EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GUIDE

Municipality of Huron Shores

Preparedness and safety information for residents
before, during and after emergencies.

Be prepared. Stay informed. Stay Safe.



Prepared by the Municipality of Huron Shores
2026
www.huronshores.ca

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Introduction

Emergencies can happen at any time and may affect access to services, transportation, and communication.

Being prepared helps you and your household stay safe when assistance may be delayed or services are disrupted.

The Municipality, emergency services, and provincial partners each play an important role in emergency response. However, during an emergency, resources are prioritized and may not be immediately available to all areas.

This guide is designed to help residents prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies.

Taking simple steps in advance can make a meaningful difference. By preparing ahead of time and supporting one another where possible, residents can better manage emergencies as they arise.

You can be emergency ready by:

- Making a plan so you and your household (family members, pets, animals etc) know what to do.
- Having basic supplies on hand, such as food, water, medications and essential items.
- Knowing where to find reliable information and local supports.

During an Emergency:

You may need to look after yourself and your household for an extended period

- Emergency services may not be able to reach you immediately and may need to prioritize the most urgent situations.
- You may need to leave your home with little or no notice or;
- You may need to remain in your home with limited access to food, water, and other services.



Having some basic supplies on hand can help you manage safely until services are restored or assistance becomes available.

911 & Emergency Contacts

When should you call 911?

Call **911** when you need **Police, Fire** or **Paramedic** services to respond immediately!

Call 911 in the event of:

- Fire
- Serious injuries
- Life-threatening emergencies
- Gas leaks
- Criminal activity

<u>Do not</u> call 911 for:

- Minor, non-life-threatening injuries
- Road or weather condition updates
- Questions about power or gas service restoration

Non-emergency contact numbers for police and fire are provided on page 5.

During emergencies that may affect the community, such as significant weather events, flooding, road closures, or other situations that may impact public safety, information and instructions will be shared through official channels, including local media, municipal websites, and other communication platforms.

Staying Informed

Residents are encouraged to stay informed during emergencies through reliable sources, including:

- Municipal website: www.huronshores.ca
- Local radio stations (94.1 FM)
- Ontario 511 for road conditions (dial 511 or visit ontario.ca/511)
- Weather Alerts - Environment Canada

Information will be updated as it becomes available during situations that may affect the community.

Non-Emergency Contacts

Fire Services

Huron Shores Fire Department 705-843-2033

Police Services

Ontario Provincial Police

1-888-310-1122

opp.ca

Hospitals and Clinics

North Shore Health Network

Blind River: 705-356-2265

Thessalon: 705-842-2014

nshn.care

Huron Shores Family Health Team

705-356-1666

huronshoresfamilyhealthteam.com

Municipal Resources

Municipal Office

705-843-2033

Public Works (after hrs)

705-542-6053

Public Health

Algoma Public Health

Blind River: 705-356-2551

SSM: 705-942-4646

algomapublichealth.com

Ontario Poison Control

1-800-268-9017

ontariopoisoncentre.ca

Ontario Health811

Dial: 8-1-1

https://health811.ontario.ca/

Report a Forest Fire
310-FIRE (3473)

Utilities

Hydro One

Report an Outage, 24/7

1-800-434-1235
Hydroone.com

Enbridge Gas

1-866-763-5427

Community Resources

Referrals to Social Services, Housing, Counselling, Health, & Government Services

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Algoma District Services Administration Board

705-842-3370

adsab.on.ca

211 Ontario

Dial or Text 2-1-1

211ontario.ca

North East Health Line
(By: Ontario Health at Home)

northeasthealthline.ca

Vulnerable Persons Registry



A Vulnerable Persons Registry is a free, voluntary, and confidential service that helps our emergency responders identify residents who may need additional assistance during emergencies.

Eligible individuals include those living at home who have significant challenges related to mobility, vision, hearing, or cognitive and mental health conditions, as well as those who rely on electricity for life-sustaining medical equipment such as oxygen or dialysis.

Please consider registering with the Huron Shores Municipal Office, if you or someone you know could use the support.

705-843-2033
email@huronshores.ca

Registration forms can be provided at the Municipal Office, 7 Bridge St, Iron Bridge ON.

Also on our website.
https://huronshores.ca/residents/emergency-preparedness/

Emergency Preparedness Steps

Make a Plan

Thinking ahead can help reduce stress during an emergency. Make sure everyone in your household knows what to do before, during, and after an emergency.
Set aside time to talk through your plan. If you live alone, consider how you will stay connected with trusted family, friends, or neighbours.

Make a Phone List

Create a list of important phone numbers and ensure everyone in your household has a copy. Include at least one out-of-area contact in case local phone or mobile networks are unavailable. If you become separated, contact this person to share your location and arrange a time to check in.
(See page 21 for a template.)

Pick a Meeting Place

Decide where you will meet household members during an emergency.
Your home is the primary meeting place. If you cannot return home, identify a secondary location such as a neighbour's home, community centre, or another safe location.

Plan for Your Kids

If you have young children, consider what will happen if you cannot reach their school or daycare.
Identify trusted individuals who can pick them up.
Ensure the school or daycare has up-to-date authorization.
Make sure your children understand the plan.

Plan for Your Pets and Animals

Plan for pets in case you need to leave your home.
Pets are not always permitted in emergency shelters. Plan ahead for where they can stay, and include pet supplies in your emergency kit.

If you have livestock or agricultural animals, consider:

- How they will be fed and watered if access is limited
- Backup plans for power-dependent systems (e.g., waterers, ventilation)
- Access to barns, gates, and equipment during emergencies
- Who may assist if you are not available

Consider Additional Supports

Think about who you may rely on for support if needed, such as family, friends, or neighbours. Ensure everyone in your household is aware of these arrangements.

Develop an Escape Plan

Develop an escape plan in case you need to evacuate your home during an emergency, such as a fire, flood, wildfire, or other hazard. Draw a floor plan of your home and include a primary exit and an alternate exit. Show the location of doors, windows, stairways, and large furniture to ensure a clear path.

Use a dark pen to mark the location of doors, windows, stairs, and large furniture. With a different colour, indicate the location of emergency supplies such as fire extinguishers, smoke alarms, and first aid kits, as well as utility shut-off points.

Use a red pen to draw at least two escape routes from each room and identify a safe outdoor meeting place.

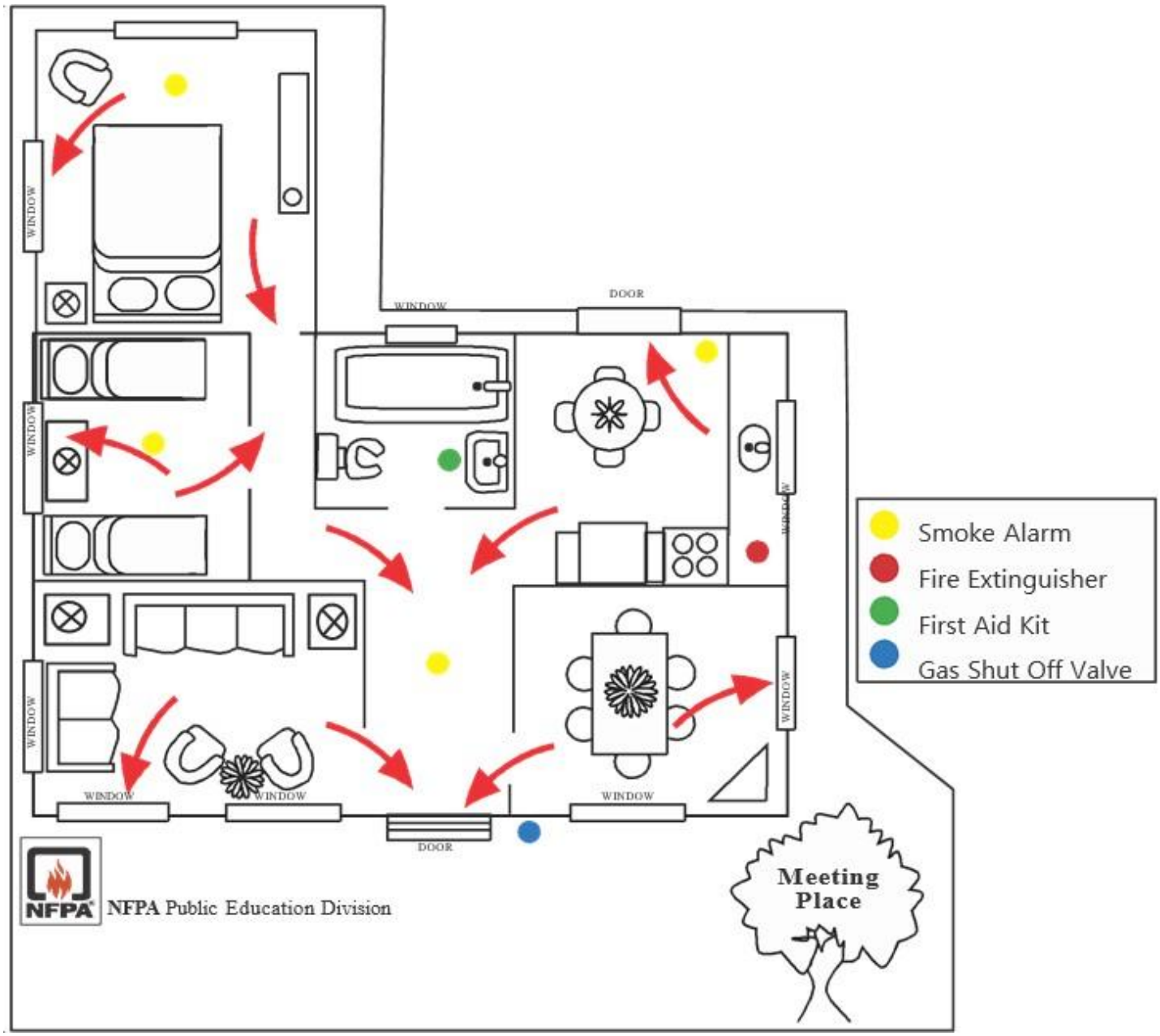
If you live in an apartment, ensure all household members know the location of fire alarms, exits, and stairwells, and understand when and how to use them.

Practice evacuation drills with your household at least twice a year. Keep your escape plan accessible for all occupants, including children and caregivers.

Follow instructions from emergency services and be prepared to evacuate quickly when required.

Use the template on the next page as an example to create your own plan.

Draw Your Escape Plan



Create a Grab-and-Go Bag

You may not be home when an emergency occurs and may need to leave on short notice. Prepare grab-and-go bags for your home, vehicle, or workplace.

Suggested Checklist:

- ☐ Non-perishable food and water
- ☐ Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
- ☐ Battery-powered or hand-crank radio
- ☐ Medications and prescriptions
- ☐ Seasonal clothing and sturdy footwear
- ☐ Blanket
- ☐ Cell phone charger or battery pack
- ☐ Copies of important documents (identification, prescriptions, insurance, contact lists)
- ☐ Waterproof storage for documents where possible
- ☐ Pen and notepad
- ☐ Basic hygiene items such as hand sanitizer and wipes

Ensure you have an adequate supply of non-perishable food and water to support your household for several days or longer. If the power is out, use food from your refrigerator and freezer first, followed by pantry items.

Include supplies for infants, children, and pets as needed.

Store your grab-and-go bag in an accessible location and ensure all household members know where it is.

Consider keeping a smaller version in your vehicle.





Hazard	Examples
Severe weather	Snowstorms, ice storms, windstorms, extreme temperatures, lightning storms
Major accidents	Hazardous materials incidents, explosions, transportation/highway accidents, water contamination, train derailments, fires
Technological failures	Extended power failures, network interruptions, phone system failures
Disease outbreaks	Widespread health emergencies, human or animal borne diseases, pandemic influenza
Intentional acts	Arson, crime, civil unrest

Check Your Insurance

Ensure you have adequate insurance coverage for the risks that may occur in your area. Review your policy regularly and discuss your coverage needs with an insurance agent or broker.

Keep an up-to-date inventory of your belongings, including approximate value, serial numbers, and descriptions. Photographs or videos can help document items of value.

Store this information in a safe and accessible location and review it with your insurance provider.

For more information, visit the Insurance Bureau of Canada webpage **Stay Protected,** visit www.ibc.ca/stay-protected.

Rural and Remote Preparedness



Residents in rural or remote areas should be prepared for extended service disruptions and limited emergency access, particularly where properties may be seasonally inaccessible or affected by extreme weather events.

Consider the following:

- Maintain adequate supplies of food, potable water, medications, and a basic first aid kit
- Ensure backup power, lighting, and heating sources are available and safely used
- Keep fuel supplies for vehicles, generators, and equipment
- Prepare for limited or delayed emergency response due to seasonal roads, water access only properties, or road closures
- Identify alternate access options where possible
- Use multiple forms of communication (e.g., cell phone, landline, radio, or satellite device)
- Establish a check-in plan with family, neighbours, or local contacts
- Register with available programs such as the SooVPR – Vulnerable Persons Registry

Emergency Response Plan

The Municipality of Huron Shores has established an Emergency Response Plan that outlines the roles and responsibilities of municipal staff, emergency services, partner agencies, and the public in the event of an emergency.
This plan supports a coordinated and effective response to a wide range of incidents and is available to the public through the municipal website. The Municipality also maintains supporting plans, including hazard-specific annexes such as flood response.

The Municipality's approach aligns with the Province of Ontario's emergency management framework and includes the following five components:

Prevention
Actions taken to avoid or stop emergencies from occurring. This includes measures such as land use planning, infrastructure management, public education, and regulatory controls.



Mitigation
Measures taken to reduce or eliminate the impacts of emergencies that cannot be prevented. These actions are often based on local risks and may include both short-term and long-term strategies.

Preparedness
Activities that ensure the municipality, partner agencies, and residents are ready to respond to and recover from emergencies. This includes planning, training, exercises, and public awareness initiatives.

Response
Actions taken immediately before, during, or after an emergency to protect life, property, and the environment. This includes activating emergency plans, coordinating personnel and resources, and providing timely information to the public.

Recovery
Efforts to restore the community following an emergency and return to normal or improved conditions. This may include rebuilding infrastructure, supporting affected residents, and taking steps to reduce future risks.

How to Shelter-in-Place

Shelter-in-place means staying indoors to remain safe during an emergency. This may be required during events such as severe weather, power outages, wildfires, neighbourhood fires, or hazardous materials incidents, or police and public safety incidents.

Follow instructions from emergency services through alerts, local media, or official municipal channels. You may be instructed to shelter-in-place or evacuate.

General shelter-in-place guidance:

- Stay indoors and bring pets inside.
- Monitor local alerts, weather updates, and official information.
- Ensure you have access to your emergency supplies.
- Be prepared to remain indoors for several hours or longer.

Follow instructions provided by emergency services or public alerts. You may be advised to take additional measures to reduce exposure to smoke or contaminants, such as staying indoors, limiting outside air, or relocating within your home.

Remain inside until you are advised to leave or instructed to evacuate.

If You Need to Evacuate

Emergency officials will direct you to evacuate if there is a risk to your safety. Follow instructions provided through local media, municipal communications, or emergency personnel.

Follow directions about when to leave, where to go, and which routes to use. Do not return to an evacuated area until officials have confirmed it is safe.

If you are ordered to evacuate, take your:

- Emergency kit
- Emergency plan and contact information
- Essential medications and copies of prescriptions
- Mobile phone and charger
- Pets and their supplies

Before leaving, if time permits:

- Lock your home and take your keys
- Close windows and doors
- Turn off appliances if instructed to do so
- Check on neighbours who may need assistance

If possible, contact your out-of-area contact to let them know where you are going and your expected arrival time.

If applicable, when you arrive at a reception centre or evacuation shelter, register with staff and update your contact.

Consider Additional Needs

During an emergency, consider the needs of all members of your household, including children, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

- Ensure medications, prescriptions, and medical records are up to date and easily accessible.
- Keep a supply of essential medications and a copy of prescriptions, including dosage and prescribing doctor.
- Ensure assistive devices and medical equipment are available and in working order.
- Plan for backup power if required for medical equipment.
- Develop a support network of family, friends, neighbours.
- Share your emergency plan with those who may help you.
- Keep a list of important contacts, including caregivers and service providers.

Additional considerations:

- If you rely on a motorized wheelchair, plan for an alternative such as a manual wheelchair.
- If you have a guide or service animal, include food, water, leash, and medical records in your plans.
- Keep extra supplies for assistive devices, such as sleep machines, hearing aid batteries etc.
- If you have difficulty communicating, keep a notepad available.

If you may require additional assistance during an emergency, consider registering with available programs such as the Vulnerable Persons Registry, where applicable.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Every residence in Ontario must have a working smoke alarm located on each level. Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms are required outside sleeping areas. These alarms save lives daily by warning people of possible fires or hazards in their homes.

Unfortunately, deaths still occur due to the improper use of such alarms. These deaths can be prevented by checking your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms regularly.

Tips:

- It is important to replace the batteries at least once on a yearly basis.
- Test your alarms monthly.
- Ensure everyone in your household knows what to do in the event of an emergency and practice your family plan.



The Huron Shores Fire Department's Fire Prevention Officer is available to visit your home and provide guidance on fire safety. This may include assessing smoke and carbon monoxide alarms and offering recommendations to help improve safety. Contact the Municipal Office for a visit today! 705-843-2033.

Severe Weather and Outdoor Safety

When planning daily activities, it is important to be prepared for changing conditions. In Huron Shores, residents and visitors often travel in remote areas for activities such as hiking, ATV use, hunting, boating, or fishing, where access and communication may be limited.

Planning ahead can help reduce risks.

Summer Weather

Extreme heat can lead to dehydration, heat exhaustion, and heat stroke.

Stay Hydrated

- Drink water regularly, even if you are not thirsty.
- Avoid alcohol and caffeine, which can contribute to dehydration.
- Check on others, including pets and livestock.

Stay Cool

- Stay indoors and limit sun exposure during the hottest part of the day.
- Use air-conditioned spaces such as libraries or designated cooling locations if available.
- Wear light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing.
- Take cool showers or use a damp cloth to cool down.

If You Are Outdoors

- Plan activities during cooler times of the day.
- Wear a hat, sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- Never leave a person or animal in a parked vehicle.

Winter Weather

Winter storms can create hazardous conditions, including extreme cold, snow, ice, and power outages.

Winter Safety Tips

- Avoid unnecessary travel during severe weather.
- Dress in layers and wear appropriate winter clothing.
- Take breaks indoors to warm up.
- Watch for signs of frostbite, especially on extremities.

- Avoid overexertion when shoveling snow.
- Use salt or sand to improve traction on walkways and driveways.
- Monitor local weather forecasts and municipal communications.

Travelling in Remote Areas Safely

If you are travelling or spending time outdoors in remote areas:

- Let someone know where you are going, your route, and when you expect to return.
- Avoid travelling alone where possible.
- Be aware that cell service may be limited or unavailable.
- Bring a fully charged phone and consider a backup power source.
- Carry basic emergency supplies such as water, food, a flashlight, and a first aid kit.
- Dress appropriately for weather conditions and bring extra clothing.
- Check weather, ice conditions, and fire risk before heading out.

While travelling:

- Park your vehicle in a visible and accessible location, ideally facing your exit route.
- Stay on marked trails and avoid unfamiliar or hazardous areas.
- Monitor changing conditions and be prepared to turn back.

Activity-specific considerations:

- Use caution when travelling on ice and ensure conditions are safe before ice fishing or crossing.
- Avoid operating ATVs or equipment alone in remote areas.
- Ensure someone can locate you if you do not return as planned.

Wildland and Forest Fires

Wildland fires can pose a risk to people, property, and air quality.

- Follow all fire bans and restrictions issued by the municipality and Province.
- Avoid outdoor burning during high-risk conditions.
- Monitor local alerts, news, and municipal communications.
- Be prepared to shelter-in-place or evacuate if instructed.
- Ensure your emergency kit is ready and accessible.
- Make arrangements for pets in advance.

Emergency Contacts and Checklists

Emergency Contacts

Local Contact
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Children's School 1
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Nearest Relative
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Children's School 2
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Family Work Numbers
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Local Services
Gas:
Electric:
Water:

Family Out-Of-Area Contact
Name:
Address:
Phone:

Emergency Reunion Locations
1. Outside your Home:
2. Away from the neighbourhood, in case you can't return home, meet at:
Address:
Telephone:

Personal Record of Important Information

Our emergency radio is located:
Extra batteries are located:
Flashlights are located:
Our family emergency kit is located:
Shut-off switches for heating, ventilating equipment and utilities are marked with:

Gas provider:
Contact Number:
Location of shut-off:

Electricity provider:
Contact Number:
Location of shut-off:

Our emergency heat source is:
Our insurance company is:
Policy number:
Insurance deductible:



Connect With Us

Visit the Municipality of Huron Shores website or social media channels to stay informed on advisories, alerts, and important updates.

For general inquiries, please contact the Municipal Office.

Municipality of Huron Shores – Municipal Office
7 Bridge Street
Iron Bridge, ON P0R 1H0
Monday to Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Phone: 705-843-2033
Email: email@huronshores.ca

www.huronshores.ca

Facebook: Municipality of Huron Shores