

Wildfire Evacuation Planning

If you needed to evacuate your crew, would you be ready? Here are some things to consider when incorporating wildfire evacuations into your Emergency Response Plan at remote locations.

- How do you identify — on a daily basis — what level of risk wildfires pose to your operations?
- How do you decide when it is time to go?
- Do you communicate regularly with authorities, licensees, or others who may need to know where you're working during fire season?
- Do you have reliable two-way communication equipment available to ensure workers can be reached at all times?
- Do you keep an up-to-date list of all workers, and have it easily available?
- Do you know the location of all of your workers, at all times? They might include camp cooks, mechanics, people travelling to and from town, etc.
- Do you practice your evacuation plan? You won't know if it works until you try it.
- Have you designated and trained someone to be in charge of the evacuation? Do all of your workers know who that person is?
- Have you trained all workers to know their role in an evacuation?
- Do workers know what to bring with them and what to leave behind? This might vary depending on how much time there is and if they are leaving from a worksite or a camp.
- What vehicles are used in an evacuation and what are the driving arrangements? Make sure everyone has a designated seat.
- What is the plan to protect personal property, pets, and critical work assets?
- Where are the muster locations? Are these the best locations given the nature of fire behavior in the area (consider slopes, access points, etc.)?
- What is the primary evacuation route? Do you have a secondary route planned in case the primary is blocked?
- How does your plan vary depending on site accessibility (for example, helicopter, drive, or marine worksites)?

After an evacuation,

- How will you account for everyone, and what is your communication plan?
- Complete an investigation and evaluate the effectiveness of your emergency response plan. Analyze to determine what can be done better next time.

Other resources

You can find the following resources on [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com):

- **Emergency Response Planning:** 12 Tips for an Effective Emergency Response Plan (ERP)
- **Every Minute Counts; Emergency Response Planning in Forestry** — Video and Discussion Guide
- Fire danger rating link: www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/fire-danger