

# Multi-Hazard Household Preparedness Decision Tree

## 1. Initial Risk Assessment

Are you located in a high-risk area for any of the following?

- Wildfire
- Flood
- Earthquake
- Heatwaves
- Severe storms
- Landslides or avalanches
- Power outages
- Industrial accidents

## 2. Hazard-Specific Triggers

Does your region have alerts or warnings for specific hazards? Consider proximity to the threat and seasonal patterns. Consider whether and how you would hear/get those warnings (e.g., emergency alert apps; local news stations; sirens).

## 3. Preparedness Level

Do you have an up-to-date emergency plan (updated every year to accommodate changes in circumstances, household, risks etc.)?

Have you completed a hazard-specific checklist?

Do you have adequate insurance?

Do you and all members of your household know and understand the household plan (e.g., where to meet, how to get ahold of each other; who does what)?

## 4. Emergency Supplies

Do you have a go-bag – including a **minimum** of 72-hour kit with food, water, medications, pet needs, children's needs, copies of important documents (e.g., ID, insurance, prescriptions, telephone numbers) and communication tools?

## **5. Evacuation Readiness**

Do you know multiple evacuation routes for specific hazards – may be different for wildfire than it is for flooding for example?

Do you have the means to evacuate (e.g., car) or know of community means (e.g., community buses)?

Have you and your household members practiced an evacuation?

Are go-bags packed and accessible and up to date?

## **6. Communication Plan**

Do you have an out-of-area contact?

Emergency contact list with up-to-date phone numbers?

Access to emergency information including a battery/solar powered radio; external battery for your phone; charging cables?

## **7. Home Hardening / Structural Preparedness**

Have you implemented fire-resistant landscaping, flood-proofing, or storm shutters?

Is your home retrofitted for heatwaves or earthquakes?

## **8. Financial and Legal Preparedness**

Are documents stored securely (e.g., fire resistant/flood resistant safe; safety deposit box at bank)?

Do you have photocopies of important documents in your grab and go bag?

Do you have emergency funds (including some cash in your grab and go bag) and updated legal documents?

## **9. Community Integration**

Are you part of a local (neighborhood, community) emergency program?

Do you know where the local shelters are?

Do you know what the community plan is?

Do you have a neighborhood support network

Do you know which neighbors may need help evacuating or preparing (e.g., neighbors with disabilities, mobility issues)?

## 10. Recovery and Mental Health Planning

Do you have a post-disaster checklist?

Access to support formal (trauma support; medical support) and informal (social networks)?

Knowledge of recovery assistance and insurance claims or know who can help with those (e.g., American Red Cross; local Emergency Services)?

FOR MORE INFORMATION in CANADA

- 1) Public Safety Canada: [Your Emergency Preparedness Guide](#)
- 2) Prepared BC: [Home Emergency Plan](#)
- 3) Canadian Red Cross: [Expect the Unexpected](#) downloadable guides to help children, parents, educators

FOR MORE INFORMATION in United States

- 1) [Stanford Household Preparedness Guide](#)
- 2) [National Weather Service Emergency Supplies Kit](#)
- 3) [CDC Children and School Preparedness Emergency Kit Checklist](#)