



SMART TIPS  FACTSHEET

INCLUSIVE RESILIENCE PROJECT



SMART TIPS to Prepare for Wildfires and Floods in Indigenous Communities.

Feb 21, 2024

INTRODUCTION

Many Indigenous communities in Canada are susceptible to the impacts of seasonal disasters such as floods and fires. Preparing for and responding to these disasters requires access to adequate and timely information. However, information on disaster preparedness is not always readily available, especially to the most vulnerable communities.

To strengthen disaster resilience and increase information access among women, older adults, low-income people, newcomers to Canada, and Indigenous Peoples, the Canadian Red Cross launched the Inclusive Resilience Project.

The IRP project focuses on the following areas:

1. Creating awareness of floods, wildfires and earthquakes.
2. Identifying barriers to information access during disaster preparedness.
3. Identifying practical actions on disaster reduction and emergency preparedness.

The IRP targets five demographics including (1) women, (2) seniors, (3) low-income people, (4) Indigenous Peoples, and (5) newcomers to Canada.

The project was implemented through a collaboration between the Canadian Red Cross, (CRC), the Native Women's Association of Canada, (NWAC), FireSmart Canada, Partners for Action (University of Waterloo), the BC Earthquake Alliance, and other community partners.

NWAC'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE IRP

In 2022, NWAC conducted a survey and then in 2023 hosted a Culturally Relevant Elder and Knowledge Holder engagement session as well as several interviews in seven (7) Indigenous communities across Canada including:

- (1) Lake Babine Nation (BC);
- (2) Nooaitch Indian Band (BC);
- (3) Qalipu First Nation Band (NL);
- (4) Bay St. George Area (NL);
- (5) Yellowknives Dene First Nation (NT);
- (6) Clyde River Inuit Community (NU) and;
- (7) the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.



During these engagements, Indigenous women, Two-Spirit and gender-diverse people shared their lived experiences and perspectives on the impacts of wildfires and floods in their communities including identifying recommendations for effective preparation and response to these disasters.

The information from the survey and engagement sessions helped to inform this factsheet.

HOW TO USE THE FACTSHEET

This factsheet contains practical information to help Indigenous women, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people prepare to respond to wildfires and floods.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Table 1 - Smart tips to prepare for wildfires. preparedness with recommendations.

Table 2 - Smart tips to prepare for floods.

CONTACT INFORMATION


For additional information on NWAC's involvement with the Inclusive Resilience Project, please contact:

Native Women's Association of Canada
120 Promenade du Portage
Gatineau, QC J8X 2K1

✉ **Email:** reception@nwac.ca

☎ **Toll-Free:** 1-800-461-4043



BE INFORMED	BE PREPARED	EVACUATE
<p>Pay attention to wildfire information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Keep up to date with the latest fire alerts or advisories through cell phone notifications, radio, Cable news etc. <p>Be sure your phone is charged and working.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make sure your cell phone is turned on and fully charged to receive Fire Alerts. Go to your community's Facebook page and website to receive additional wildfire information. <p>Go to a Community Hub.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact your Community Hub or Council Centre to receive the latest wildfire information. <p>Tune in to radio or television.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tune in to Radio and TV channels to get current wildfire updates and alerts. <p>Emergency contact information.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If necessary, call the Community Fire Warden or any Emergency Operation Centre, EOC contact person for more detailed information. <p>Evacuation orders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pay attention to evacuation orders. 	<p>Preparedness starts with you.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Charge all your external power sources, e.g., batteries. If possible, use solar power or a generator in case of power outages. In the event of a power failure have a hand crank radio available. <p>Protect your Home.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Install FireSmart technologies in your home including fire alarms. Remove weak branches from trees close to your house and surroundings. Purchase a fire extinguisher and install it in a safe area in your house. <p> EVACUATION BAG CHECKLIST</p> <p>Things to include in your bag:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Pack copies of important documents, e.g., insurance and identification cards. <input type="checkbox"/> Pack non-perishable foods to last for a minimum of 3 days. <input type="checkbox"/> Pack medications, and a first-aid kit. <input type="checkbox"/> Ensure there are at least 4 litres of water per person, per day for drinking. <input type="checkbox"/> Include seasonal clothing. <input type="checkbox"/> Include a power outage kit comprising a phone charger, power bank or inverter, battery-powered or hand-crank radio a flashlight, and extra batteries. <input type="checkbox"/> Include an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses if necessary. <input type="checkbox"/> Include cash in small bills. <input type="checkbox"/> Include garbage bags, sanitary pads, and wipes for personal sanitation. <p>Know your muster points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the location of egress points and muster points. <p>Evacuation information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Know the contact information for first responders. Ensure that your pets/animals are safe and secure. Know your evacuation routes. 	<p>Evacuate when asked.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> When an evacuation order is received, if possible, move to higher ground immediately. Before leaving home, unplug electrical items that will be left behind. <p>Use a safe evacuation route.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If driving, be aware of roads that are affected by fires. Where possible, use other types of transportation to evacuate, e.g., boats. <p>Language Mediator in Evacuation Camp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate a Community Resource Person to mediate between camp officials and your Indigenous group, e.g., your family members. <p>Form Communal groups in Evacuation Camp.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create smaller groups to foster community relationships and information sharing. Walk in groups to strengthen your protection from targeted traumatic attacks or comments. <p>For additional resources and flood tips click the link below:</p> <div style="background-color: #f9a825; padding: 10px; border-radius: 10px; text-align: center;">  <p>Wildfires: Before, During & After</p> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;">    </div>



Be Flood (Iskipêw) Ready

Smart tips to prepare for Floods

Iskipêw - the Cree word for Flood

BE INFORMED

Get the latest information updates

- Keep up to date with the latest weather forecast and flood alerts or advisories through cell phone notifications, radio, Cable news etc.

Be sure your phone is charged and working.

- Make sure your cell phone is turned on and fully charged to receive Flood Alerts.
- Go to your community's Facebook page and website to receive additional flood information.

Go to a Community Hub

- Contact your Community Hub or Council Centre to receive the latest flood information.

Tune in to radio or television.

- Tune in to Radio and TV channels to get current wildfire updates and alerts.

Emergency contact information

- If necessary, call the Emergency Operation Centre, EOC contact person for more detailed information.

Evacuation orders

- Pay attention to evacuation orders.



BE PREPARED

Prepare for power outages

- Prepare for power outages by having alternative power sources, e.g., solar power or inverters.
- In the event of a power outage have access to a Hand-cranked or battery-powered radio.

Protect your property

- Use sandbags or other materials to create a barricade around your property.
- Create a grade around your house to direct water away from the foundation.
- Clean culverts and ditches around your property.
- Disconnect downspouts.
- Use plugs, flood vents or barriers to prevent floodwater from backing into sewer drains.



EVACUATION BAG CHECKLIST

Things to include in your bag:

- Pack copies of important documents including insurance and identification cards.
- Pack non-perishable foods to last for a minimum of 3 days.
- Pack medications and a first-aid kit.
- Ensure there are at least 4 litres of water per person, per day for drinking.
- Include seasonal clothing and waterproof footwear.
- Include a power outage kit comprising a phone charger, power bank or inverter, battery-powered or hand-crank radio a flashlight, and extra batteries.
- Include glasses or contact lenses if necessary.
- Include cash in small bills.
- Include garbage bags, sanitary pads, and wipes for personal sanitation.

Know your muster points

- Know where muster points are in your community.

Evacuation information

- Know the contact information for first responders.
- Ensure that your pets/animals are safe and secure.
- Know your evacuation routes.

EVACUATE

Evacuate when asked to

- When an evacuation order is received, if possible, move to higher ground immediately.
- Before leaving home, unplug electrical items that will be left behind.

Use safe evacuation routes

- If driving, be aware of roads that are under floodwaters.
- If boating, check weather updates regularly to know how safe it is.
- Where possible, avoid roads that are under floodwaters.

Language Mediator in Evacuation Camp

- Designate a Community Resource Person to mediate between camp officials and the Indigenous community.

Form Communal groups in Evacuation Camp

- Create small groups to foster community relationships and information sharing.
- Walk in groups to strengthen your protection from targeted traumatic attacks or comments.

For additional resources and flood tips click the link below:

