FRAGILE SHELTERS

EMERGENCY READINESS GUIDE

Reactionary Response to Impending Climate Threats



WHEN YOUR HOME IS THREATENED, EVERY HOUR COUNTS DOWN.

A PROACTIVE COUNTDOWN GUIDE TO IMPENDING CLIMATE THREATS

Know what to do, and when to do it.

72 HRS	48 HRS	24 HRS	DAY-OF
			
WATCH	WARNING	WARNING	EMERGENCY

KNOW THE THREATS. REDUCE THE RISKS. PROTECT WHAT MATTERS.



Visit FragileShelters.com

for resilient planning tools.

HOME EMERGENCY READINESS SYSTEM

This Guide is designed to help you respond to climate threat events forecast or imminent in your area.

Specifically built around forecast timelines of 72 hours or less, it offers a clear, sequenced set of actions to take at each stage as the urgency counts down.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

1 · IDENTIFY THE THREAT
Water • Fire • Winter • Wind • Power Outage

2 · CHECK THE ALERT
Watch • Warning • Emergency

3 · FIND YOUR TIME WINDOW
72 Hours • 48 Hours • 24 Hours • Day-Of

4 · TAKE ACTION
Start at your current stage. If conditions worsen, move to the next stage immediately.

PRIORITIZE • PREPARE • PROTECT • ACT

WHEN THE CLOCK IS TICKING

72 HRS · WATCH
Prepare while time is on your side.

48 HRS · WARNING
Escalate preparations. Reduce exposure.

24 HRS · WARNING
Complete final protective actions.

DAY-OF · EMERGENCY
Execute your plan. People and safety first.

THREATS CAN OVERLAP

Use both relevant sections. Always address the immediate threat to people first.

WATCH	WARNING	EMERGENCY
Possible Prepare & monitor	Likely Act now	Imminent Safety first

WATER & FLOODING · COUNTDOWN ACTIONS

Flooding forecast? Limit water entry, protect utilities and prepare to evacuate.

72 HRS · WATCH

- [ ] Test sump pump & battery backup
- [ ] Clear eavestroughs, downspouts & drains
- [ ] Locate main water shutoff
- [ ] Move valuables off basement floor
- [ ] Photograph belongings for insurance

48 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Deploy sandbags at entry points
- [ ] Disconnect basement electronics
- [ ] Move vehicles to higher ground
- [ ] Notify insurance provider
- [ ] Charge devices & power banks

24 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Shut off basement power if flooding expected
- [ ] Confirm evacuation route
- [ ] Move irreplaceable documents upstairs
- [ ] Stock drinking water - 4 L/person/day

DAY-OF · EMERGENCY

- [ ] Never enter a flooded basement
- [ ] Evacuate immediately if ordered
- [ ] Do not drive through floodwater

15 cm moving water can knock you down. 60 cm can sweep away a vehicle.

HEAT & FIRE HAZARDS · COUNTDOWN ACTIONS

Wildfire approaching? Reduce ember exposure and prepare to leave early.

72 HRS · WATCH

- [ ] Clear dry vegetation within 10 m
- [ ] Clean dry debris from eavestroughs
- [ ] Identify two evacuation routes
- [ ] Prepare N95 masks
- [ ] Prepare go-bag

48 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Move combustibles away from home
- [ ] Close windows & doors to block embers
- [ ] Temporarily seal gaps in eaves/roof vents
- [ ] Fill tubs & buckets
- [ ] Charge devices & battery packs

24 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Back vehicle in, facing exit
- [ ] Turn off propane at tank
- [ ] Prepare pets & carriers
- [ ] Connect outdoor hoses

DAY-OF · EMERGENCY

- [ ] Leave early
- [ ] Close interior doors - do not lock
- [ ] Follow your pre-planned route

Leaving early is never wrong. If you are uncertain, leave.

WATCH	WARNING	EMERGENCY
Possible Prepare & monitor	Likely Act now	Imminent Safety first

COLD, SNOW & ICE · COUNTDOWN ACTIONS

Winter storm approaching? Protect heat, pipes and essential supplies.

72 HRS · WATCH

- [ ] Stock emergency heat supplies & blankets
- [ ] Check heating system operation
- [ ] Test and fuel generator
- [ ] Insulate exposed pipes
- [ ] Stock food & water for at least 72 hours

48 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Charge devices & battery packs
- [ ] Prepare medications, first aid & flashlights

24 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Open sink cabinets for warm-air circulation
- [ ] Let cold-water taps drip slowly
- [ ] Check roof load if heavy snow is forecast

DAY-OF · EMERGENCY

- [ ] Never run generator, BBQ or gas appliance indoors
- [ ] Gather household in one well-insulated room
- [ ] Avoid unnecessary travel

AFTER THE EVENT · STAY ALERT

- [ ] Check for heavy snow/ice buildup & ice dams
- [ ] Check pipes for freezing, cracks or bursts
- [ ] Clear snow from vents & exhaust outlets
- [ ] Check on neighbours who may need assistance

CO is odourless and invisible.
Never use fuel-burning equipment in an enclosed space.

WIND & STORMS · COUNTDOWN ACTIONS

Severe winds approaching? Secure hazards and identify safe shelter.

72 HRS · WATCH

- [ ] Secure loose outdoor items
- [ ] Check roof for loose shingles, flashing & vents
- [ ] Trim dead or overhanging branches
- [ ] Locate safest interior room

48 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Bring in outdoor furniture & equipment
- [ ] Secure shed and garage doors
- [ ] Charge devices & battery packs

24 HRS · WARNING

- [ ] Move vehicles away from trees/power lines
- [ ] Protect large windows if extreme winds expected
- [ ] Confirm household's safest shelter room

DAY-OF · EMERGENCY

- [ ] Shelter in safe room away from windows
- [ ] Stay indoors until authorities say storm has passed
- [ ] Do not approach downed power lines

AFTER THE EVENT · STAY ALERT

- [ ] Inspect roof & siding carefully
- [ ] Leave if a gas leak is suspected
- [ ] Remove debris carefully; watch for hidden hazards
- [ ] Report downed lines to utility immediately

Assume every downed power line is live.
Stay at least 10 metres away.

WATCH	WARNING	EMERGENCY
Possible Prepare & monitor	Likely Act now	Imminent Safety first

POWER OUTAGE · WHEN THE LIGHTS GO OUT

Power outages can accompany any emergency.
Protect people first, then food, equipment & communications.

WHEN POWER GOES OUT · NOW

- ☐ Switch to battery backup or generator - outdoors only
- ☐ Report outage to your utility provider
- ☐ Keep refrigerator & freezer doors closed
- ☐ Turn off major appliances to reduce surge damage
- ☐ Conserve device power for essential communications

EXTENDED OUTAGE · 12-48 HRS

- ☐ Use coolers with ice to protect refrigerated food
- ☐ Check on vulnerable neighbours
- ☐ Monitor emergency information by battery/hand-crank radio

WHEN POWER RETURNS · RESTORE CAREFULLY

- ☐ Restore major appliances gradually - one at a time
- ☐ Check sump pump operation immediately
- ☐ Inspect refrigerated/frozen food before using

GENERATOR & CO SAFETY · NON-NEGOTIABLE

Never run a generator indoors - including the garage.
Keep generators away from windows, doors and vents.
Never refuel a hot or running generator.
Use properly rated outdoor extension cords.
Use a battery-operated CO detector on every floor.

FOOD SAFETY

Refrigerator: about 4 hours closed.
Full freezer: about 48 hours; half-full: about 24 hours.

UNIVERSAL ACTIONS · BEFORE YOU NEED THEM

KNOW AND TAG YOUR SHUTOFFS

Clearly tag gas, water & electrical shutoffs before an emergency so someone else can find them if you can't.

LET SOMEONE KNOW

Before conditions worsen, tell someone what may challenge your safety. Tell them where you are and when to check on you.

KNOW WHO DEPENDS ON POWER

If essential equipment or medication depends on electricity, have an outage plan in place beforehand.

UTILITY / EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Electricity: _____
Gas: _____
Municipal: _____
Other: _____
Other: _____

WATCH	WARNING	EMERGENCY
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EMERGENCY RECOVERY

IS IT SAFE TO BE HERE?

SHOULD I BE HERE?

WHERE DOES HOME TRIAGE BEGIN?

STOP · LOOK · ASSESS

- Return only when authorities say it is safe.
- Look from a safe distance before approaching or entering.
- Watch for structural, fire, gas, electrical & water hazards.

IF IN DOUBT - STAY OUT AND GET QUALIFIED HELP.

DOCUMENT · DON'T DISTURB

- Photograph damage before cleanup or repairs.
- Contact your insurance provider.
- Keep records and receipts for emergency expenses.

BEGIN YOUR HOME TRIAGE

Once it is safe to proceed, use the

HOME RESILIENCE TRIAGE GUIDE

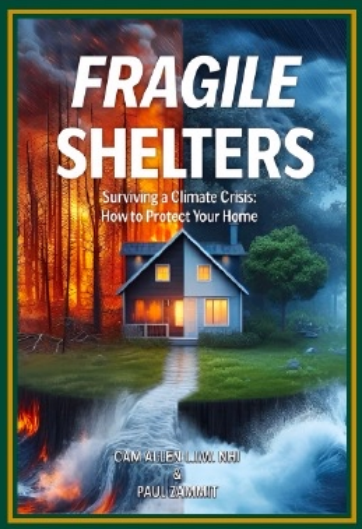
to assess your home and identify what needs your attention.

Available on our website below.

ASSESS > PRIORITIZE > RECOVER > IMPROVE

CONTINUE YOUR RESILIENCE JOURNEY

Based on the book and principles of Fragile Shelters



This Emergency Readiness Guide is one of a growing collection of resources designed to put expert-level guidance in every homeowner's hands.

RESOURCES

FragileShelters.com

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