

## Basic Checklist for Preparations (Wildfire)

For specific disasters, consult the Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office’s website for preparation steps. This list should be considered supplemental. **Pay particular to emergency notifications that may indicate the need to evacuate or relocate to safe areas.**

Done	Item	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Identify how long you have before the event.	For wildfires, monitor emergency warnings and alerts from the NS Emergency Management Office. You can also get basic information from the NASA Fire Information for Resource Management (see resources).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor weather conditions for potential threatening conditions	Pay particular attention to periods of drought, higher temperatures, higher winds, or thunderstorms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check emergency kit and make sure nothing has expired or gone off.	Pay particular attention to any food, water, or medications. See the Public Safety or Nova Scotia Emergency Management Office for kit contents.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check to ensure adequate water on hand for people	Consider about 3 litres of water per day for each person for drinking and an additional 2 litres for washing, etc. This gives about 5 litres per day per person. This means that the standard 24 x 500 mL case would be about 2.5 days per person.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check to ensure appropriate food stocks	These should be foods that are non-perishable (or at least very long shelf life) and take little preparation to open. Ensure that you also have a can opener, etc. to get into cans, etc. Note that the Pan American Health Organization look for about 2000 calories per day (a tuna salad sandwich is about 200 calories).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Medication	You should have not less than 2 weeks worth of medication on hand. These can be arrange in “organizers” allow you to assemble your medications for a full day. If you are storing medication, note any shelf life as well as have copies of the pharmacy-issued receipts available (these may be outside of the emergency kit)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Fuel for backup generator	A 20L tank using standard gasoline (87) on a generator will last about 8 hours (using the manufacturer details for a 6500 W starting Champion generator) running at 50% load

Done	Item	Comments
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Oil for backup generator	You should change the oil in the generator if it has run for close to 100 hours or has been idle for a couple of months. Most will use a SAE 5W30 (synthetic) oil. Oil should be checked to make sure the level is fine and oil does not appear dark or cloudy (sign that it needs changing)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Emergency Tarping or repairs	If expecting roof damage, having 1-2 large tarps, 4-6 2 x 4 x10 boards and a supply of screws may help if emergency patching is required. Also consider heavier plastic for windows (such as a 6 mil greenhouse plastic)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Be familiar with evacuation routes. Shelters, etc.	Make sure you are familiar with evacuation routes or shelters. If possible, make arrangements with family or friends who can provide temporary lodging if needed. You should have at least two routes out of your community since wildfires can block or affect routes.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gather vital documents and irreplaceable items	Depending on the potential for evacuation, gather vital documents and irreplaceable items. Documents should be protected against both fire and water while irreplaceable items should be packaged to also protect them against shocks (bumpy roads, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	For those with whole home generators, call for additional fuel	If the impact is likely to last more than 3 days, consider putting in a call to the fuel supplier for any whole home generator. Remember that the generator could consume up to 10% of a tank per day. Most companies that offer automatic refilling trigger at 30% of the tank and may take longer than 3 days to arrive.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check drainage around the house	This includes a quick check of gutters, any spouts attached to gutters, and ditches surrounding the house (include culverts)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove combustible material from around the house	Check the Firesmart website for guidance. Remove dead branches, leaves, grass, and firewood back from structures. (The Firesmart website has guidance on distances and the link is in the resources page).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Place water hoses and nozzles at each external outlet for the house	Set up a hand nozzle and at least 25 foot hose on each external outlet. If there is a side of the house that is not covered by an outlet, then consider a splitter for one of the outlets and run a longer hose so that you can reach each of the four sides of the house.

Done	Item	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure that all cellphones, flashlights, and radios are being charged	It can take up to 8 hours (slow charging) for a phone to completely charge. This should also include any “power banks” or similar things used to charge phones.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preposition rooftop sprinkles (if you have a shake or asphalt shingle roof versus fire resistant materials)	Position a rooftop sprinkler system and connect it. Test it for functionality to make sure the full roof is being covered. Note that you should consult with the local fire department about if you should leave it running before evacuating. If advised not to, leave the connection hose available for crews to hook up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preposition the vehicle for evacuation with any items already loaded. Ensure a full tank of gas	Make sure you have room for pet carriers, food, water, clothing, and any other items you may need for an extended absence. Also load up the irreplaceable items as the notice for evacuation could give little time. Plastic totes or similar items often facilitate stacking as well as protection (tape the lids down and label them).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boarding of Windows (if necessary)	This would be in extreme cases. Check to see what the DP rating is for your windows. D15 windows can withstand 77 mph winds or just over 120 kmh. DP 50 windows can withstand winds up to 173 mph or just under 280 kmh.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Boarding or covering entry points into the house	Precut plywood or tin to fasten over air intakes (for air exchanges, dryer vents, or other intakes into the home to prevent sparks from entering.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Remove combustibles	Remove propane tanks and other items from BBQ’s and place them away from the home.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Last check of property	This is just a last check to look at the property to make sure loose things are secured or stored.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Preposition items that you may need	If you know you are going to need to use certain things, have them prepositioned. Remember that you want these to be secured against wind and the like. A bucket of ice melt is not likely to blow away (nor a generator) but tarps and smaller items may.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check with neighbours on preparations	While at the end, it is usually a good idea to check in with the neighbours, particularly if there is a possibility that they are on the vulnerable persons list. If you yourself fit the category for a vulnerable person, make sure you have registered.

If you need links to any of the government sites or similar kinds of sites, check the resources page at <https://evolutionarysecurity.net/resources/>

Read through both the [Firesmart](#) website as well as the Wildfires on the Government of Canada [“Be Prepared”](#) website for additional guidance.