbecues or any items which you are unable to properly lock and secure.
- Install motion sensor lights in the front and rear of your home.
- Keep shrubs and trees trimmed from windows and doors to improve visibility.
- Use thorny plants along fence lines and near vulnerable windows to prevent access to the property.
- Ensure snow is shoveled and grass is mowed regularly.
- Remove any clutter which may make the house look unkempt or obstructs sight lines.
- Install and use a home security alarm system.
- Join a Neighbourhood Watch program in your area to monitor and report suspicious activity.

## SECURING YOUR GARAGE



- An attached garage is a point of entry into your home. Ensure that the door to attached living space is locked at all times.
- Never leave your garage door open and unattended.
- Ensure any exterior garage door release mechanisms are disabled or enabled only with a hard-to-guess code.
- Properly secure items of value stored in the garage. Thieves will steal recreational vehicles, sporting equipment and tools.
- Garages often contain items such as ladders, tools and pry bars which may assist a thief in burgling your home. If possible, store these items in your home rather than in the garage.



## REDUCING VEHICLE THEFT

- Park vehicles in your garage or in a well-lit location that you can view from your home.
- Remove your keys from the ignition.
- Never leave any keys in the vehicle or in an easily accessible place.
- Lock all doors and fully close all windows.
- Hide your valuables out of sight or take them with you.
- Store your garage door opener in the glove box or take it with you.
- Use a theft deterrent device such as a steering wheel lock (club), car alarm or engine immobilizer.



## WHILE ON VACATION

- Cancel the newspaper and suspend mail delivery while you are away or have a neighbour pickup your newspaper and mail.
- Arrange for someone to shovel your snow or mow your lawn.
- Have a trusted neighbour, friend or relative check your home regularly.
- Use timers on your lights which activate at different points during the evening and night. Timers should be set in different rooms for various times.
- Do not leave a key hidden outside your home. Leave it with a trusted neighbour, friend, or relative.
- Let a neighbour know how long you will be gone and when you will be returning. Have them keep an eye on the home while you are gone.
- Turn off the water valve for any outside water taps. You may want to turn off the main water valve depending on how long you will be away.
- Ensure all windows are locked and secure. Place a strip of wood in sliding window tracks for extra security.



# HANDS ON HOME SAFETY



## HANDS ON HOME SAFETY

The Home Safety Program is dedicated to providing you with the information you need to make your home and leisure time safe.





## GARAGE AND FRONT OF HOUSE

- 1 House numbers visible day and night
- 2 Store flammables/poisons/corrosives wisely
- 3 Walkway kept clear to prevent slip hazards

Lock shed, vehicles and garage to prevent the chance of arson.





## BATHROOM

- 4 Blow out candles before leaving room
- 5 Medicine stored safely
- 6 GFCI outlets
- 7 Install grab bars

## STAIRWAYS

- 8 Ensure all handrails are secure
- 9 Repair worn carpet
- 10 Keep stairways clear of objects

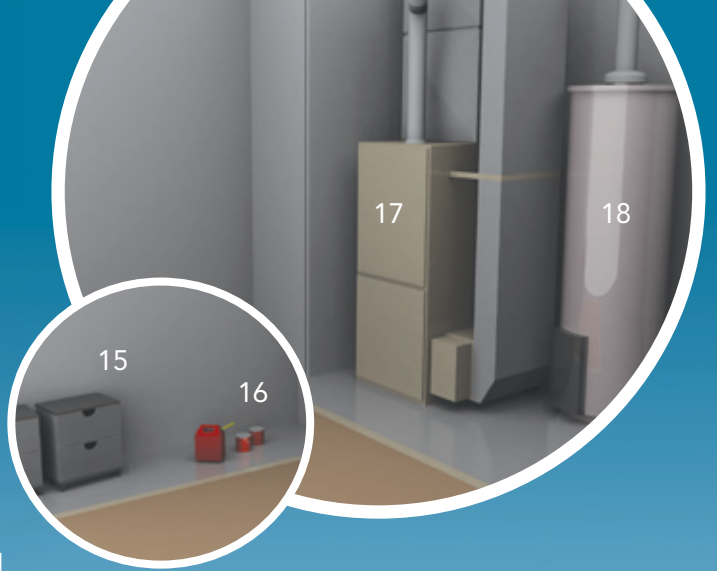
## LIVING ROOM

- 11 Fireplace safety
  - Always use a fireplace screen
  - Cool ashes before going to bed
  - Dispose of ashes in a metal container away from house
- 12 Ensure there are smoke alarms between sleeping areas
- 13 Install night lights
- 14 Use portable heaters wisely



## BASEMENT

- 15 Keep storage away from water heater and furnace
- 16 Remove flammable products
- 17 Clean or replace furnace filters
- 18 Have a professional check your heating system



## BEDROOM

- 19 NEVER smoke while in bed
- 20 Candle use not recommended

## KITCHEN

- 21 Keep area around stove clear of things that will burn
- 22 NEVER leave cooking unattended

Ensure there are carbon monoxide alarms near sleeping areas.



## BACK PORCH

- 23 Security light
- 24 Deck railings and handrails are secure
- 25 Gasoline and propane stored securely outside
- 26 Does fire-pit comply with The City of Red Deer fire permit by-law?

Reduce the risk of arson - Don't allow garbage to accumulate around your property.



## PERSONAL HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

NO YES

- Do you have a working smoke alarm on every level in your home?
- Do you have a home escape plan?
- Have you practiced it?
- Do you have a portable fire extinguisher in your home?
- Do you know how to use a portable fire extinguisher?
- Are your house numbers clearly visible day and night from the street?
- Are candles on a sturdy base away from combustibles?
- Do you blow out candles before leaving a room?
- Are matches and lighters out of reach of children?
- Are stairways free of tripping hazards (proper lighting)?
- Are products like gasoline and propane stored safely outside?
- Is combustible material kept clear of heating appliances?
- Are space heaters used safely?
- If you have a fireplace, is it properly screened?
- Are gas appliances routinely and properly maintained?
- Are you aware of the hazard of overloading electrical outlets?
- Is the kitchen and cook area free of hazards?
- Are household chemicals and medications stored safely and securely?
- Are you always in the kitchen, never leaving cooking unattended?

## PLAN YOUR ESCAPE

To reduce your risk from fire, we encourage you to sit down with your family and develop a home escape plan. Draw a floor plan of your home marking all windows and doors.

Plan two ways out of every bedroom. The primary exit would be the door. The secondary exit would be a window that opens easily to accommodate a home escape ladder.

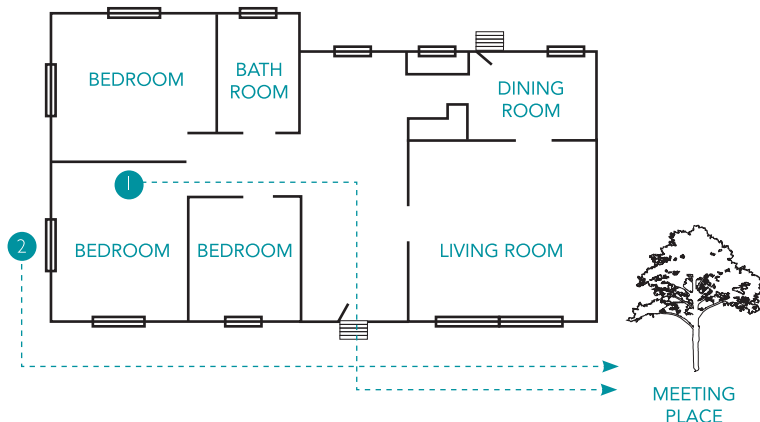
If you live in a multi-level building, use the stairs, never the elevator in the event of an emergency.

Choose a meeting place for all family members outside the home and mark it on your plan.

Many children under the age of 15 are prone to sleeping through smoke alarms. Try practicing fire drills at night using a smoke alarm. Children need to become familiar with the sounds and react to it properly. If your children continue to sleep through practice drills, develop an escape plan that includes their notification or evacuation by an adult.

Remember to practice your plan regularly to keep your family safe in the event of a fire.

Install working smoke alarms on every level of your home and near every sleeping area. For maximum protection you should install smoke alarms in all bedrooms.





# 72 HOUR EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS PLAN



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# 1

## KNOW THE RISKS

Emergency Canada guidelines suggest we should always be prepared to look after our own needs, as well as the needs of our family, for at least three days. During a major incident Emergency Resources are busy responding to priority areas, assistance may not be available for an extended period of time. Are you prepared for 72 hours?

In Red Deer, a tornado can strike quickly with significant damage. Wildfires can threaten communities and restrict movement. Heavy rains can cause flash flooding. In addition to natural disasters there are other types of risks. There are power outages, blizzards, drought, industrial and major transportation incidents. As well, there is the possibility of intentional acts including terrorism on Canadian soil.

# 2

## MAKE A PLAN

The time you invest in creating an emergency plan will ensure that you and your household know what to do in case of an emergency.

- Don't forget that your family may not be together when a disaster occurs. Practice how to meet or contact one another and discuss what you would do in different situations.
- Develop a plan and keep it in an easy-to-find, easy-to-remember place (for example, with your emergency kit). You may also want to make duplicate copies to keep in your car and/or at work.
- You should update your plan yearly.

For a step by step guide on developing an emergency plan and other information please visit the "Get Prepared" web site at <http://www.getprepared.ca>.

# 3

## GET A KIT

You may have some of these basic emergency kit items already, such as a flashlight, battery-operated radio, food, water and blankets. The key is to make sure they are organized, easy to find and easy to carry (in a suitcase with wheels or in a backpack) in case you need to evacuate your home. Whatever you do, don't wait for a disaster to happen, plan now!

### BASIC EMERGENCY KIT



- Flashlight and batteries or wind-up flashlight
- Battery or wind-up radio (and extra batteries)
- First aid kit
- Candles
- Water proof matches and lighter
- Warm clothing and footwear for each person
- Blankets or sleeping bags for each person
- Toilet paper and other personal supplies
- Garbage bags for personal sanitation
- Safety gloves
- Basic tools - hammer, pliers, wrench, screwdrivers
- Extra keys - for your car and home
- Cash - include smaller bills
- Special needs items - prescription medications, infant formula or equipment for people with disabilities
- Personal documents - such as passport and birth certificate
- Emergency plan - include a copy of it in this kit



### EMERGENCY FOOD AND WATER KIT

- Water - two litres of water per person per day
- Canned food - including soup, meat, vegetables and fruit, energy bars and dried foods (replace once a year)
- Disposable cups, plates and cutlery
- Manual can and bottle openers
- Fuel stove, extra fuel and pots



### EMERGENCY CAR KIT

If you have a car, prepare an emergency car kit and keep it in the vehicle. The basic emergency kit for cars should include the following items:

- Food - that won't spoil, such as energy bars
- Water - in plastic bottles so they won't break if frozen
- Blanket and extra clothing
- First aid kit - with seatbelt cutter
- Small shovel, scraper and snow brush
- Candle in a deep can and matches
- Wind-up flashlight
- Whistle - in case you need to attract attention
- Cell phone charger
- Roadmaps
- Sand or salt
- Gas line antifreeze / windshield washer fluid
- Toolkit with tow rope / axe or hatchet
- Jumper cables
- Fire extinguisher
- Warning light or road flares
- Copy of your emergency plan and personal documents

## STAY SAFE DURING DISASTERS

### WHAT TO DO DURING OR AFTER A DISASTER

- Help anyone who is injured.
- Get your emergency survival kit. (The first-aid kit should be with it).
- Listen to a local radio station on your battery operated radio for instructions.
- Check for fires, fire hazards, gas leaks, damaged utilities and spilled flammable liquids. Next, confine or secure your pets and check on your neighbours.

### DURING A TORNADO

If you are in a building, go to the basement immediately. If there isn't one, crouch or lie flat under heavy furniture in an inner hallway, room or stairwell away from the windows. Stay away from large halls, arenas, shopping malls, and other large buildings as their roofs could collapse.

If you are outside and there is no shelter, lie down in a ditch or ravine, protecting your head.

If you are driving, get out of the car. It could blow through the air or roll over on you. Lie down as explained above.

### DURING A BLIZZARD

If roads are in poor condition and travel is not recommended, stay where you are until the situation changes. If you must travel, take a cellular phone with you or advise someone of what route you are taking and your expected arrival time. Drive with extreme caution!

If you are in your vehicle when a blizzard hits, stay in the vehicle and wait for help. Rescue workers will be looking for stranded vehicles. Be sure to check your vehicle's exhaust pipe to make sure it isn't buried in the snow. Leave your car hood up and your emergency flashers on to signal distress to passing motorists and to the police.

### DURING A SEVERE LIGHTNING STORM

If you are in a building stay inside and away from windows, doors, fireplaces, radiators, stoves, metal pipes, sinks or other electrical charge conductors. Unplug TVs, radios, toasters and other electrical appliances. Do not use the phone or other electrical equipment.

If you are outside, seek shelter in a building or other protected area. If you're caught in the open, crouch down with your feet close together and your head down. Don't lie flat - by minimizing your contact with the ground you reduce the risk of being electrocuted by a ground charge. Keep away from telephone and power lines, fences, trees and hilltops. Get off bicycles, motorcycles, and tractors. If you are in a car, stop the car and stay in it. Don't stop near trees or power lines that could fall.

### DURING A FLOOD

Turn off basement faucets and the outside gas valve. Shut off the electricity if safe to do so.

Never try to cross a flood area on foot. The fast moving water could sweep you away.

If you are in a car, try not to drive through floodwaters. Fast moving water could sweep your car away. If your car is caught in fast rising waters, leave it and save yourself and your passengers.

### DURING A WINTER POWER FAILURE

Turn the thermostat(s) down to a minimum and turn off all appliances, electronic equipment and tools to prevent injury, damage to equipment and fire. Power can be restored more easily when the system is not overloaded.

Remember: Use proper candleholders and never leave lit candles unattended. Do not use charcoal or gas barbecues, camping heating equipment or home generators indoors.

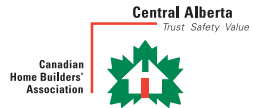
### PREPARE BEFORE DISASTER STRIKES

We can lessen the impact of any emergency or disaster by knowing what to do before, during and after an emergency and by having our emergency kits ready.



### SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS:

The entire program is made possible by the generous support of our community partners and Red Deer Emergency Services Personnel.





**PROTECT  
YOURSELF AND  
STAY SAFE**

