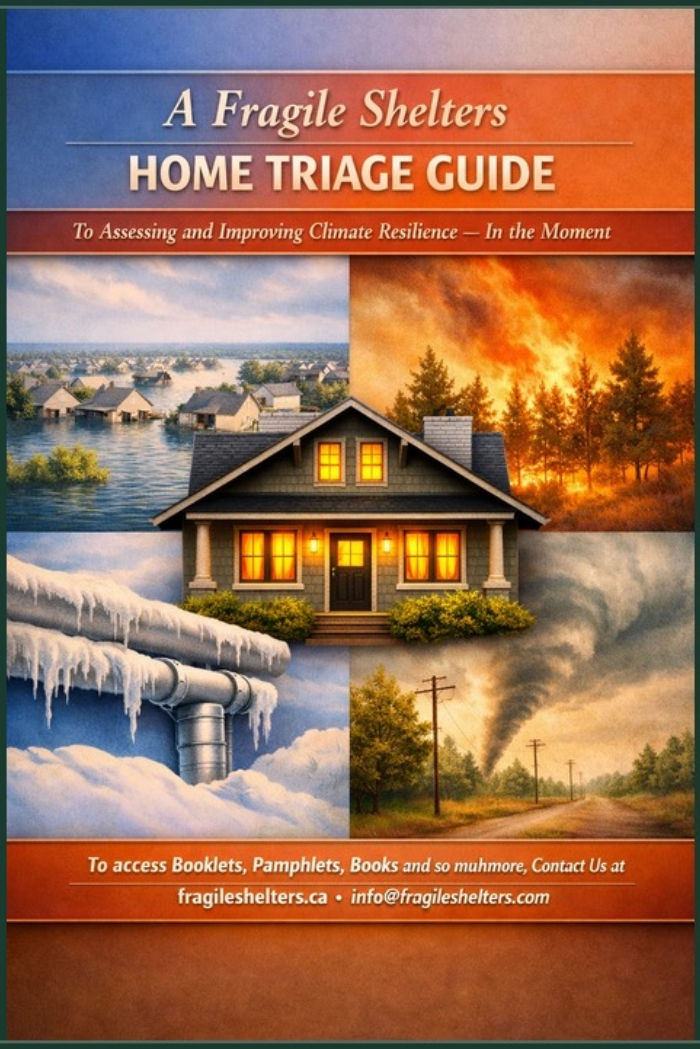


HOME RESILIENCE TRIAGE GUIDE

A practical guide for before, during and after climate emergencies

12-POINT HOME RESILIENCE ASSESSMENT

Flooding & Water · Extreme Heat & Cold · Wind & Storm · Wildfire & Embers · Electrical & Backup Power

Visit fragileshelters.ca for resilience planning tools.

Fragile Shelters • Building Resilience Before Disaster Strikes

🌿 HOME RESILIENCE TRIAGE SYSTEM

A practical homeowner guide for before, during and after climate emergencies.

Move through the house in risk order: safety, water, heat/cooling, fire, power, supplies, documents, and priorities.

ASSESS
Identify vulnerabilities

PRIORITIZE
Focus on highest risks first

PREPARE
Strengthen systems and plans

RESPOND
Protect people and property

RECOVER
Restore and rebuild

IMPROVE
Increase future resilience

Priority 1 — Life Safety
Protect occupants from immediate hazards: fire, collapse, contaminated floodwater, gas leaks, electrical danger, and unsafe temperatures.

Priority 2 — Essential Services
Maintain water, power, heating/cooling, food safety, medication storage, lighting, and communications.

Priority 3 — Property Protection
Reduce damage from flooding, storms, wildfire, extreme heat, extreme cold, wind, and water intrusion.

My Home's Highest Priorities

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Date Reviewed: _____
Next Review: _____

BEFORE
Assess · Prepare · Mitigate

DURING
Protect · Communicate · Adapt

AFTER
Recover · Repair · Improve

1 · IMMEDIATE SAFETY & HABITABILITY

After a major event: if you suspect structural damage, gas leak, electrical danger, flood contamination, or fire risk, leave the area and contact qualified help.

🏚️ Structural

- ☐ No new cracks, sagging, shifting, leaning, or bulging.
- ☐ Doors and windows open normally; stairs, railings, decks, and porches feel stable.

⚡ Fire / Electrical / Gas

- ☐ No burning smell, sparking, damaged wiring, exposed outlets, or wet electrical panels.
- ☐ Gas appliances, propane, generators, candles, and heaters are used safely and ventilated.

2 · HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

- ☐ Walk through the home and property with this pamphlet.
- ☐ Mark each item as ready, needs attention, or not applicable.
- ☐ Circle anything that affects life safety, water, heat/cooling, fire, or evacuation.
- ☐ Choose three actions you can complete this month.
- ☐ Revisit the assessment each season and after major storms.

DID YOU KNOW?

Most disaster-related home losses begin with predictable vulnerabilities: poor drainage, weak backup power, roof failure, extreme indoor temperatures, or missing documentation.

3 · CLIMATE HAZARD EXPOSURE

🌊 Flooding / Heavy Rain

- ☐ Grading slopes away from the foundation; downspouts extend 2+ metres.
- ☐ Sump pump tested; backup pump, battery, or water-powered option considered.
- ☐ Backwater valve installed, maintained, or priced.

🌡️ Heat / ❄️ Cold

- ☐ Reliable cooling, heating backup, safe room strategy, insulation, air sealing and shading reviewed.

LOCAL HAZARD PROMPT

Note your top three local risks: , ,

Local Risks & Resources

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

BEFORE
Assess · Prepare · Mitigate

DURING
Protect · Communicate · Adapt

AFTER
Recover · Repair · Improve

4 · CRITICAL UTILITIES & BACKUP SYSTEMS

- ☐ Main water shutoff, electrical panel, gas shutoff and sump pump are labelled and accessible.
- ☐ Backup power plan supports phone, lights, refrigeration, medical devices and sump pump.
- ☐ Generator or battery system is operated safely; carbon monoxide alarms work.

5 · HOME ENVELOPE SCAN

- ☐ Roof condition, flashing, shingles, gutters and attic ventilation reviewed.
- ☐ Siding, exterior walls, windows, doors, seals, locks and caulking checked.

6 · DRAINAGE & WATER MANAGEMENT

- ☐ Eavestroughs, downspouts, drains, swales and window wells are clear.
- ☐ Foundation cracks, basement seepage, sump discharge and drain backups are documented.
- ☐ Stored valuables, chemicals, records and appliances are elevated off basement floors.

DID YOU KNOW?
Water intrusion is one of the most common causes of costly home damage during climate emergencies.

7 · FIRE, WIND & OUTDOOR HAZARDS

- ☐ Combustibles, leaves, wood piles and debris are away from walls, decks, vents and fences.
- ☐ Trees, branches, antennas, sheds, fences and loose objects are checked for wind risk.
- ☐ Vents, gutters, soffits and roof edges are inspected for ember entry points.

8 · EMERGENCY SUPPLIES & COMMUNICATIONS

- ☐ Three days of water, food, medication, pet supplies, cash and hygiene supplies are available.
- ☐ Flashlights, batteries, radio, chargers, power banks and written contacts are stored together.
- ☐ Family meeting place, evacuation route and backup contact are known.

GRAB-AND-GO FILE
Keep copies of ID, insurance, prescriptions, emergency contacts, photos of key rooms, and contractor information in a waterproof folder or secure digital backup.

30-MINUTE HOME WALKTHROUGH
Walk the exterior, basement, utility area, roofline, trees, drains and emergency supplies. Photograph anything that needs repair or follow-up.

BEFORE	DURING	AFTER
Assess · Prepare · Mitigate	Protect · Communicate · Adapt	Recover · Repair · Improve

9 · HOUSEHOLD READINESS

- ☐ Emergency water, food, medications, pet supplies, cash, hygiene items, and first-aid basics are stocked.
- ☐ Flashlights, batteries, radio, chargers, power banks, and written contact lists are stored together.
- ☐ Everyone knows two exits, a family meeting place, and where emergency supplies are located.

10 · DOCUMENTS & INSURANCE

- ☐ Insurance policy, photos, serial numbers, receipts, passports, IDs, prescriptions, and key records are backed up.
- ☐ Coverage limits, flood/sewer backup, wildfire, wind, temporary housing, and deductibles are reviewed.

RESILIENCE STARTS AT HOME

Small actions taken today can reduce future losses, improve safety, and speed recovery after emergencies.

- ☐ Know your risks.
- ☐ Strengthen weak points.
- ☐ Build emergency capacity.
- ☐ Stay connected to your community.
- ☐ Review and update plans annually.

11 · PRIORITY ACTION PLAN

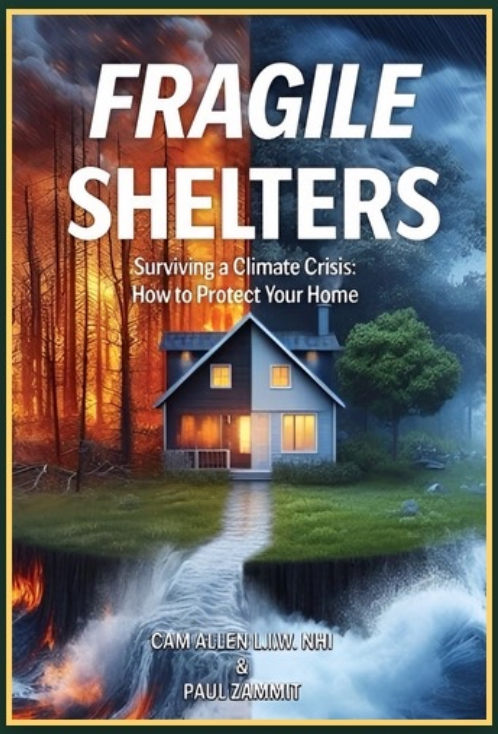
- ☐ Choose three urgent fixes for this month.
- ☐ Assign a person, deadline, and budget for each action.
- ☐ Reassess after renovations, storms, floods, fires, or major equipment changes.

12 · YOUR RESILIENCE SCORE

Score	Rating
0–4	High Vulnerability
5–8	Moderate Resilience
9–12	Good Preparedness
13–16	Strong Resilience

Continue Your Resilience Journey

Based on the book and principles of



FRAGILE SHELTERS

Paul Zammit & Cam Allen

A practical guide for before, during and after climate emergencies.

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

The *Fragile Shelters* book was written to offer education, guidance, and to help mitigate climate extreme damages to our homes and safety therein.

RESOURCES

To access books, pamphlets, booklets and much more, go to our website.
fragileshelters.ca

"Knowledge becomes wisdom only after it is put to use."

— Mark Twain