

After an Emergency

Restore your home to good order as soon as possible to protect your health and prevent further damage to the house and its contents.

Re-entering Your Home

- Do not return home until authorities have advised that it is safe to do so.
- If the main power switch was not turned off prior to flooding, do not re-enter your home until a qualified electrician has determined it is safe to do so.
- Use extreme caution when returning to your home after a disaster.
- Appliances that may have been flooded pose a risk of shock or fire when turned on. Do not use any appliances, heating, pressure, or sewage system until electrical components have been thoroughly cleaned, dried, and inspected by a qualified electrician.
- The main electrical panel must be cleaned, dried, and tested by a qualified electrician to ensure that it is safe.
- Depending on where you live, your municipal or provincial inspection authority is responsible for the permitting process required before your electric and gas utilities can reconnect to your home.
- Rely on the professionals to make sure the building is structurally safe. Do not enter if you see buckled walls or floors.
- Take safety precautions. Watch for holes in the floor, broken glass and other potentially dangerous debris.

Cleaning and Repairs

To learn about requirements for cleaning and repairing your home after a flood or fire, follow these links:

- [Floods](#)
- [WildFires](#)

Taking Care of Your Family

Emergencies affect everyone differently. It is important to monitor how you and your loved ones respond emotionally to a serious event. Sometimes we have emotional responses immediately, and sometimes these responses can be delayed by days, weeks or even months. It

is important to remember that stressful feelings are normal when we experience an emergency or disaster, and there are things that we can do to feel better.

Here are some helpful resources:

- [Alberta Works and Alberta Supports Contact Centre](#) (Human Services)
- [Responding to a Disaster or Emergency](#) (Alberta Health Services publication)
- [Recovery After a Disaster or Emergency](#) (Alberta Health Services publication)
- [Taking Care of Ourselves, Our Families and Our Communities](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada publication)
- [Helping Children Cope](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada publication)
- [Helping Teens Cope](#) (Public Health Agency of Canada publication)

Learning and Preparing

When you have returned home, it is time to review your family emergency plan. Did you use what you had prepared? Are there changes that you can make based on your experiences? If you do not have a plan, now is the time to [make one](#).

You should also take this opportunity to restock your emergency kit. If you have used the food, water and medications, be sure to fill it up again.

If you have been directly impacted by a disaster, refer to [Assistance and Recovery Support](#) for more information on Alberta's Disaster Recovery program.

For more information on hazards in Alberta, contact your municipality or community's Director of Emergency Management or the Alberta Emergency Management Agency at 780-422-9000 (Dial 310-0000 for toll-free access outside Edmonton). You can also visit www.aema.alberta.ca.