



# Abbotsford Emergency Program

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## All Emergencies

Each emergency will have a unique set of characteristics that will require careful planning to try and prepare ahead for several different scenarios. There are a few components to the Emergency Planning process that are not disaster specific. Keep in mind that your family may not be together when an emergency occurs. An Emergency Plan is crucial to helping your family to avoid the panic and uncertainty that comes with not being planning ahead. Protect your family - BE PREPARED!

- Establish the types of natural disasters that are likely to occur in your area, and learn about their effects.
- Make a list of what needs to be done ahead of time and think of disaster specific plans (ie. Earthquakes will require beds to be moved away from windows) Exercise your plans at least once a year. Keep a copy of your family plan at work, school and in your car.
- Consider that there will be different plans to reflect whether you are at home, work or school at the time of the disaster. Include your pet(s) in your planning.
- Store important family documents, such as birth certificates, passports, wills, financial documents, insurance policies etc. in a waterproof container. Make a copy of these documents, keep one copy inside the home and the other copy in a safety deposit box or give a copy to friends/family who live out of town.
- Identify an out-of-town contact that can act as a central point of contact in an emergency for both your immediate family and your extended family.
- Put together or purchase a recommended Emergency Kit that will allow you to be self-sufficient for a minimum of 72 Hours
- Plan emergency exits from each room of your home. Try to think of two possibilities for each room. If you live in an apartment, do not plan to use the elevators. Also, identify an escape route from your neighbourhood in case you are ordered to evacuate
- Identify safe places where everyone should meet if they have to leave home during an emergency. Have a safe place near your home and a safe place outside your immediate neighbourhood.
- Ask your children's school or daycare about their emergency policies. Find out how they will communicate with families during an emergency.
- Prepare a Grab n Go Kit
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 and when to call.
- Be aware of local radio and news stations, to know where to tune in case of emergency.