

EVACUATION QUICK FACTS

Some emergencies, such as a hazardous materials release, may make staying put dangerous. In such cases, it may be safer for you to evacuate the immediate area and go to family or friends or an emergency reception centre.

As the authority to order an evacuation can rest with different levels of government (local, provincial or federal), a three stage evacuation process has been developed and accepted by all levels of government. This process includes:



Stage 1 Evacuation Alert

Residents are advised of the potential need for evacuation. The alert highlights the nature of the danger and that evacuation may be required at any time. Information will be provided on where to go if the evacuation is ordered.

Stage 2 Evacuation Order

All persons in the affected area are ordered to leave the area and provided again with the information required.

Stage 3 Evacuation Rescind

All persons in the affected area are advised that the emergency is under control and the area has been declared habitable and the evacuation order has been rescinded.

How will you know if there is an evacuation alert or order?

Various methods will be used to advise North Shore residents in the event that emergency messaging is needed, including an “evacuation alert” or an “evacuation order”. The North Shore’s RapidNotify alerting notification system is one tool. Other tools include going door-to-door (if applicable), in a patrol car or fire vehicle using the PA system, alerting the media (radio, TV, internet), and social media.

Every emergency is different and people may be asked to evacuate to another location or shelter-in-place.

What do you do?

Listen carefully to the instructions being provided and act quickly.

Emergency officials may direct you to evacuate your home or office and provide you with the evacuation route.

- Take your grab and go bag and any medications you require
- Close and lock your windows and doors
- Move quickly and calmly and follow instructions provided by emergency officials
- Send a message to your out of area contact.
- Emergency officials will let you know when it is safe to return and will advise if there’s anything you need to do to ensure it is safe to re-enter your home or place of work.