

Wildfire Evacuation Planning for Employers

What is it?



Wildfire evacuation planning is critical to prepare employers and communities to evacuate safely in the event of a wildfire. The main goal is to ensure a quick, organized and efficient evacuation to prevent injuries and mitigate property damage.

Industrial Evacuation Planning

Industrial operating areas, including refineries, power plants, well sites and mining operations, require a structured approach to protect employee safety, minimize wildfire risks and safeguard critical infrastructure.

How to Develop an Industrial Wildfire Evacuation Plan

When developing an effective industrial wildfire evacuation plan, follow these steps:

1. **Consult and review** your provincial requirements for wildfire response.
2. **Conduct** a wildfire risk assessment.
3. **Develop** a wildfire evacuation plan.
4. **Prepare** emergency communication systems.
5. **Establish** an employee evacuation plan.
6. **Secure** industrial hazards before evacuating.
7. **Conduct** regular fire drills and training.
8. **Develop** post-evacuation recovery procedures.

Planning ahead is key to minimizing risk to workers and property during a wildfire. By following these steps, you can help ensure a safe and efficient evacuation for everyone.

Considerations

- Establish backup power and data recovery systems in case of fire damage.
- Coordinate with regional and provincial authorities to ensure they have access to critical information (e.g., site maps, water access, critical infrastructure identified as site hazards).
- Maintain offsite backups of essential documents, permits and operational data.

Resources

Whether you're working at a remote worksite or close to a large community, these resources can assist you with building an evacuation plan:

Energy Safety Canada

- [Wildfire Field Guide & Hazard Assessment](#)
- [Safety Bulletin: Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Safety Bulletin: Wildfire Season Safety](#)
- [Webinar: Fire Season Preparedness](#)

British Columbia

- [Wildfire Evacuation Planning Checklist](#)
- [Emergency Evacuation Planning for your Workplace](#)
- [2025 Wildfire Preparedness \(SA 2025-02\)](#)
- [Emergency Response Planning: 12 Tips for an Effective Emergency Response Plan](#)
- [BC Wildfire Act Section 6\(3\)](#)

Alberta

- [Wildfire Preparedness](#)

Saskatchewan

- [Wildfire Prevention and Preparedness Plan](#)