

How to prepare for extreme weather events

Although we've always been exposed to hail storms, flash floods, freezing rain, high winds and extreme heat, climate change increases both the frequency and intensity of these "climate hazards" (also called "climate shocks"). Climate hazards are cause for concern because they can appear suddenly and with an intensity that can be damaging to personal property and city infrastructure alike.

Weather Event	Advance Preparation
All	always be prepared for emergencies, whether to shelter in place or leave in a moment's notice - including pets
Extreme heat	home insulation • awnings • window shades • access to water • access to air conditioned spaces • green roofs • shade trees, shrubs for cooling effect • check on elderly or ill neighbours to ensure their safety and comfort
Extreme rainfall (resulting in flood)	sump pumps in working order • sewage backwater valves • lot grading away from home • eaves troughs • valuables in waterproof containers (if in basement) • visit epcor.ca/Edmonton [see drainage] for more information about flood preparation
Extreme wind	prune weak trees • secure outdoor furniture • secure items that could be picked up by wind
Freeze-thaw and ice storm events	sand / ice cleats for traction • prepare for power outages • back-up power/solar/batteries / keep cell phones charged • portable solar phone charger and crank-up flashlight and radio • emergency food and water, blanket and supplies for long-term " shelter-in-place "
Drought	rain barrels to store water in advance • landscape with drought-tolerant species, native plants and grasses
Poor air quality (from fire smoke)	check the Air Quality Health Index and learn how to protect yourself from poor air quality: edmonton.ca/airquality and airquality.alberta.ca/map • in the event of fire smoke conditions, home air filters and/or access to a clean air shelter