



**NICOLA VALLEY  
EVACUATION PLAN**

**2013**

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# **NICOLA VALLEY EVACUATION PLAN**

## **1. Introduction**

Evacuation is the process of removing persons and/or domestic animals from an area that is or may pose a threat to life and limb to an area of safety. Depending on the nature and scope of the threat, an evacuation may involve a single building, a group of buildings or an entire community.

Further to the results of a hazard, risk and vulnerability analysis carried out for the Nicola Valley (i.e. TNRD Electoral Areas “M” & “N”), an evacuation plan has been prepared that identifies the population at risk, the potential frequency and severity of hazards and the process involved in conducting a safe, orderly evacuation.

It should be noted that there are numerous First Nation communities within the TNRD boundaries. Aboriginal Affairs Northern Development Canada (AANDC) provides the necessary Emergency Management support in all First Nation communities.

## **2. Process**

As the local authority for emergency program management, it is the Thompson-Nicola Regional District's (TNRD) responsibility to identify hazards and be prepared to coordinate evacuations in areas that may be affected by emergency events.

Depending on the event and circumstances, evacuations could be ordered by:

- Province of BC;
- Thompson-Nicola Regional District for the TNRD Electoral Areas;
- City of Merritt for the area within City boundaries;
- Fire Commissioner – for either tactical or safety reasons or the threat of an explosion;
- Ministry of Health or the Local Health Authority;
- Ministry of Environment. The Minister may order or designate a person to order;
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Natural Gas;

- Ministry of Forest, Land & Natural Resource Operations for tactical fire fighting purposes

An evacuation order may or may not be preceded by a warning or advisory notice, depending on how much time is available to clear the affected area. After the event and if it is safe to return home, the order is lifted and a public notice issued. The actual evacuation process consists of the following key elements:

- Identifying the population at risk;
- Communicating the evacuation order by way of media announcements, personal contact and delivery of handouts;
- Identifying evacuation routes and modes of transportation available;
- R.C.M.P. enforcing the order and conducting traffic control;
- Identifying assembly point and reception centres for evacuees.

### **3. Reporting Procedure**

Should a resident of this evacuation plan area need to report an emergency event, the call in procedure is as follows:

- a) For police or ambulance, dial 911. (Note: when answering, the dispatcher will ask if you require police, fire or ambulance, but there is no structural fire protection in this area.)
- b) To report a forest fire, call 1-800-663-5555. The dispatcher will ask you a number of questions about what is burning, the size of the fire, how fast is it spreading, is anybody fighting the fire, what colour is the smoke and are there any homes or lives threatened.
- c) For all other emergencies, contact the Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) at 1-800-663-3456. EMBC will then contact the appropriate authority to respond to the emergency.

**4. Population at Risk**

The Nicola Valley Evacuation Plan has been prepared to include the following geographical areas:

- City of Merritt;
- Upper Nicola Valley as far north as Nicola Ranch at the north end of Nicola Lake;
- Lower Nicola Valley as far west as the Canford/Spius Creek area;
- south of Merritt to the Coldwater Indian Reserve and the Coldwater/Coquihalla Highway interchange; and
- east of Merritt as far as Aspen Grove.

The population of this area has been estimated at  
(source – 2011 Census results):

City of Merritt	7110
Portion of TNRD Electoral Area “N” (total “N” population = 839)	610
Portion of TNRD Electoral Area “M” (total “M” population = 1797)	1524
	_____
TOTAL	9244

NOTE: Electoral Area population includes Indian Bands

## 5. Risk Priorities

As per EMBC Hazard, Risk and Vulnerability Analysis surveys completed by area residents and in consultation with emergency response personnel living in the area (RCMP, fire departments, emergency social services, Ministry of Forests, Ministry of Transportation and City of Merritt).

	<b>RISK</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE</b>	<b>SEVERITY OF IMPACT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
5.1	wildfire or interface fire	Moderate or likely	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Generally dry climate of valley combined with grasslands and forest in close proximity to populated areas results in fire potential from April to October.</li> <li>• Very high recreational use of area leading to possibility of human caused fires.</li> <li>• Area subject to frequent periods of lightning during summer months.</li> </ul>
5.2	Severe weather	Moderate or likely	Very high	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nicola Valley has a history of severe winter storms that can cause highway closures and power failures, leaving area residents and travellers stranded and isolated.</li> <li>• Sudden summer storms can also result in high winds, hail, rainstorms and lightning.</li> <li>• Avalanches and highway closures on the Coquihalla can result in increased truck and tourist traffic overnighing in Merritt.</li> </ul>
5.3	Transport accident – road	Frequent or very likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All 4 major highways (Coquihalla / Yellowhead No. 5, Merritt-Kamloops No. 5A, Merritt-Spences Bridge No. 8, and Lower Nicola-Logan Lake No. 97C) in the area receive frequent transport truck, tanker truck and logging truck traffic. Possibility of a serious dangerous goods incident is considered high.</li> <li>• Multitude of hazardous substances transported through this area.</li> </ul>
5.4	Fire – industrial	Moderate or likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This rating applies mainly to facilities located within the City of Merritt boundaries (sawmills and light manufacturing).</li> <li>• Possibility of smoke or other emissions affecting residents outside the City.</li> <li>• Possibility of fire spreading outside the City under windy conditions.</li> <li>• There have been several large scale commercial and sawmill fires in Merritt over the past few years.</li> </ul>

	<b>RISK</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE</b>	<b>SEVERITY OF IMPACT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
5.5	Flooding	Moderate or likely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Nicola Valley is subject to high spring freshet water flows predicated on snow pack, weather conditions, rainfall and Nicola Lake release rates.</li> <li>• Areas of concern to monitor closely throughout the freshet include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nicola River both U/S and D/S of Nicola Lake</li> <li>- Quilchena Creek</li> <li>- Nicola Lake levels</li> <li>- Coldwater River</li> <li>- Guichon Creek</li> </ul> </li> <li>• There are no flow control dams on the Coldwater River. Runoff is strictly controlled by snow pack and weather conditions. Coldwater River joins the Nicola River in Merritt.</li> </ul>
5.6	Dangerous goods spill	Occasional or slight chance	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are pipelines transporting various commodities through the area (Kinder Morgan, Terasen, Spectra Energy).</li> <li>• Pipelines transport natural gas, crude oil and refined petroleum products.</li> <li>• All pipeline companies have emergency preparedness plans and spill response crews.</li> <li>• Large scale dangerous goods event due to a highway or an industrial accident is also a possibility.</li> </ul>
5.7	Infrastructure failure	Occasional or slight chance	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Area residents responding to HRVA survey raised concerns over possibility of long term power outages or loss of telephone service.</li> <li>• Contamination of area water supply also raised as a concern.</li> <li>• Possibility of medical facilities not being able to handle a multi vehicle highway accident or a large number of casualties from an event such as the Merritt Mountain Music Festival.</li> </ul>
5.8	Epidemic – animal and epidemic – human	Occasional or slight chance	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Both events received equal ranking by area residents, although possibility of a serious outbreak not considered high.</li> </ul>
5.9	Explosion or emissions	Occasional or slight chance	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Possibility of an event related to either pipelines, highway transport vehicle or industry related event in Merritt.</li> </ul>

	<b>RISK</b>	<b>FREQUENCY OF OCCURRENCE</b>	<b>SEVERITY OF IMPACT</b>	<b>DETAILS</b>
5.10	Social disruption	Highly unlikely	High	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The area hosts the Merritt Mountain Music Festival each July, which attracts approximately 100,000 visitors over 4 days. Each year sees small scale disturbances within the venue and the possibility of escalation is always present.</li> <li>R.C.M.P. and other emergency response personnel are concerned every year about a large scale disruption or having to evacuate the site in the event of a fire or for other reasons.</li> <li>Promoter provides site security guards each year.</li> </ul>
5.11	Critical facility failure	Unlikely or improbable	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No major concerns raised by area residents.</li> </ul>
5.12	Landslide, debris flow or subsidence	Unlikely or improbable	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Concerns raised about possible subsidence due to old coal mine works underneath parts of Merritt and surrounding rural areas.</li> </ul>
5.13	Storm surge	Unlikely or improbable	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibility of storm surge in area rivers and creeks due to rapid snowmelt combined with high rainfall.</li> </ul>
5.14	<p>There were several other possible emergency events contained in the HRVA survey that respondents did not consider to be high risk hazards for the Nicola Valley. These events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dam failure</li> <li>Mining accident</li> <li>Transport accident – air</li> <li>Transport accident – rail (not applicable)</li> <li>Transport accident – marine (not applicable)</li> <li>Volcanic eruptions</li> <li>Avalanche</li> <li>Earthquake</li> </ul>			

## 6. Special Population Considerations

Jail: Yes, R.C.M.P. Detachment in Merritt

Schools:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| - Colletville Elementary<br>2021 Birch Avenue        | Tel: 250-378-2230<br>Fax: 250-378-4498 |
| - Coquihalla Middle School<br>2975 Clapperton Avenue | Tel: 250-378-6104<br>Fax: 250-378-6105 |
| - Diamond Vale Elementary<br>2675 Coldwater Avenue   | Tel: 250-378-2514<br>Fax: 250-378-4840 |
| - Merritt Bench Elementary<br>3341 Grimmatt Street   | Tel: 250-378-2528<br>Fax: 250-378-5289 |



- Merritt Central Elementary  
1501 Voght Street  
Tel: 250-378-9931  
Fax: 250-378-6804
- Merritt Secondary  
1561 Chapman Street  
Tel: 250-378-5131  
Fax: 250-378-9711
- Nicola-Canford Elementary  
310 Postell  
Tel: 250-378-2172  
Fax: 250-378-5270
- South Central Interior Distance Education School  
2475 Merritt Avenue  
Tel: 250-378-4245

Hospitals: - Nicola Valley Health Centre Hospital  
3451 Voght Street  
Tel: 250-378-2242  
Fax: 250-378-3287

BC Ambulance Service – Merritt  
Emergencies ONLY 911  
NON-Emergency 1-800-461-9911

Population indoors (shut-ins): Not known, but it can be assumed that the area does contain a representative population of seniors and disabled persons.

Fire Departments: - City of Merritt, Fire Hall  
Tel: 250-378-5626

- Lower Nicola and Coldwater Indian Bands also have fire departments.

Airport: 4000 ft, paved runway, no air traffic control or night operations.

Firehalls: - Merritt  
- Lower Nicola I.B.  
- Coldwater I.B.

Different languages spoken: English (82%)  
French (est. 1.5%)  
Punjabi (est. 15%)  
Native Indian (Thompson and Shuswap languages)

## 7. Shelters and Reception Centres

Evacuation routing and shelters would be determined by a combination of factors:

- How many people are being evacuated.
- What is the capacity of the Reception Centre for registering and processing evacuees.
- Are the evacuation routes safe for travel.
- How many of the evacuees require shelter and for how long?

Shelters and reception centres available in the area include community halls, civic buildings and schools.

Registering with ESS serves two main purposes. First, their immediate needs are identified to determine if food, shelter, clothing or other services are required. Second, it can also assist with family reunification if required.

The principal contacts for staffing reception centers and providing Emergency Social Services in this evacuation plan can be made by contacting the EMBC as indicated by the note below.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Whenever an ESS team is activated, or if additional resources are required, contact Emergency Coordination Centre in Victoria at 1-800-663-3456.**

## 8. Evacuation Routes, Distances and Time Considerations

Merritt City Centre to:	<i>Distance (km)</i>	<i>Travel Time</i>
Lower Nicola (via Highway 8)	8	7 min
Canford (Sunshine Valley Road/ Spius Creek turnoff)	18	15 min
Upper Nicola	11	8 min
Quilchena	23	20 min
Kamloops (via Coquihalla Highway 5)	87	50 min
Kamloops (via Highway 5A)	100	1 hr 10 min
Coldwater Indian Band (via Coldwater Road)	15	12 min
Trans Canada Highway at Spences Bridge	65	1 hr
Aspen Grove	28	20 min
Hope (via Coquihalla)	121	1 hr 10 min

The route used for an actual evacuation would depend on the event, the number of people involved and public safety. Travel would always be in a direction away from the hazard that caused the evacuation order to be issued.

## 9. Communications

The issuing of an evacuation order by the Thompson-Nicola Regional District would be preceded by the Declaration of a State of Local Emergency, either by Order of the Chair or a Resolution approved by the Board of Directors. Once the local emergency has been declared and an evacuation ordered, area residents and visitors **must comply** as the order may be enforced by the R.C.M.P. Both the declaration of a state of local emergency and the evacuation order will be communicated to area residents by way of:

- Radio and television bulletins;
- Telephone;
- R.C.M.P. contact (if safe to do so);
- Area Search and Rescue Volunteers.

## 10. Principal Contact Information

10.1	TNRD Emergency Management Program Emergency Services Supervisor	250-377-8673 Toll Free in BC: 1-877-377-8673 250-377-2598
10.2	Emergency Management British Columbia Kamloops	250-371-5241 After hours call: 1-800-663-3456
10.3	Merritt R.C.M.P.	250-378-4262
10.4	BC Ministry of Forests and Range, Merritt Fire Zone	250-315-4100
10.5	BC Ministry of Forests, Merritt District Office	250-378-8400
10.6	First Nations Emergency Services Society	604-669-7305 Or toll free at 1-888-822-3388
10.7	BC Ministry of Transportation, Merritt District Office	250-378-8479
10.8	Province of BC Regional Fire Commissioner 24 hour Emergency Contact No.	250-554-5547 1-800-663-3456
10.9	Nicola Valley Search & Rescue c/o Conservation Officer Services	250-378-8489 After hours: 1-800-663-3456
10.10	Spectra Energy Gas Transmission Line Fortis BC Transmission Line Right-of-Way Manager for BC Kinder Morgan Pipelines	1-800-663-9931 1-800-663-9911 1-800-773-7001 1-888-876-6711
10.11	City of Merritt	250-378-4224
10.12	Coldwater Indian Band Administration Upper Nicola Indian Band Administration (Douglas Lk) Lower Nicola Indian Band Administration Nooaitch First Nation Administration Shackan Indian Band Administration	250-378-6174 250-378-3342 250-378-5157 250-378-6141 250-378-5410
10.13	Nicola Lakeshore Estates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>As of November 2009, approximately 30 homes constructed and occupied year round</li><li>Residents have received some training on structural and wildland firefighting</li></ul>	250-378-4176 ext. 309
10.14	Quilchena on the Lake <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>44 lot subdivision</li></ul>	250-378-2923

## 11. Required Actions

- i) As time will be of the essence should an evacuation be necessary, area residents are encouraged to have a personal emergency preparedness kit prepared. Depending on the timing of the event, voluntary evacuation may be necessary prior to being officially notified by either the TNRD or the R.C.M.P.
- ii) Prior to ordering an evacuation, the Board of Directors of the TNRD by Bylaw or Resolution or the Chair by Order must declare a state of local emergency. A sample declaration is attached. The evacuation order cannot be given until this declaration has been made.
- iii) Once the evacuation has been ordered, area residents must comply as the order may be enforced by the R.C.M.P. They must immediately:
  - Gather up family, pets and personal family emergency kit, including a flashlight and battery powered portable radio.
  - Proceed quickly and calmly to the evacuation reception centre identified in the Evacuation Plan. Evacuees will be registered by Emergency Social Service volunteers who will attend to the food, shelter and clothing needs of those persons moved out of the affected area. By registering at the reception centre, this will also facilitate contact by friends and relatives concerned about their safety.
  - If the evacuation has been ordered as a result of a wildfire or hazardous goods event, do not proceed south in the general direction of the event. Ensure that travel proceeds away from the event towards the reception centre. For events such as wildfire or a hazardous materials spill, the evacuation routing will be identified by way of the media or through the R.C.M.P.
  - Ensure that they have not forgotten a personal or medical necessity as travel will be one way only until the evacuation order is lifted.

- Do not drive to your child's school. Children will be taken to the evacuation reception centre to be reunited with parents.
- **Remember: Under lawful declaration of a state of local emergency the R.C.M.P. may exercise its discretionary powers to enforce an evacuation order.**



## THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

### PRESS RELEASE (Sample)

**EOC:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date and Time:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Thompson-Nicola Regional District Emergency Operations Centre is urging residents affected by **IDENTIFY EVENT** to be prepared to evacuate if ordered to do so by emergency officials in your area.

If you have to evacuate:

- Take an emergency survival kit with you.
- Make sure you take prescription medicine and identification for the entire family.
- Listen to the radio and follow instructions from local emergency officials.
- If you are instructed to do so, shut off water, gas, propane and electricity.
- Be prepared to make arrangements for pets and livestock. Local emergency officials will advise you.
- Wear clothes and shoes appropriate to conditions.
- Lock up your home.
- Follow the routes specified by emergency officials. Don't take shortcuts. A shortcut could take you to a blocked or dangerous area.
- If you have time, leave a note telling others when you left and where you went. If you have a mailbox, you can leave the note there.
- If you are evacuated, you are requested to register with the local ESS emergency reception centre (as advised by emergency officials) so you can be contacted or reunited with your family and loved ones.

For more information contact: Chief Administrative Officer, or  
Information Officer  
Phone: (250) 377-8673 or  
Toll Free in BC at 1-877-377-8673

EOC Web site: \_\_\_\_\_

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Local Emergency Program Evacuation Procedures

Kamloops, BC – Date



## THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

### PRESS RELEASE (Sample)

This is Chair \_\_\_\_\_ from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District at the Emergency Operations Centre in Kamloops.

A wildfire burning 5 km north of North Barriere Lake near Vermelin Creek has resulted in an imminent danger to the health and safety of area residents.

Because of this danger, the British Columbia Office of the Fire Commissioner has ordered everyone residing in the North Barriere Lake area to evacuate the area immediately. Residents are to travel west to Barriere on East Barriere Lake Road.

This message will be repeated. Specific instructions and locations for help will be given. If you are in the following areas, you must leave the area and report to the Reception Centre that has been set up at the Barriere Ridge Elementary School at 461 Barriere Town Road.

The areas involved are as follows:

- all of the north side of North Barriere Lake Road from Harper Creek Road to the east end of the Lake; and
- all of Vermelin Creek Recreation Site.

For more information contact: Chief Administrative Officer, or  
Information Officer  
Phone: (250) 377-8673 or  
Toll Free in BC at 1-877-377-8673

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Evacuation Order

Kamloops, BC – Date





# Declaration of State of Local Emergency ORDER

WHEREAS \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_;

AND WHEREAS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_;

AND WHEREAS this \_\_\_\_\_ emergency requires prompt coordination of action or special regulation of persons or property to protect the health, safety or welfare of people or to limit damage to property;

NOW THEREFORE:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED pursuant to Section 12 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* (RS, 1996, Chap 111) that a state of local emergency exists in

\_\_\_\_\_ due to  
\_\_\_\_\_ and  
\_\_\_\_\_;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED THAT the \_\_\_\_\_, its employees, servants and agents are empowered pursuant to Section 13 (1) of the *Emergency Program Act* to do all acts and implement all procedures that are considered necessary to prevent or to alleviate the effects of the emergency.

ORDERED by the \_\_\_\_\_ this date \_\_\_\_\_ to remain in force for seven days until \_\_\_\_\_ at midnight unless cancelled by order of \_\_\_\_\_ or the Minister responsible.

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Head of local authority)

## Delegation of Emergency Powers Matrix

Reference: *Emergency Program Act Section 10*

Emergency Powers	Delegated To			
	EOC Director	Deputy EOC Director	Operations Section Chief	Incident Commander
Acquire or use any land or personal property considered necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster.				
Authorize or require any person to render assistance of a type that the person is qualified to provide or that otherwise is or may be required to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster.				
Control or prohibit travel to or from any area designated in the declaration within the local authority's jurisdiction.				
Provide for the restoration of essential facilities and the distribution of essential supplies and provide, maintain and coordinate emergency medical, welfare and other essential services in any part of the local authority's jurisdiction.				
Cause the evacuation of persons and the removal of livestock, animals and personal property from any area designated in the declaration within the local authority's jurisdiction that is or may be affected by an emergency or a disaster and make arrangements for the adequate care and protection of those persons, livestock, animals and personal property.				
Authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person in the course of implementing an emergency plan or program or if otherwise considered by the local authority to be necessary to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster.				
Cause the demolition or removal of any trees, structures or crops if the demolition or removal is considered by the local authority to be necessary or appropriate in order to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster.				
Construct works considered by the local authority to be necessary or appropriate to prevent, respond to or alleviate the effects of an emergency or disaster.				
Procure, fix prices for or ration food, clothing, fuel, equipment, medical supplies or other essential supplies and the use of any property, services, resources or equipment within any area designated in the declaration within the local authority's jurisdiction for the duration of the state of local emergency.				

**NOTE: Other individuals/agencies may be included in the matrix at the discretion of the head of a local authority.**



## THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

### TNRD EMERGENCY OPERATION CENTRE

## Preparing for an Evacuation

During periods of an extreme fire danger rating, people may be ordered to leave their residences on very short notice and travel to established Emergency Social Services (ESS) reception centres.

- A. Notice of an Emergency Event: people are pre-warned about wildfire activity that may lead to an alert being put in place. People should prepare for an alert by maintaining close contact with family members, gathering insurance papers, valuables and clothing. Residents should monitor local media or listen for other warnings from local officials. There is no immediate need to leave an area under notice unless it is for health reasons, or for someone with transportation difficulties.
- B. When an event escalates to the point where an evacuation may be necessary, there are three stages to the process:
1. **Evacuation Alert** – people are warned of imminent threat to life and property, and are asked to be ready to leave on short notice. Be prepared for worsening conditions. On notification of an **ALERT**, you should be prepared for the evacuation order by:
    - Locating all family members or co-workers and designate a safe meeting place, should an evacuation be called while separated.
    - Gathering essential items such as medications, eye glasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependants and, if you choose, keepsakes (photographs, etc.) Have these items readily available for quick departure.
    - Preparing to move any disabled persons and/or children.
    - Moving pets and livestock to a safe area.
    - Arranging to transport your household members or co-workers in the event of an evacuation order.
    - Arranging accommodation for your family if possible. In the event of an evacuation, emergency shelters will be provided if required.
    - Monitoring news sources for information on locations of emergency shelters and evacuation orders.
  2. **Evacuation Order** – you must leave the area immediately. It is imperative that you report to the designated Evacuation Reception Centre. Members of the RCMP will be enforcing the evacuation order.
  3. **Evacuation Rescind** – you will be allowed to return to your home when the danger has passed.

At the reception centres, evacuees can get short-term assistance with lodging, food and clothing if needed. Evacuees are also encouraged to check in at reception centres so friends and relatives making inquiries on the whereabouts of their loved ones can be assured they are fine. People are also advised to contact their insurance company to find out what their policy covers.

Residents should prepare for evacuations by organizing a Personal Emergency Preparedness Kit containing the following items (most of which you may already have in your home):

### **Personal Emergency Preparedness Kit**

- portable radio with spare batteries
- flashlights with spare batteries
- warm blanket
- pre-packaged thermal blankets
- small towel & washcloth
- leakproof container of soap
- toothpaste & toothbrush
- plastic knives, forks & spoons
- snack food & bottled water
- pet food for a couple of days
- first aid kit
- drinking water purifier kit
- multi purpose tool
- candles & matches
- whistle
- toilet paper
- playing cards & pocket books
- list of emergency contact numbers for immediate family members & relatives
- spare eye glasses
- medications
- small amount of cash & coins (for pay phones)
- local maps
- identification documents & other valuable papers (insurance)

**Residents are advised to follow instructions of local authorities and emergency personnel to ensure their safety and are encouraged to stay tuned to their local media for information.**

Information on family and friends who have been evacuated is available from the Red Cross at 1-888-350-6070.