



# NEWS RELEASE



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For Immediate Release

## Alert unchanged, but residents need to be prepared

*Williams Lake, B.C.* – The evacuation alert for the City of Williams Lake and surrounding areas remains in place and residents are encouraged to remain prepared. The City of Williams Lake, Cariboo Regional District (CRD) and Cariboo Fire Centre are closely monitoring the situation in the area.

As there is still potential for a wind event over the weekend, we encourage residents on evacuation alert to be prepared.

It is important to understand the evacuation plan for the area in the event that the alert was to change to an order. If the CRD and City of Williams Lake were to issue an evacuation order, it would contain instructions regarding evacuation routes as well as the location of the Emergency Social Services Reception Centre.

**For City of Williams Lake residents** who are not able to self-evacuate, the City would activate 12 zones each with its own muster point. Buses would wait at these muster points for as long as possible before transporting people out of the evacuation area. If an order was issued, residents would need to make their way as quickly as possible to a muster point in order to secure a place on a bus before it departs.

City residents who are unable to make their way to a muster point must call the City's Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) immediately for assistance. The numbers are 250-392-2364 and 250-392-2365. If you do not self-identify, the City has no way to know that you require assistance.

Evacuation Muster Zone Maps and other emergency information is available on the City website at [williamslake.ca/253/Evacuation-Map](http://williamslake.ca/253/Evacuation-Map) or may be picked up in-person at the City's EOC located at the main Fire Hall in Williams Lake on South Lakeside Drive.

For evacuation alert information for the City of Williams Lake, specifically, please visit [williamslake.ca](http://williamslake.ca) or [facebook.com/CityWilliamsLake](https://www.facebook.com/CityWilliamsLake) or [@CityWL](https://twitter.com/CityWL) or 250-392-2364.

**For Cariboo Regional District residents** in the areas surrounding Williams Lake who are unable to self-evacuate, please make alternative transportation arrangements immediately.

Updates about the evacuation alert for the City of Williams Lake and surrounding areas will only be sent if there is a significant change in the situation. You are encouraged to monitor local radio stations as well as the CRD and City of Williams Lake channels.

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For evacuation alert information for the Cariboo Regional District, generally, please visit [cariboord.ca](http://cariboord.ca) or [facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations](https://www.facebook.com/CRDEmergencyOperations) or [@CaribooRD](https://www.instagram.com/CaribooRD) or 1-866-759-4977.

**All CRD residents are encouraged to register for the Cariboo Chilcotin Emergency Notification System to receive a text or call regarding Evacuation Alerts and Orders:**

[member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612292#/signup](http://member.everbridge.net/index/453003085612292#/signup)

### **Evacuation Alert Information**

#### ***How can I prepare?***

If you have to evacuate, please remember to register with the local emergency reception centre so you can be contacted or reunited with your family and loved ones. Also, be sure to:

- Listen to the radio and follow instructions from local emergency officials
- Take an emergency survival kit with you
- Ensure you take prescription medicine and all important documents
- Shut off water and electricity before leaving, if instructed to do so and only if you have sufficient time
- Unplug all electrical household items
- Leave natural gas service 'on' unless local officials advise you otherwise
- Take your pets with you and make arrangements to move pets and livestock to a safe area
- Fuel your car before the evacuation and pack water and non-perishable food
- Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to conditions
- Secure your home and lock the doors
- Follow the routes specified by emergency officials and don't take shortcuts as a shortcut could take you to a blocked or dangerous area. Stay away from downed power lines
- Contact your out-of-area emergency contact (identified in your personal emergency plan) to let them know what has happened, that you are ok, where you are going and when you expect to arrive.

A "Time to Leave" evacuation checklist is available at <http://bit.ly/2tVk3nW>

#### **Media Contacts:**

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