



Emergency Preparedness

Introduction

The purpose of this article is to help people in and around the Town of Raymond prepare for and survive through a disaster or an emergency.

DEFINITIONS

Disaster: 'Disaster' means an event that results in serious harm to the safety, health, or welfare of people or in widespread damage to property.

Emergency: 'Emergency' means an event that requires prompt co-ordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of people or to limit damage to property.

Evacuation: 'Evacuation' means to be removed from a dangerous area. Generally, local government officials will issue evacuation orders when a disaster threatens.

Shelter-in-place: 'Shelter-in-place' in an emergency means to remain indoors as a precaution. It generally means to select a small interior room where ever you are located with no or few windows and take refuge there.

Preparation

Know the Risks

The disasters that are most likely to occur in the Raymond area are both natural hazards and man made. They include, but are not limited to, tornados, heavy rain, hail, power outages, severe cold, industrial or transportation incidents, acts of terrorism and infectious disease outbreaks. Each event could cause an emergency or disaster in our area.

Make a Plan

Each individual and family in Raymond should know what to do in an emergency, have a prepared family emergency contact list, have meeting places established, know safe exits from their home, their work place and the Town. A suggested guide that has been prepared by the government for knowing the risks and making a plan can be found at: www.getprepared.ca. The plan should include both evacuation and shelter-in-place options. Remember: your family may not be together when an emergency or disaster strikes!

Emergency Kit

Each individual and family should be ready to be self sufficient for at least 72 hours while emergency workers help those in urgent need. We can do this by preparing 72 Hour Emergency Kits. The kits can be purchased in many places across Canada or at numerous online facilities. Also, 72 Hour Kits can easily be homemade. The Kits may include: fresh drinking water, food, can opener, flashlight and batteries, small radio, First Aid Kit, special needs items e.g. medications, keys for your car and house, cash in small bills e.g. \$100 Canadian and American, a copy of your Emergency Plan, a small stove and some fuel, sleeping bag, toilet paper, garbage bag and safety gloves.

Survive Through

If the nature of the emergency is such that lives are in immediate jeopardy and evacuation is essential, the emergency site manager, aided by on-scene emergency services, will warn people in the danger zone. This general public warning will be followed up with a formal door-to-door warning.

The Alberta Emergency Public Warning System (EPWS) provides municipal officials with swift on-air access to radio, television, and cable outlets to warn residents of major life-threatening emergencies. Its technology allows municipal officials to over-ride the current programming of major broadcast stations by use of a touch tone telephone. Through special coding, the message is on-air in less than two minutes providing extensive coverage. Also, the Town of Raymond will send a voice mail message to residence via land line phones.

Shelter-in-place

You may be instructed to "shelter-in-place" if chemical, biological or radiological contaminants are released into the environment. This means you must remain inside your home or office and protect yourself there. The following steps will help maximize your protection:

- Close and lock all windows and exterior doors.

- Turn off all fans, heating and air-conditioning systems to avoid drawing in air from the outside.
- Close the fireplace damper.
- Get your emergency kit and make sure the radio is working.
- Go to an interior room that's above ground level (if possible, one without windows). In the case of a chemical threat, an above-ground location is preferable because some chemicals are heavier than air and may seep into basements even if the windows are closed.
- Using duct or other wide tape seal all cracks around the door and any vents into the room.
- Continue to monitor your radio or television until you are told all is safe or are advised to evacuate.

Evacuation orders

Authorities will not ask you to leave your home unless they have reason to believe you are in danger.

Collection Areas

For purposes of evacuation, the municipality is divided into four areas with a collection point designated for each:

Area	<u>NW</u>	<u>LDS Church Taylor Street Chapel</u>
Area	<u>NE</u>	<u>LDS Church Knight Street Chapel</u>
Area	<u>SW</u>	<u>LDS Stake Centre</u>
Area	<u>SE</u>	<u>Ag Building (Fair Grounds)</u>

Evacuees are advised to report to the collection centres before going to designated reception centres.

Transportation

It is anticipated that most people will provide their own transportation during an evacuation. However, any person in the need of transportation should contact the Town of Raymond office to make arrangements.

Persons physically unable to go to the designated collection points must pre-arrange for pick-up by appropriate transportation.

Persons with extra space in their vehicles will be requested to assist others needing transportation from collection points.

Further instructions for evacuees will be given with the official public announcement and evacuation advisory.

Town of Raymond - Evacuation Advice Checklist

Preparation

If time is available or notice of intent to evacuate the area(s) is given, the following preparations should be immediately undertaken by residents:

- a) alert all family members, immediately;
- b) maintain constant knowledge of whereabouts of all family members;
- c) private motor vehicles should be prepared and fuelled;
- d) emergency supplies should be readied; and
- e) secure your home on departure.

Equipment

Most important items to take with you, time permitting, are your 72 Hour Kit and or:

- a) protective clothing - clothing appropriate to the weather conditions; such as a parka, winter jackets, overcoat, rain gear, boots, gloves, etc. and extra functional clothing for an extended stay;
- b) emergency equipment - first aid kit, flashlights, portable radios, batteries, basic tools, matches, candles, etc.;
- c) personal items - medicines, money, personal papers, identification, etc.; and
- d) emergency food and water - basic utensils, dry foods, high energy snacks, etc.

Prohibited Items

Do not take pets, alcoholic beverages, firearms, or dangerous articles with you to the collection points, shelter or reception centre.

Security

On evacuating, residences should be secured (i.e., doors/windows locked, heat turned off/down, etc., (instructions will be issued) and "attractive" items stored indoors, time permitting.

Medications/Drugs

Special medications should be taken along with the person. Inform Registrar at Evacuation Reception Centre of your special medical needs.

Reception Centres

- (1) Reception Centre(s) will be activated by the Director of Emergency Management or the designated Disaster Social Services Manager to provide for the immediate needs of evacuees.
- (2) The Primary Town Reception Centre will be at the LDS Stake Centre and the alternate centre will be at the Ag Building or Red Barn.

Summary

In case of a major emergency or disaster:

- Follow your emergency plan
- Get your 72 Hour emergency kit
- Make sure you are safe before assisting others.
- Listen to the radio or television for information from local officials and follow their instructions.
- Stay put until all is safe or until you are ordered to evacuate.

If you are ordered to evacuate, take:

- your 72 Hour emergency kit
- your emergency plan
- essential medications and copies of prescriptions
- a cellular phone (if you have one)
- your pets

*Pets are not allowed in emergency shelters,
so plan in advance for a **pet-friendly location**.*

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