



ROGERS McLEAN SHAW
INSURANCE BROKERS LTD.

Wildfire Preparedness

While wildfire risk cannot be entirely eliminated, we can effectively prepare by reducing wildfire potential in fire-prone areas and having emergency plans in place.

How to Prepare Yourself & Your Family

- Stay aware of fire conditions, warnings and alerts (including air quality).
- Make an emergency plan and ensure everyone in your household knows and understands what to do if you need to quickly evacuate.
- Learn your evacuation route and practice with your household and pets.
- Review important documents, including insurance policies, and make sure they are all up to date. Create digital copies.
- Create a home inventory and regularly update it.
- Gather enough supplies for your household and pets for at least three days, including medications. Don't forget to include N95 masks to protect yourself from smoke inhalation and poor air quality.
- Always ensure your vehicle(s) have at least a half a tank of gas. If you are evacuated, do not return home until authorities say it is safe to do so. If there is damage to your property, inventory it and document with photographs.
- Contact your insurance company to begin the claims process.

How to Prepare & Protect Your Home

- Regularly mow and water your grass and keep your roof and gutters clear of debris.
- Inspect chimneys at least twice a year and clean them at least once a year.
- Keep dampers in good working order.
- Clear out all flammable vegetation like dead leaves, tree limbs and twigs. Remove items that could burn from around your house including wood piles, lawn furniture, barbecues, tarp coverings, etc. Store inside or at least 10 metres from your home.
- Have a garden hose that is long enough to reach any area of the home and any other structure on the property.
- Shut off any natural gas, propane or fuel oil supplies at the source. Designate a room that can be closed off from outside air.

More, for your protection

- Close all doors and windows. Set up a portable air cleaner to keep indoor pollution levels low when smoky conditions exist.
- Ensure emergency services can access your property. They will usually require a road at least 2.5 metres wide with at least 4.5 metres of clearance.
- Ensure there is enough room for vehicles to turn around.
- Consider fire-resistant landscaping: no vegetation right next to your home, utilizing rocks and sand, choosing concrete or stone pads over wooden decks, and stone, brick or concrete walls.
- Maintain a defensible zone around your property. This means having adequate spacing of at least six metres between tree crowns and keeping space between vegetation and any structures on your property.
- Review your property insurance with your broker and ensure you have adequate coverage.

Alberta Wildfire Resources

- [Alberta Air Quality Health Index](#). Check the air quality across the province.
- [Alberta Emergency Alert](#). Notices of any evacuation alerts, wildfires and other emergencies in Alberta.
- [Alberta Health Services Wildfire Resources](#). Connects you to resources including mental health support, emergency planning, air quality, and returning to your home safely after a wildfire.
- [Alberta Wildfire](#). Find the status and location of wildfires in Alberta and learn more about protecting your property.
- [FireSmart Canada](#). Learn more about protecting your property from wildfire.
- [FireSmoke Canada](#). Provides smoke and fire weather forecasts and information about wildfires and smoke.
- [Impact of Wildfire Smoke on Your Health](#). Discusses impact of wildfire smoke and how you can mitigate the risk.
- [Insurance Bureau of Canada on Wildfires](#). Understand how insurance works during and after a wildfire event.
- [Red Cross Wildfire Safety](#). Advice from the Red Cross on keeping your family and home safe during a wildfire.

This is our community too, and we're here to help. Call us at 1.877.443.1877 for 24/7 emergency claims service. Your broker is here to answer your questions, review your coverage and help you through the claims process.

More, for your protection

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