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May

Be Prepared. Know Your Risks: Emergency Preparedness Week is May 5th to 11th!

In the Government of Alberta's annual [Preparedness Survey of Albertans](#), most respondents said that the biggest reasons they are not prepared for emergencies is due to a lack of information, lack of money, and procrastination. 45% of respondents feel unprepared for an emergency, but 85% are concerned about the impact of extreme weather.

The top four hazards Albertans are concerned about (according to the survey) are:

- Extreme cold/winter storms
- Power/water outages
- Wildfires
- Extreme heat.

Southern Albertans specifically indicated extreme heat and severe drought were their top hazard concerns.

Disasters impact people first. They start in our communities. In people's homes and places of work. The first call for help goes to municipal services, and then as the situation becomes more severe, different orders of government come to help. As more control of the situation occurs, the layers of government that stepped in to help, begin to step back until it returns to where it started, at the individual level.

Because of this, the Town of Taber wanted to share some more quick tips this month so everyone can get started on getting prepared. While we share information on preparedness and hazards every month (and many tips on our social media channels), our info this month include the most basic FAQs & tips so everyone has a place to start in getting prepared for an emergency.

Even taking a few minutes each week or a few hours per month will make you more prepared, and therefore more comfortable when an emergency happens. More resources and info is available at www.alberta.ca/BePrepared

Remember, it's not *if* an emergency will happen, but *when & where*. The more prepared you are, the better off you will be handling the situation when it happens. *Don't be scared, be prepared.*

Scheduled Meetings

The public is welcome to attend:

Council

Special/Regular Meetings:

May 13th: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

May 27th: 3:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Livestreams or recordings of Council meetings: www.taber.ca/livestream

Recreation Board

May 2nd: 5:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Library Board

May 9th: 5:15 pm @
Library Board Room

Municipal Police Commission

May 15th: 4:30 pm @
Council Chambers

Development Authority (MPC)

May 21st: 1:30 pm @
Council Chambers

The above are subject to changes at any time. See www.taber.ca/calendar for most current meeting info.

Service Requests:

See something in Town that needs a repair, or that you want Town crews to take a look at? Easily submit a Service Request through our website:

www.taber.ca/servicerequests

Inquiring about submitting a not-for-profit and non-political event? See eligibility at www.taber.ca/cornhusk for full details and contact information for submissions. **Submission deadline is the 23rd of previous month.**

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Emergency FAQ Quick List

We've rounded up some of the most frequently asked questions surrounding emergencies & preparedness. Check them out below:

What's the difference between a disaster and an emergency?

An **emergency** is a situation that requires a speedy response to save lives and protect property. These are events that first responders such as firefighters, police, and paramedics will respond to on a regular basis, such as an auto collision, robbery, or residential fire. **Disasters** are much more serious events and threaten or cause widespread losses and damage. **Disasters** will disrupt everyday life and essential functions. Examples of disasters could be flash floods in an urban area, a tornado in a populated area, or a long power outage in the middle of winter.

What is the difference between an Evacuation Alert versus an Evacuation Order?

Evacuation Alerts (sometimes called Advisories) mean people should prepare to evacuate soon, if the situation deteriorates. Evacuation alerts help you to prepare to leave on short notice. Be prepared to go quickly. **Evacuation Orders** are critical and mean people **must evacuate now**. They are issued when you are in danger, and delaying your departure can put your life at risk and hinder emergency response efforts.

During an Emergency, where will I find information?

In emergencies, prioritize official sources for reliable information. While updates from the Town of Taber might take time, emergency teams work as fast as possible behind-the-scenes to provide verified details as quickly as they can get them to the public. Key Town sources include:

- Town of Taber website: www.taber.ca
- Town of Taber Facebook: [@TownofTaber](https://www.facebook.com/TownofTaber)
- Alberta Emergency Alert (if applicable)

Cross-check information from unofficial channels (social media groups, rumors, other pages) to official Town sources. Misinformation can obstruct emergency efforts, delay critical updates, or risk lives and property. When unsure, trust and share only from official Town of Taber channels.

How long do evacuations typically last?

It depends on the emergency. Some emergency evacuations last longer than others (hours, days, or even weeks). As we saw with the 2023 Alberta Wildfires, some evacuations can last longer than a week, and sometimes there's even a chance you could be re-evacuated after re-entry if the danger reoccurs. It is important you are prepared for at least 72 hours, but if you can prepare for longer, that is also strongly encouraged. 72 hours is only a minimum standard.

Low Cost Emergency Prep

Free Apps to Download:

- Alberta Emergency Alert
- AB Wildfire
- Weather Canada
- AB Rivers
- 511 Alberta
- AB Fire Bans

Free/Low Cost Actions to be More Prepared:

- **Have a conversation** with your family, children, and friends on your emergency/evacuation plans (where you will go, what you would take, what happens if someone is at school/work, etc.).
- **Read your insurance policies** (home, car, other property). Know what the policies cover & what they don't.
- **Prepare a detailed list of all of your belongings** (include pictures). This is helpful for insurance purposes, and is called a "Home Inventory."
- Starting your preparedness kit doesn't have to be expensive! **Items from places like the dollar store** are great for emergency kits. When buying groceries, consider adding extra non-perishables on sale to your list to add to your kit. Start building your kit slowly over time— even a little bit helps!
- **Photocopy important documents** and keep them in a secure location. ID cards, insurance documents, financial papers, etc.

May is the Start of Tornado Season in Alberta

May through September is tornado and hail season, with mid-June to early August being the peak time (though they can occur any time during the year). Tornadoes are often hard to see from far away and not all have a visible funnel cloud. Tornadoes usually come from the south or west, but can quickly change direction without warning. Most develop in the late afternoon and early evening.

Safety Tips:

- Get down, protect your head and watch out for flying debris.
- Do not chase tornadoes. They are unpredictable and can change course abruptly.
- A tornado is deceptive, it may appear to be standing still when it is moving toward you.
- Keep your radio on to find out what areas are affected, what roads are safe, where to go, and what to do if you have been directed to evacuate.
- Keep your emergency kit close by.
- Follow instructions from authorities. Remember, disobeying an order puts lives at risk.

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Emergency Preparation Links & Resources

- Preparedness Tips: www.alberta.ca/BePrepared
- Build an Emergency Kit: www.alberta.ca/build-an-emergency-kit
- Pet Preparedness: www.alberta.ca/pet-preparedness
- Cybersecurity: www.alberta.ca/cybersecurity-in-alberta
- Wildfire Preparedness: www.alberta.ca/wildfire-preparedness
- Make an Emergency Plan: www.alberta.ca/make-an-emergency-plan

Taber Public Library

***Get Caught Reading Month-** if library staff catch you reading here, you have a chance to win a gift card from Analog Books in Lethbridge. Come every day and try to get caught!

Month Long Book Sale!

- Sat May 4 Ukulele Jam 1:30 pm. This program is for all ages and abilities to come play together.
- Wed May 15 Senior Speaker Series at 10:30 am and the topic is Advanced Care Planning with Kimberley Wescott.
- Fri May 17 Family Movie at 6:30 pm. We will be showing “Jungle Cruise”. There will be free popcorn!
- Sat May 18 Ukulele Jam at 1:30 pm. For all ages and abilities to play together.
- Thur May 23 Trivia at the Legion. Begins at 6:30 pm and is for families and friends to come test your knowledge and have fun!
- Sat May 25 Fairy Tales Story Time with Mrs. Croft at 11:00 am. Come listen to stories, songs and music! Snacks will be available.
- Wed May 29 Block Party from 3:30 to 6:00 pm. Join our neighbors and friends and plan what your kids and family can participate in here in town over the summer and after!
- Thur May 30 Book Worm Book Club meeting at 11:15 am. New members are welcome!
- Thur May 30 Pride Week Trivia at 6:00 pm here at the library. Come as a team or not. Small prizes to be won!
- May 30 and 31 Come view the art of local artists for Pride Week during library hours.

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HELP OUT WITH THE DROUGHT

Water levels in Alberta are at **drought conditions**. We need everyone to help conserve water.

GARDEN WATER CONSERVATION TIPS:

- Collect rainwater in a barrel for plant watering
- Use a watering can instead of a hose
- Choose drought-resistant plants
- Limit lawn watering (and follow any restrictions)
- Reuse aquarium water for plants
- Mulch your garden to limit water needs
- Use a soil moisture meter
- Group plants by water needs
- Check for hidden leaks

More water tips at www.taber.ca/drought



HELP OUT WITH THE DROUGHT

Water levels in Alberta are at **drought conditions**. We need everyone to help conserve water.

HOME MAINTENANCE WATER CONSERVATION TIPS:

- Insulate water pipes to reduce heat loss & reduce water waste waiting for hot water
- Install hot water recirculation pumps for faster hot water access
- Regularly check for leaks in all plumbing
- Select water-efficient appliances
- Conduct a home Water Audit
 - Free How-To Guide at link below
- Install a greywater system for water reuse

More water tips at www.taber.ca/drought

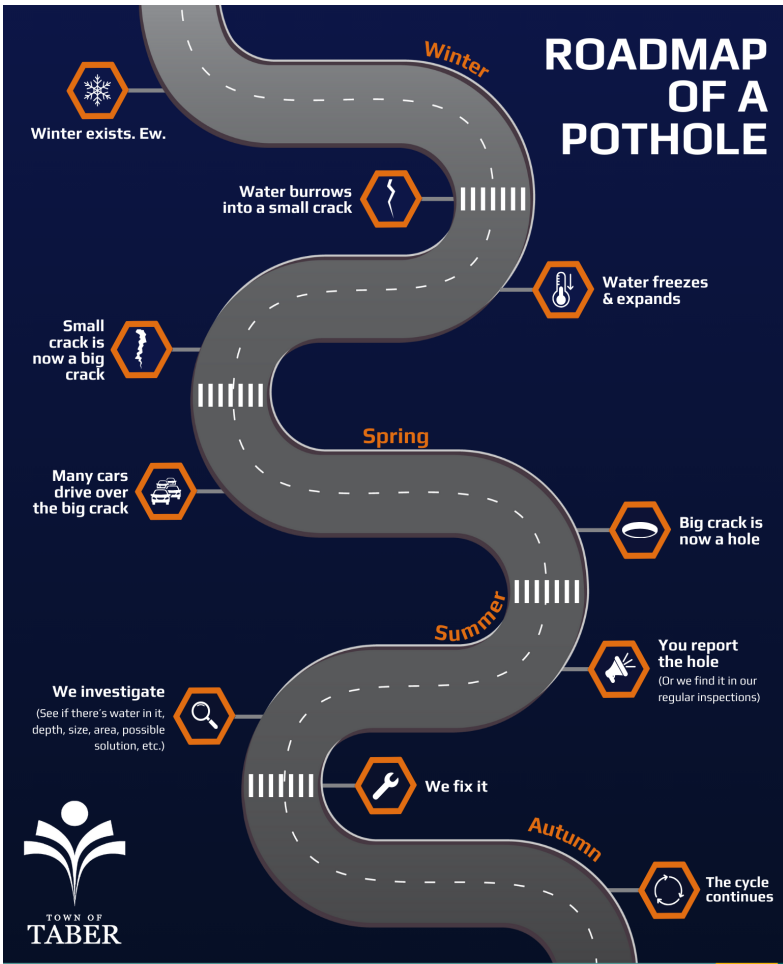


WATER SAVING TIP #45

Position your sprinklers carefully so water lands on the lawn or garden, not on paved areas. Also, avoid watering on windy days.

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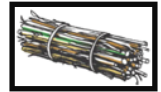
BE PART OF THE POTHOLE PATROL:
WWW.TABER.CA/SERVICEREQUESTS

Spring Tree Chipper Program

The Spring Tree Chipping Program is back! We will be in each area to pick up tree branches for chipping & leaves which can be left in a container or compostable/paper bags. **You have the full week to set yard waste out and we will collect it the following week.**

Please note that only tree branches/leaves will be collected; anything else placed in the alley will NOT be picked up and may be subject to a fine (this is not an alley cleanup).

Check for this symbol in your 2022-2024 Waste Calendar to see your dates:



www.taber.ca/wasteschedule

Or go to www.taber.ca/recyclecoach for notifications and a schedule on your phone!

Area	Leave Branches Out:	Collection Starts:
#1	May 6th—12th	May 13th
#2	May 13th—19th	May 21st
#3	May 20th—27th	May 27th

Taber Pride

Saturday, June 1st @ Confederation Park

Flag Raising @ Provincial Building: 11 AM
 Music, food trucks & bouncy castle in the park after
 Watch for the full event details on the Taber Equality Alliance Facebook Page & the Taber Times

Meat local vendors



Taber Farmers' Market

Thursdays
 June 20th - September 12th
 (No market August 22nd)
 4-7 PM
 5120 47th Ave Downtown

Vendor applications:
www.taber.ca/market

Eagle Spirit Powwow May 11th & 12th, 2024

Taber Community Centre & Auditorium
 4720 50 Street
eaglespiritnest@gmail.com
 Food Trucks & Vendors all weekend
Grand Entry 1:00pm
 HEAD STAFF
 C&T Tabulation
 Masters of Ceremonies - Travis Plaited Hair, Tony Delaney and Howie Thomson
 Arena Director - Rusty Gillette
 Drum Judge - Dave Spotted Eagle
 Dance Judges - Elvin Nicotine & Paula Weasel Head



Parkside Manor

Parkside Manor Dinner:
 May 8th, 2024 at 12:00 Noon
 Soup and Sandwich:
 May 22nd, 2024 at 12:00 Noon
 Hall Rentals: call Cara-
 403-223-4247



TABER IGA SPONSORED FREE SWIM

MAY 17 | 7-9:00 PM | TABER AQUAFUN CENTRE
 THANK YOU TABER IGA FOR MAKING THIS PROGRAM FREE FOR EVERYONE

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