

Wildfire Season Checklist:

FAMILIES



Schools practice safety procedures multiple times per year as part of the emergency planning/preparedness cycle. Students are familiar with School Medical Emergency, Shelter in Place, Hold & Secure, and Lockdown protocols.

In preparation for the **wildfire season**, we want to remind our families that it may not always be possible to send out information until after the incident has ended. Once it is safe to do so, a message will be sent via **School Messenger** to all parents/guardians and on the Division's Facebook page. This is the same for all updates as well.

As we enter the wildfire season, we hope the following information helps you prepare your family in the event of an emergency. We also encourage you to discuss the safety plan with your child and address any concerns they may have. Please contact your school if you require additional information.

1 Families should:

- Ensure the school has your most **current information and emergency contact** for your child(ren) including any consent forms for older siblings to pick up younger ones in case of emergencies.
- Download the **Alberta Emergency Alert APP** and other local emergency APPs used by your town/ local emergency first responders.
- Check out the Division's website on **Wildfire and Air Quality Information** for more useful and trusted sources of information.
- Note that all emergency information from schools will come from **School Messenger** and the Division's website and/or Facebook page.



- Learn more about preparing for a wildfire by visiting Alberta's website **Wildfire Preparedness** at alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness

2 When an Emergency ALERT is Activated

- When an **ALERT** is activated, schools remain open and will continue with normal operations including transportation.
- The **Division's Incident Command Team** will connect with local Emergency Command Centers in your community. This ensure that we will have the most current information during the time of a crisis situation.
- Authorities issue evacuation **ALERTS** to warn the public of a **potential** of current threat. An evacuation ALERT can lead to an evacuation order. If an ALERT is activated, you should be prepared for the possibility of evacuation.
- Families or emergency contacts on file with the school can choose to pick up their children from school at any time when an evacuation ALERT is activated.
- During an emergency, all direction will be relayed by the Incident Command Team to the schools under the direction of the Superintendent of Schools, as well as local and provincial emergency personnel.
- **If there is a threat of fire in your area:**
 - listen for updates from authorities
 - be prepared to evacuate at a moment's notice
 - have your vehicle fueled, stocked with supplies, and ready to go

Please note that conditions can change rapidly.

3 When an Evacuation ORDER is Issued

- Evacuation **ORDERS** are issued when the public **must leave** the area for their own safety.
- During school hours:**
- Families will be notified immediately through **School Messenger** to pick up their child(ren) within a 30 minute timeframe at their school. A notice will also go out on the Division's Facebook page.
 - Only those emergency contacts on file with the school will be given release of the student with proper photo identification.
 - After the 30 minute window, all students will be transported to a reunification centre outside of the evacuation zone for pick-up. Families will be notified of the centre's location via **School Messenger** and the Division's Facebook page.

4 Re-Entry

- Once authorities have lifted the evacuation order and allowed residents to return, schools will resume normal operations once it is safe to do so.
- Families will be notified by School Messenger and on social media.

