

Be Prepared



Emergency Preparedness in Fort EdGary

Amanda Sobierajski, BSc MPH, Information and Engagement Specialist
Alberta Emergency Management Agency – Be Prepared Team

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Land Acknowledgment

Edmonton is located within Treaty 6 Territory and within the Métis homelands and Métis Nation of Alberta, Region 4. We respectfully acknowledge this land as the traditional territories of many First Nations, including the Nehiyaw (Cree), Denesuliné (Dene), Nakota Sioux (Stoney), Anishinaabe (Saulteaux) and Niitsitapi (Blackfoot). AEMA and the Be Prepared team respect the sovereignty, lands, histories, languages, knowledge systems and cultures of all First Nations, Métis and Inuit nations. We make this acknowledgement in service of our commitment to the principles of Truth and Reconciliation and with the aim of improving our own emergency management and preparedness practices, going forward.

Agenda

1. Intro and
Welcome

2. Review
Emergencies

3. Risks and
Hazards

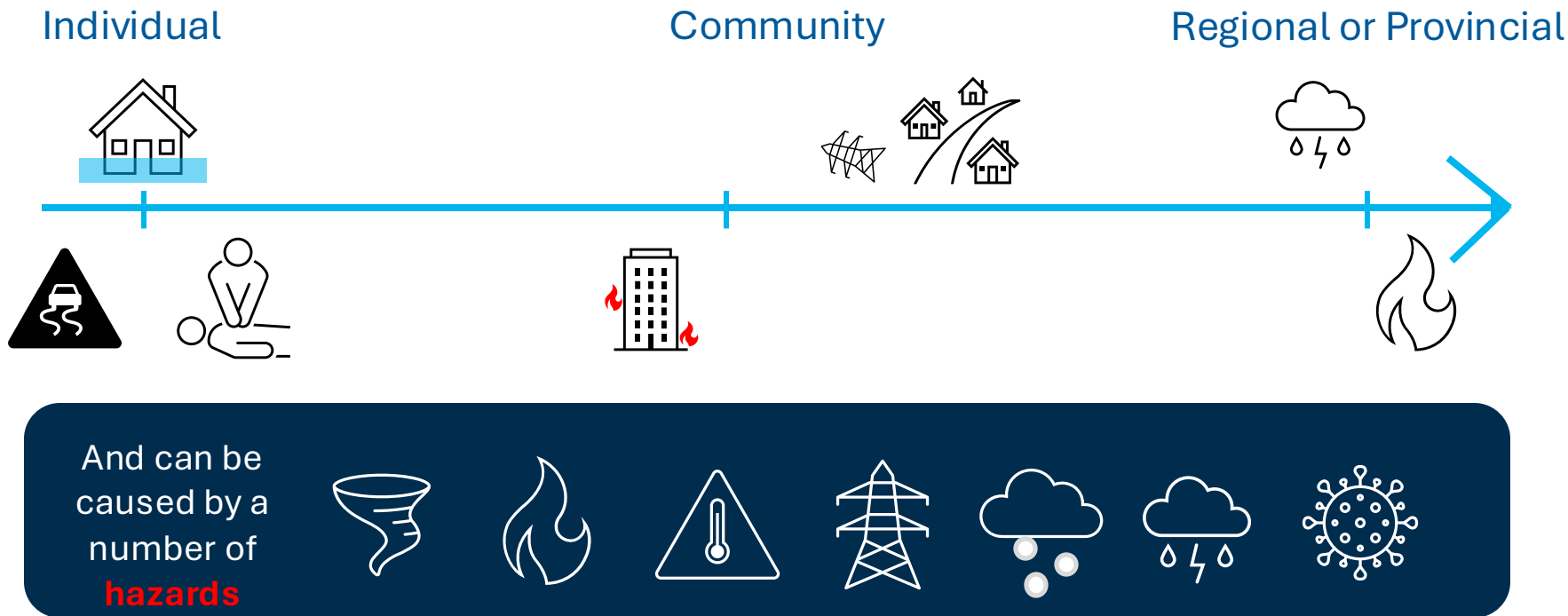
4. Scenario
for
Preparedness

5. Risk
Reduction
Behaviours

6. Recap and
Questions

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Emergencies come in all shapes and sizes



Hazards and Risk Across Alberta

Top 5 Hazards

1. Flooding (local or from rain, near bodies of water)
2. Wildfire (near FPA)
3. Storm Events (e.g. hail)
4. High Wind Events (e.g. windstorms, tornadoes)
5. Extreme Temperatures (e.g. heat domes, ice storms)

Other Hazards

- Water shortages (heat/ infrastructure)
- Chemical spills
- Power outage
- Health emergencies

Hazard → Proximity → Risk



Meet the Blues

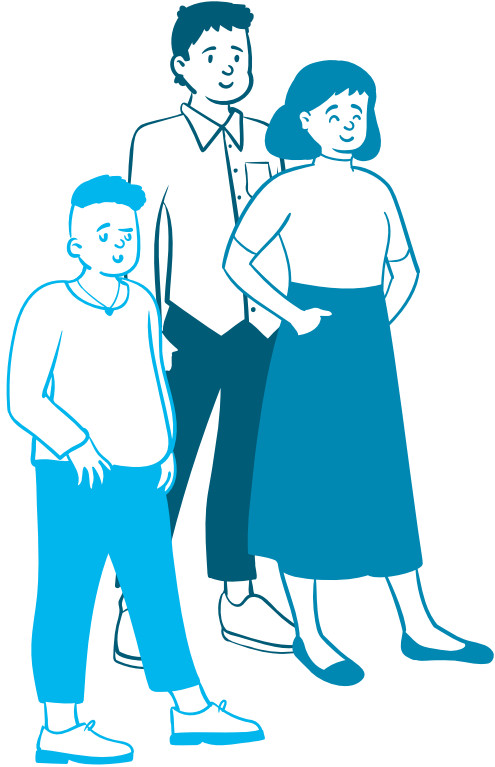
The Blues live in **Fort EdG**ary, Alberta.

Bob and **Brianna** Blue are both in their forties.

They have 2 children, **Bennett** (14) and **Bea** (8), who attend the local high school and elementary schools, respectively.

Brianna's mom, Grandma **Betty**, lives across town in a care home.

They also have a beloved dog named **Bluebell**, who works from home.



Where are the Blues on a typical weekday?

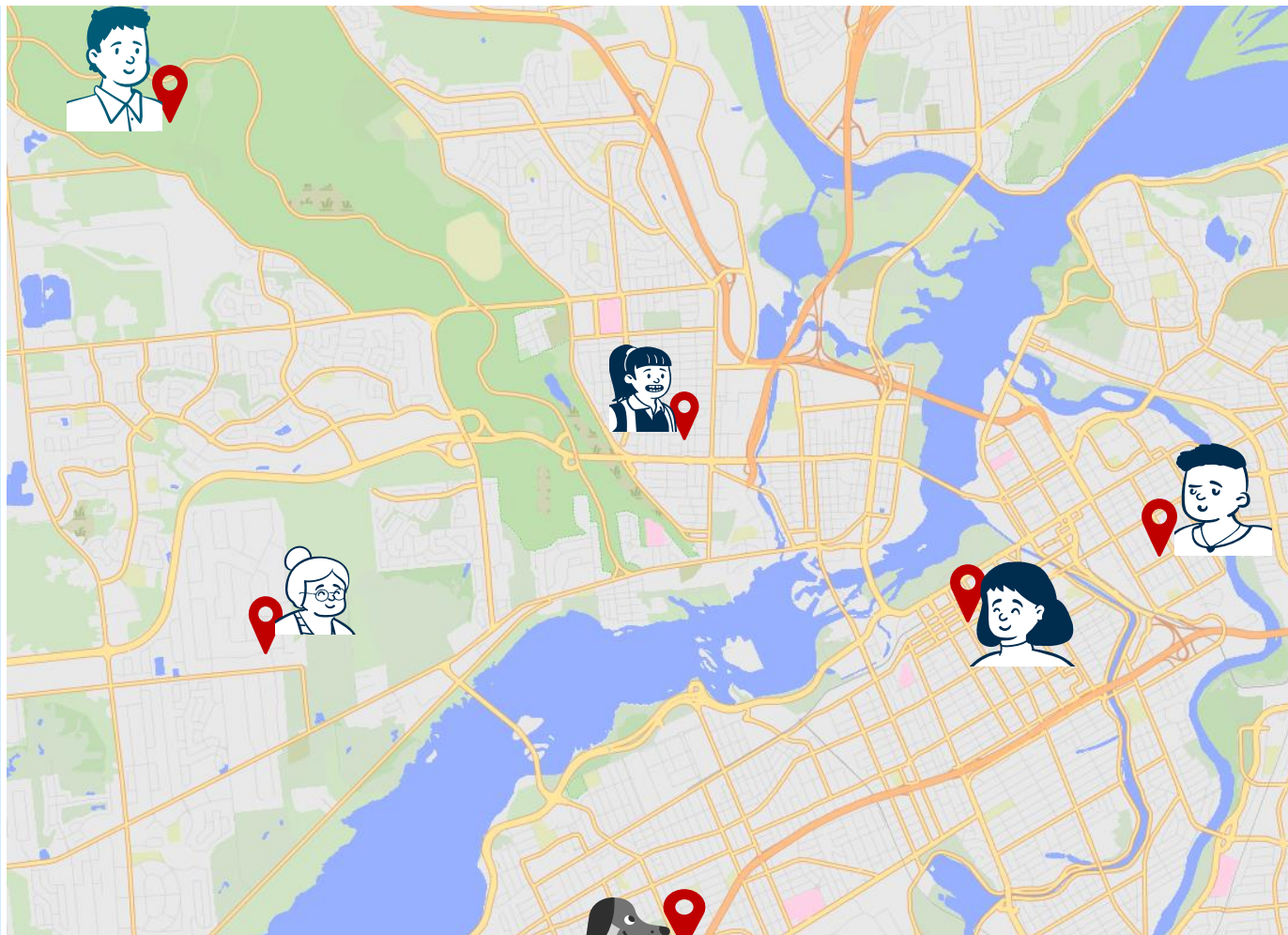
Bennett (14) and **Bea** (8) are at school.

Brianna is at work at the courthouse.

Bob is at work in the nearby Forest area.

Grandma **Betty** is across town at her care home.

Bluebell is hard at work in the family home.



It is a Tuesday, at 2pm.

An emergency alert is issued!

Nearby phones begin to beep and buzz.

- Bennett and Bea are at school.
- Bob and Bri are at work.
- Grandma Betty is at the care home and Bluebell is at home.

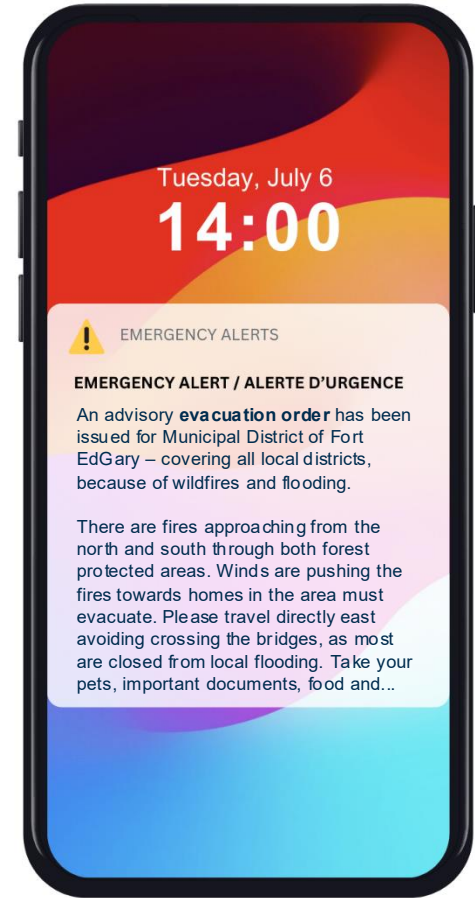


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The morning's lightning storm ignited a fire near town. It grew quickly and unnoticed through the morning and consumed much of the forest area skirting town before being detected. Strong winds have caused the fire to ignite a second location further south of town. The storm has also caused some localized flooding in the center of town.



The Blues have been ordered to evacuate. Put yourself in their shoes.

- What might you see, experience or feel?
- What should they have prepared for to help manage feelings like anxiety or panic?
- What would be your first instinct?

What happens after the **alert sounds and an evacuation order is issued?**

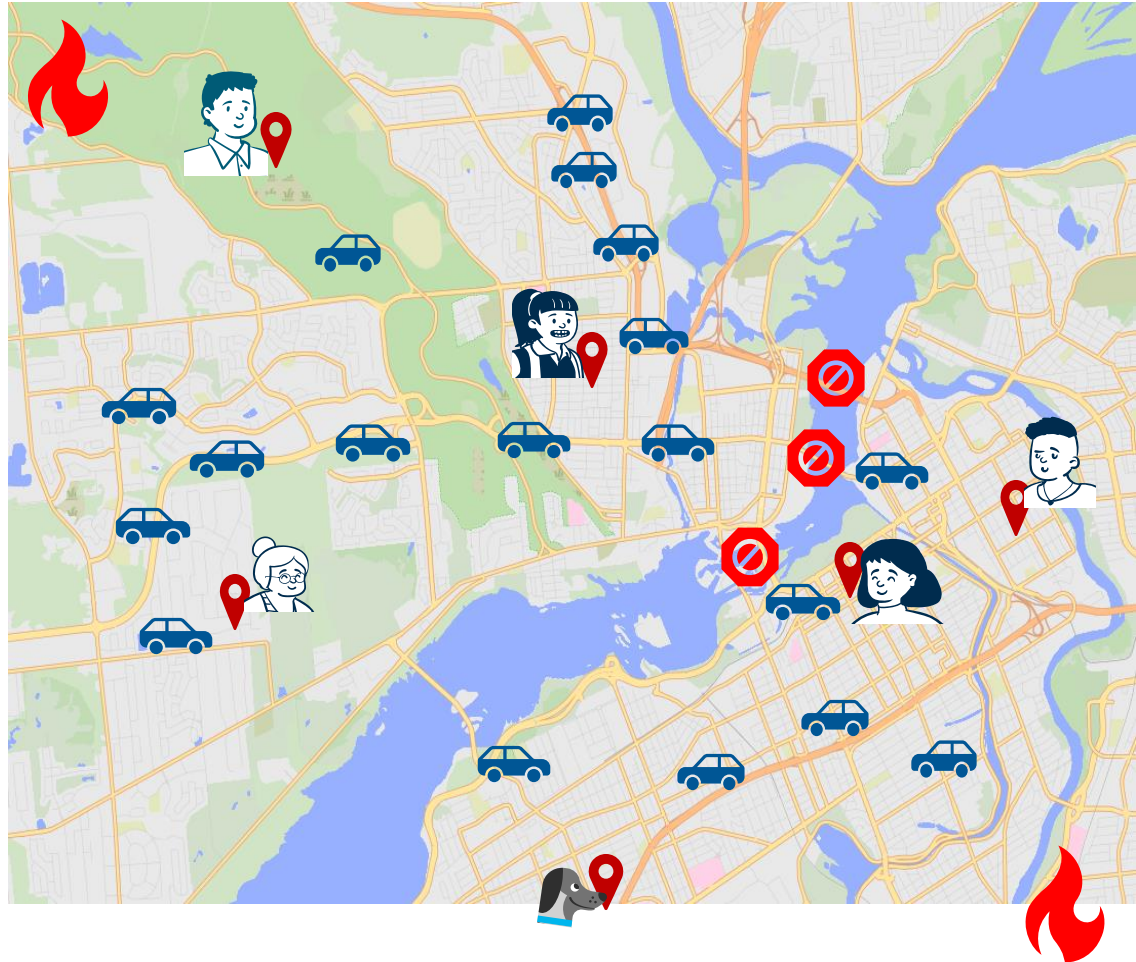
Everyone begins to move simultaneously.

Traffic will often back up and congest roads.

Phone and internet networks may be overloaded with traffic, making local **communications extremely difficult**.

Essential utilities like power or heat may be **damaged or turned off** to reduce risk.

Local **fuel stations might be closed** for lack of fuel, or to minimize risk.





What is going on?!?!
 None of my calls to Bri or Betty are going through.



What is all this noise? Where's mom? There are so many cars outside the schools – how is she even going to get here?

There is traffic every direction.

My texts and calls to mom and dad aren't going through. I'm **worried**. The fire marshal says we're supposed to get on this bus – but how will mom and dad know where to find me? Are they okay?



And who will get Betty and Bluebell?

And what about our house and the insurance paperwork?



I know with Dad and a school, but who is going to get them?

I feel so helpless.

How are we going to find each other?

And who is going to get mom, and her medications? And what about Bluebell and our insurance papers and the deed to our house?

How do I reach Bob – the phones aren't working?



WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO.

How am I going to get all of these people out of the so I can go and get the kids?

I hope the kids are okay.

I wish I could still help Bri with the driving.

She hasn't got anyone to get old Bluebell.

The director says we're evacuating – but I don't know how Bri and Bob will find me...



Concern, fear and anxiety are normal.

Our constraints

Constraints are the everyday realities that limit or restrict our ability to act, especially in emergency situations. These constraints directly impact our risks.

For the Blues, their constraints include:

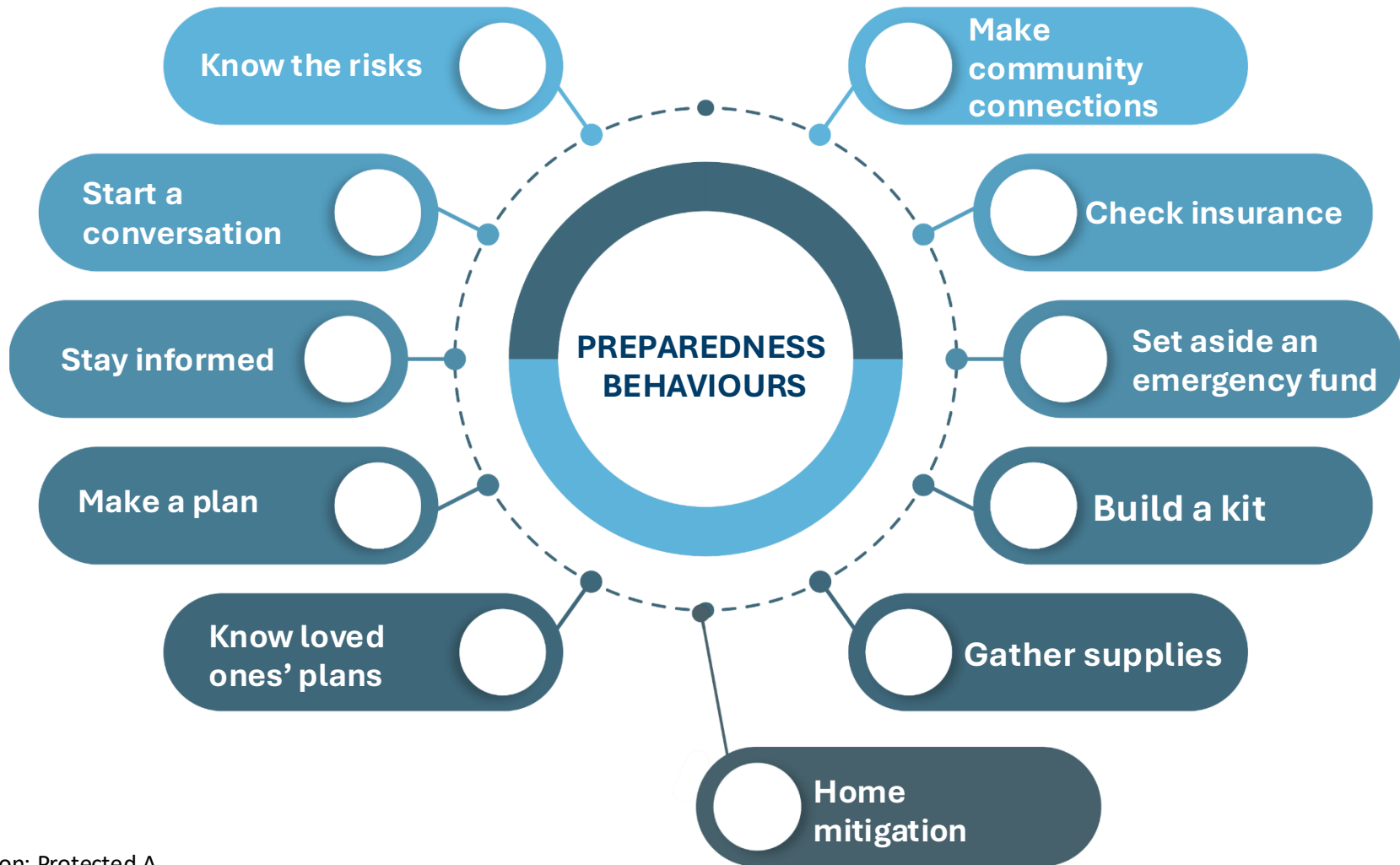
- **Mom** cannot be in four places at once—she can't assist every family member and Grandma at the same time.
- **Dad** has working responsibilities in the forested area, meaning he cannot help in this moment.
- **Grandma and brother** cannot drive.
- **Bluebell** cannot self-evacuate.

Ask yourself:

**What are
your
everyday
constraints?**

- What is your “it’s Tuesday at 2pm” scenario?
- What do you and your loved ones need to prepare for, and how?
- Does that change with the day of the week or month of the year? With the season?

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Know the risks



- The Blues discussed a plan at the start of the school year.
- They recognized mom has work responsibilities that prevent immediate action.
- They understand risks/hazards in their area and are prepared to evacuate AND shelter in place.
- They thought about other loved ones (e.g. Grandma Betty, Bluebell).

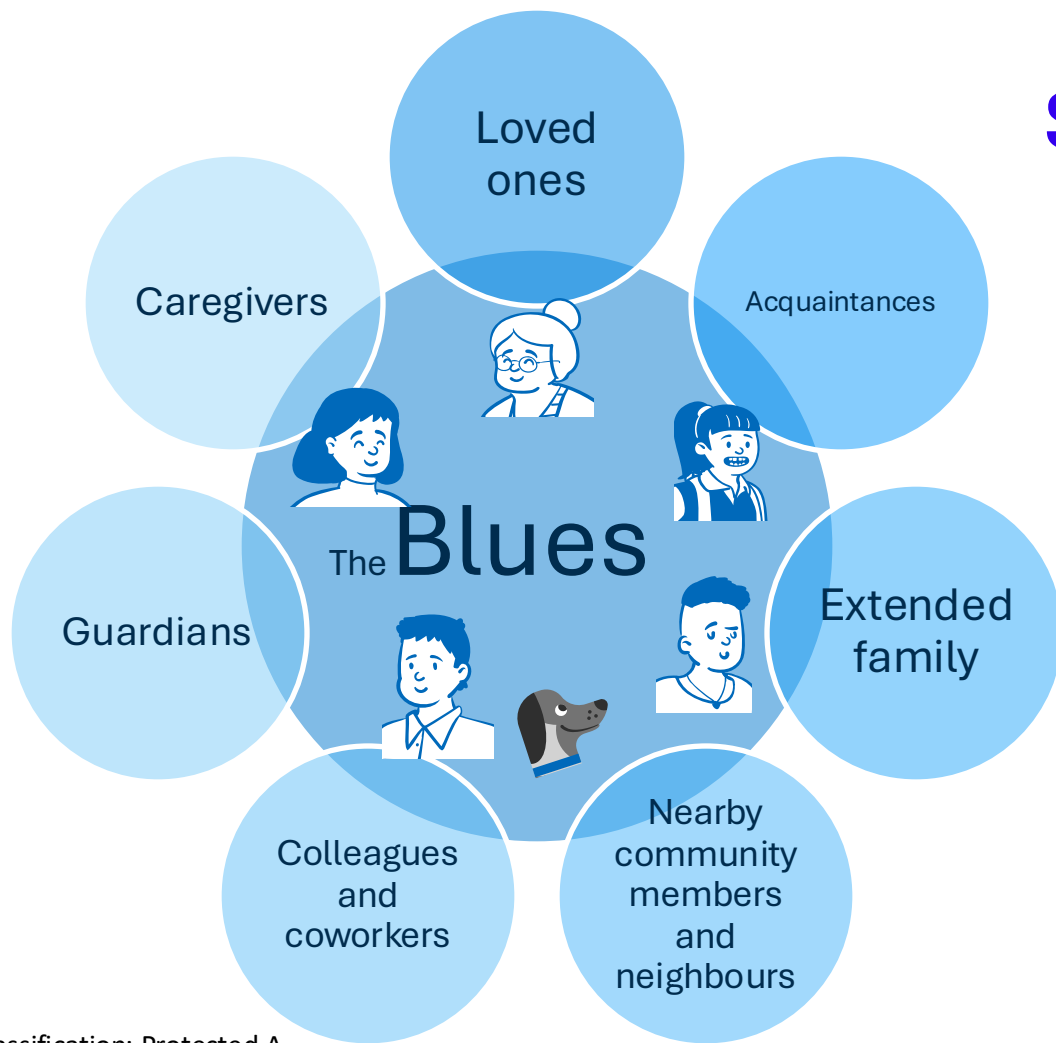


Ask yourself:

**Who can
help us?**

**Who might
we need to
help?**

- What people or resources can I leverage in my circle to help in an emergency?
- Who would I need to care for in an emergency?
- What if you and your loved ones are similarly and simultaneously impacted?



Start a conversation

Discussing with our circle, different scenarios with friends, neighbours and colleagues:

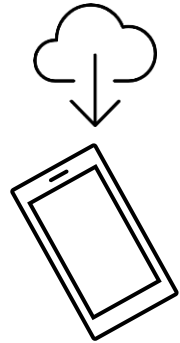
- What if a major hailstorm brought down power lines, while at work?
- What if a power outage lasts three of four days?
How would the response differ in summer vs. winter?
- What if evacuation orders were to come during the week?
- How would the plan change on a weekend?

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Ask yourself:

**What other
information
can help
me/us?**

- What should I pay attention to in an emergency?



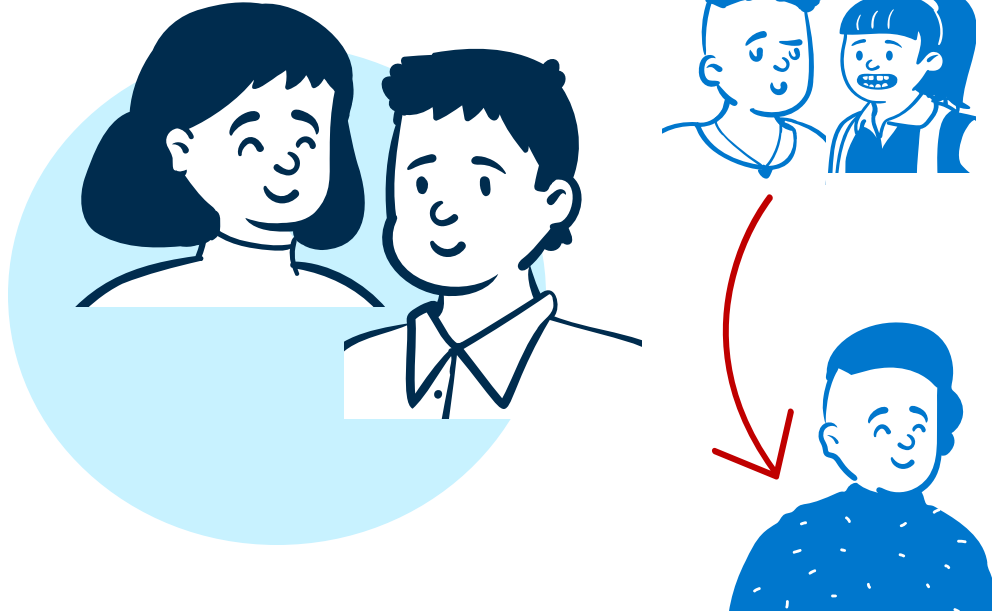
Get and stay informed

- Research local hazards and to prepare to shelter in place or evacuate.
- Be ready for emergencies of all sizes by downloading the Alberta Emergency Alert App, 511 Alberta and WeatherCan and followed:
 - **Instagram:** YourAlberta
 - **Facebook:** YourAlberta
 - **X (Twitter):** @ABPublicSafety

Ask yourself:

**How can we
bring all this
information
together?**

- What is the best way to centralize and share the information about our own risks, and emergency preparedness discussions?
- How to make sure this information is available, even if the phone or internet are not? If batteries aren't charged?



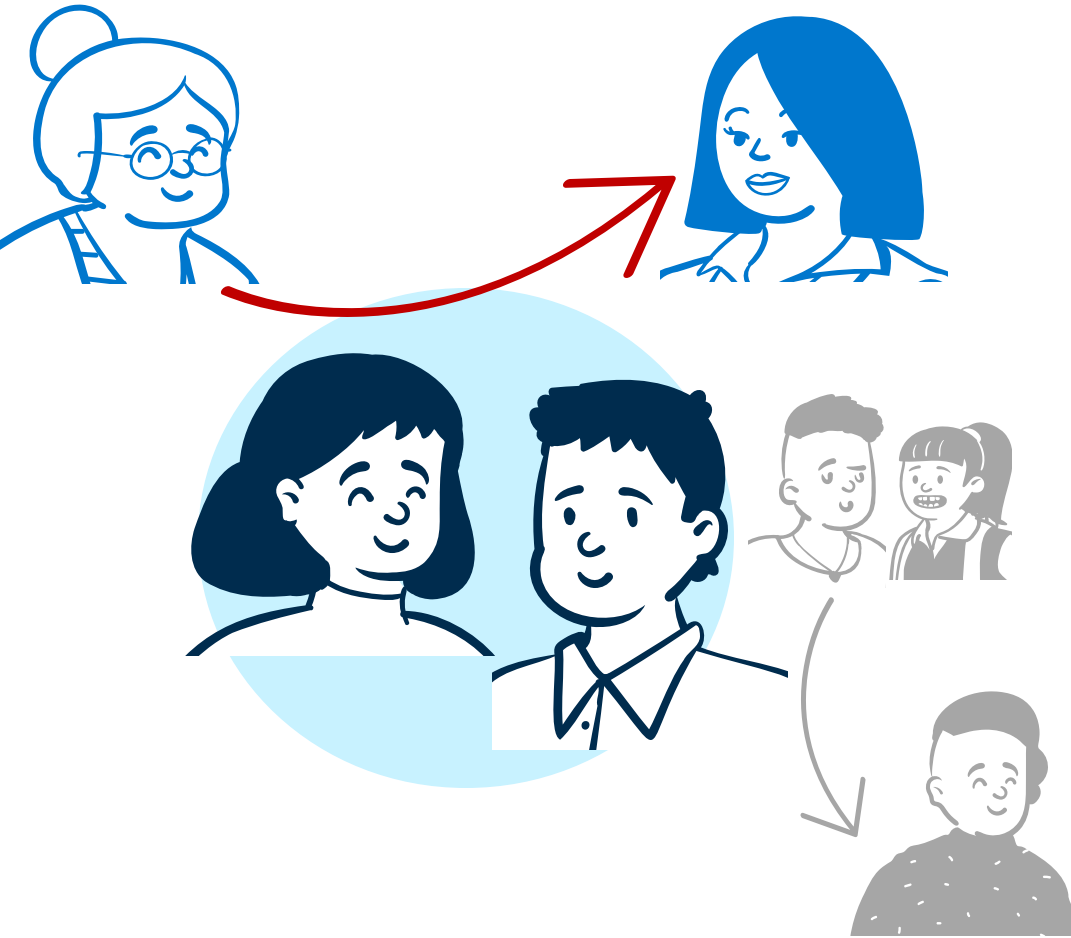
Make a plan

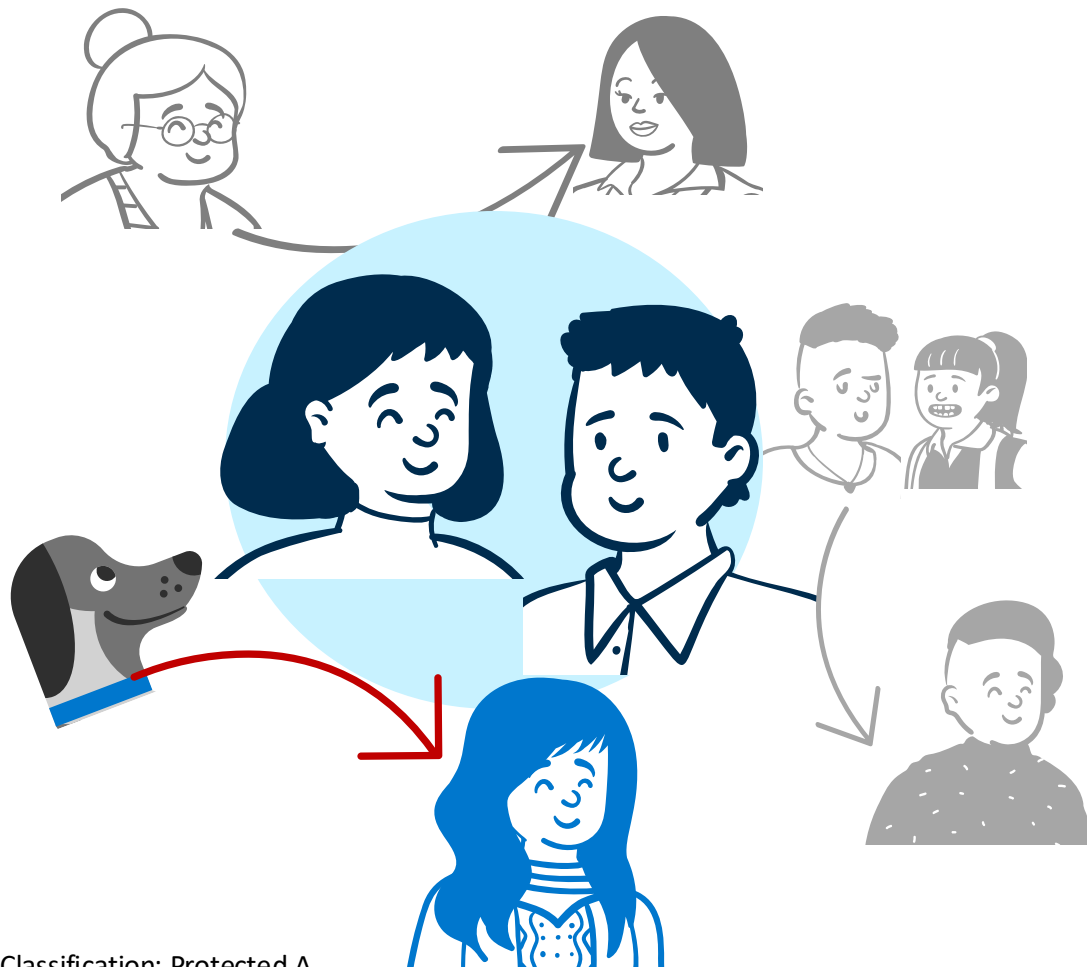
- Include friends from carpool, sports or childcare; ensure you have discussed meeting points together.
- Establish multiple meeting points at loved ones' homes, or public landmarks near, further and far away.
- Ensure all responsible adults and children know the meeting points.
- Create wallet cards with important numbers and addresses for each family member.
- Practice Roles and Responsibilities at work.

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Know loved ones' plans

- Discuss plans with caregivers and care centres to better understand expectations.
- Share their meeting points with other close loved ones, like Grandma Betty and invite them to join discussions of potential pick-up options and timeframes.





Make community connections

- **Consider support from your community,** including friends from dog park, book club, sports, game clubs, etc.
- **Ensure the plan has the right pieces in place** by sharing spare keys and adding extra contacts to pick-up lists.

Ask yourself:

**What can I or
my loved
ones do,
concretely?**

- We have our plan, but are there any other steps we can take?
- What if this emergency happens just before the end of a pay cycle?
- What if debit or credit machines are not working?



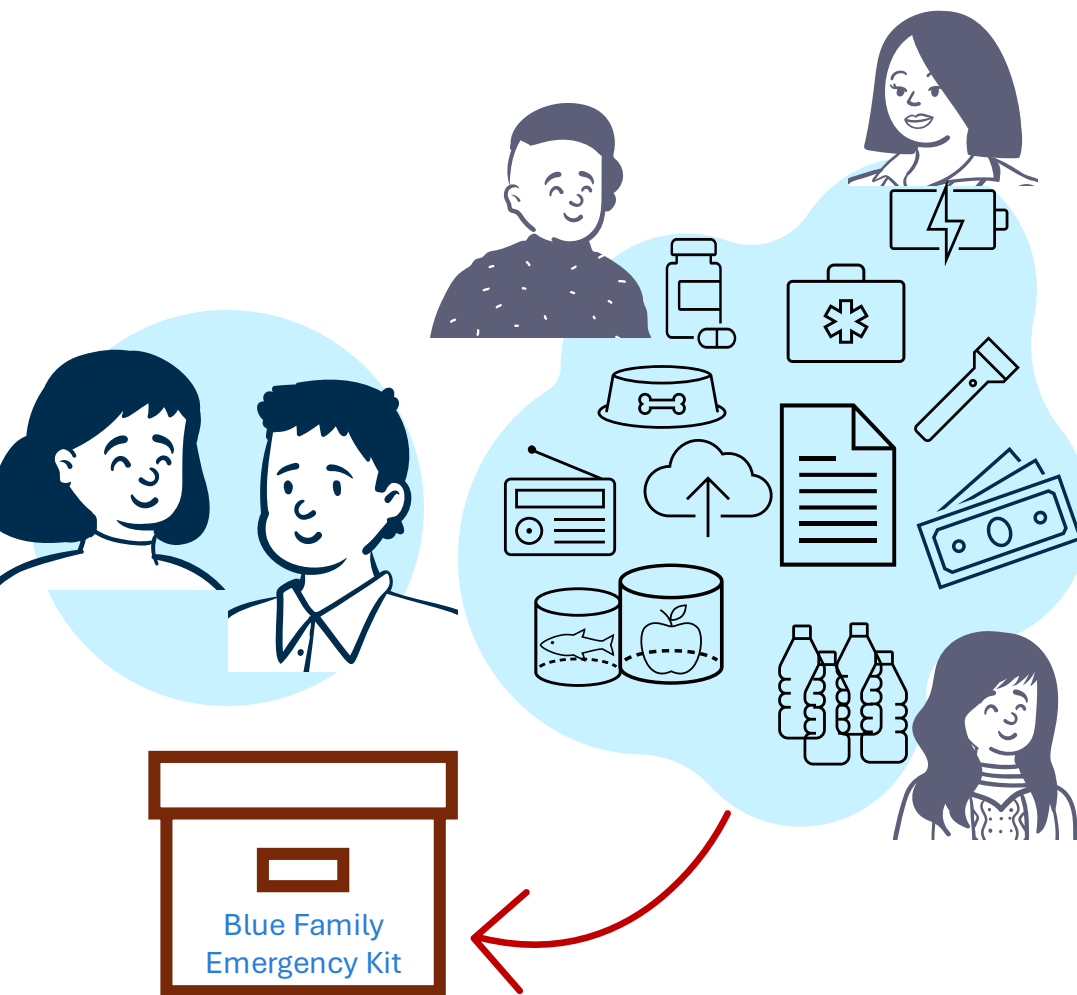
Insurance

- Annual review to ensure accurate and updated e.g. coordinate with time change.
- Ensure extra copies are in emergency kit.

Emergency fund

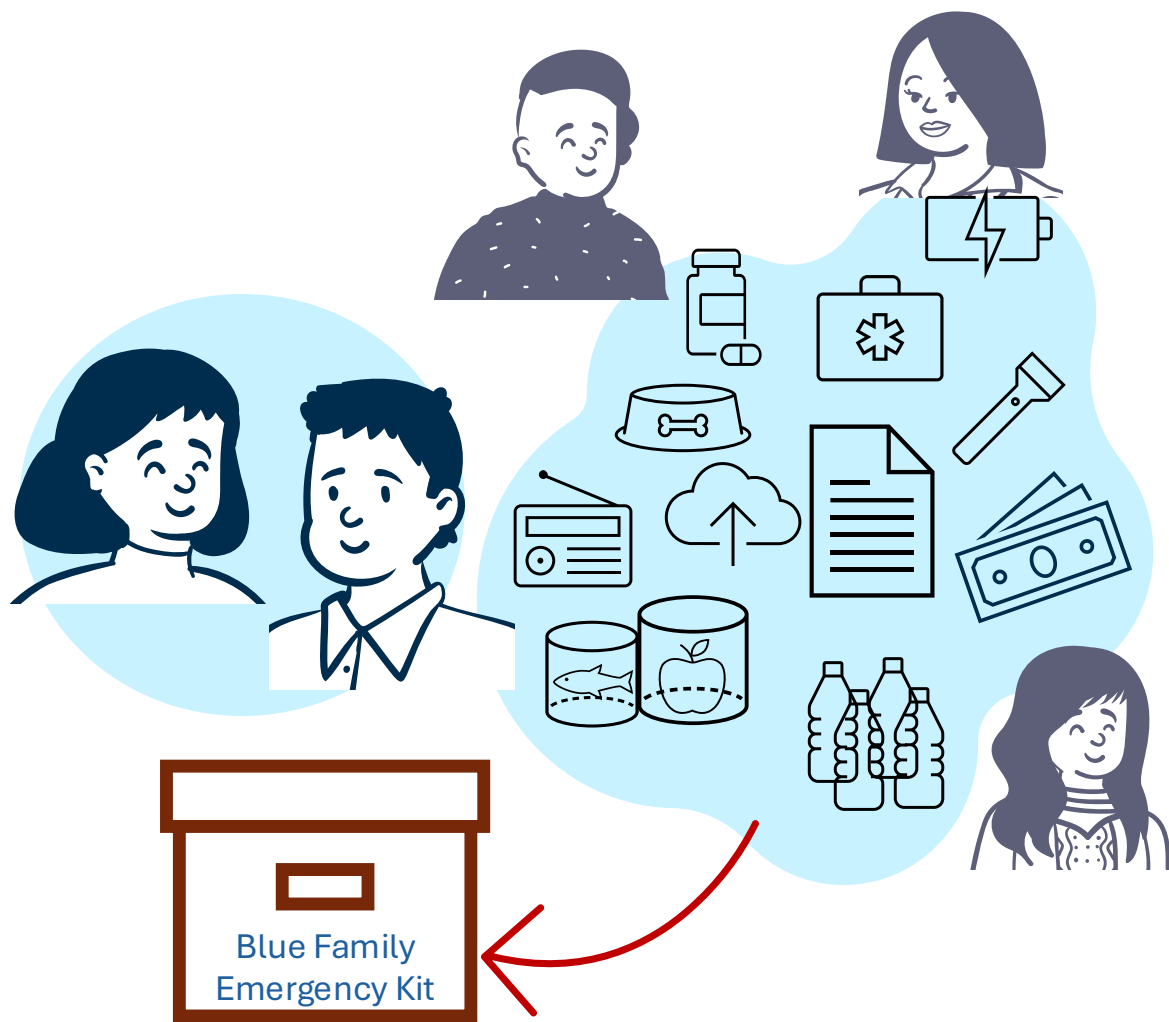
- Ensure it is accessible for the people that might need it.
- Enough funds for a tank of gas, spare clothes and/ or a couple of nights at a hotel.
- Cash is king!

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Build an emergency kit to evacuate

- Copies of important documents (insurance, will, deed, health care cards) and contact information (paper and digital copies).
- External batteries for recharging.
- Extra medication for Grandma Betty.
- Radios, flashlights, cash.
- Water for four people, non-perishable foods, food for Bluebell.
- A first aid kit.



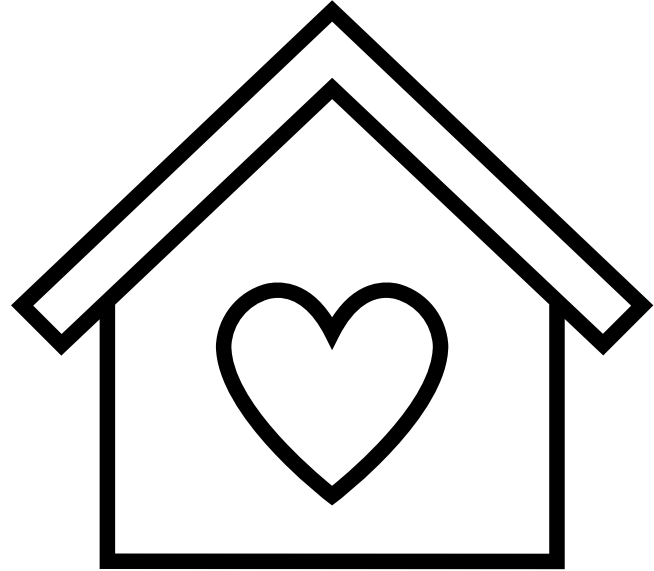
Gather supplies to shelter in place

- For situations like a severe wind or hailstorms - to weather it out at home.
- Enough supplies to last a minimum of 7 to 14 days, to stay safe and comfortable.
- Allows emergency crews to work.

One step further – Home mitigation

Regular home maintenance can help reduce the impacts of local hazard damage. For example:

- Clearing debris from spring tree pruning.
- Working with a landlord to have the dryer ducts cleaned.
- Teaming up with neighbours to apply for community programming grants through FireSmart Alberta (firesmartcanada.ca).



Foundations of emergency preparedness

- **Preparedness is personal** – it starts with you and considers your personal risks, situational risks/ hazards, and community risks/ hazards
- **Includes all the important people in your life** – where they are – talk it over; put a plan in place
- **Think ahead** – plan for both sheltering in place and evacuating
- **Take action** – ensure you can execute your plan when needed
- **An everyday habit** – not just for major disasters
- **Being unprepared is costlier** – preparedness doesn't have to be expensive
- **Start early, start today** – the best time to prepare is now



Upcoming Opportunities

- National Test Alert

- Occur in May and November
 - Upcoming: **May 7th at 1:55 PM**
- Start a conversation with those around you, when the test alert sounds
 - How would you handle an emergency, if you have
 - Patients in your waiting room?
 - Students in class?
 - Customers in your store?

- Join the **Resilience Builders Network**

- Email beprepared@gov.ab.ca



Thank you! Questions? BePrepared@gov.ab.ca



Public Safety and Emergency
Services

Alberta Emergency Management
Agency

Amanda Sobierajski,
Information and Engagement
Specialist

Be Prepared Program
alberta.ca/beprepared

