

Fort Chipewyan

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN



September 2026



REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
OF **WOOD BUFFALO**

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INTRODUCTION

A Community Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) identifies local risks and outlines how the community will prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies. It defines roles and responsibilities, coordinates response agencies, and establishes communication processes for residents. The plan also considers vulnerable populations and is designed to be clear and easy to follow during an incident.

Fort Chipewyan's CEMP identifies the community's top three hazards, based on the Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (HIRA). Fort Chipewyan's remote location, limited year-round access and reliance on air and water transportation are considerations incorporated into community emergency management planning. These considerations support the safety and well-being of residents during an emergency.

Fort Chipewyan is located approximately 225km north of Fort McMurray (via air travel), on the northwest shore of Lake Athabasca. As one of the northernmost communities in the Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the remote location of Fort Chipewyan contributes to the community's uniqueness.

During the winter months, residents rely on the construction of a seasonal winter road, which provides temporary access to the community. Availability and safe use of the winter road are dependent on seasonal climate conditions. When open, the winter road acts as a gateway to southern communities over an approximately 296 km distance. Fort Chipewyan is home to Mikisew Cree First Nation, Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation, and the Fort Chipewyan Métis Nation.

The RMWB serves as the Local Authority for the Hamlet of Fort Chipewyan, while Mikisew Cree First Nation and Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation are the authorities for neighbouring Reserve Lands.

According to the 2025 Municipal Census, there are 641 people living within the hamlet. Fort Chipewyan provides a range of local services and facilities, including the Fort Chipewyan Airport, a volunteer fire department, Mamawi Community Hall, Sonny Flett Aquatic Centre, Archie Simpson Arena, schools, health services, grocery stores, restaurants, lodging, and other essential community services.

For additional information, refer to the [Regional Emergency Management Plan \(REMP\)](#).



RISK ANALYSIS

Risk/Hazard event	Severity	Likelihood	Climate Change Influence on Likelihood
Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Wildfire	Major	High	Increasing
Community Access (Winter Road)	Moderate	Moderate	Increasing
Critical Infrastructure Failure	Minor	Low	N/A

For Fort Chipewyan, the top three hazards are:

COMMUNICATION AND ALERTS

When an emergency happens, the public will be notified. The RMWB Crisis Communication Plan (CCP) details activities required for quick and effective notification, including:

- Sharing information about the emergency in a timely, accurate, and accessible manner
- Being the trusted source for accurate information
- Issuing Alberta Emergency Alerts (AEA), if immediate action is required
- Communicating with target audiences - using news releases, local news sources and social media outlets

Be aware and stay informed by following official and trusted channels:

- Website - [RMWB.ca/evacuation](https://rmwb.ca/evacuation)
- Municipal X(Twitter) and Facebook: @rmwoodbuffalo
- Download the Alberta Emergency Alert App
- Follow local media sources



EVACUATION PLAN

Evacuations are only ordered when there is a threat to life safety and a need to protect the public. The Local Authority declares a State of Local Emergency (SOLE) when necessary. Evacuation planning must remain flexible to support emergency responders and maintain priorities such as life safety, incident stabilization, and the protection of property and the environment.

Know the difference between Evacuation Alert and Evacuation Order

EVACUATION ALERT	EVACUATION ORDER
 Be ready to leave on short notice	 You are at risk - leave now
 Have your grab-and-go bags ready	 Follow direction of local authorities

Evacuation Alert

If residents self-evacuate while under an alert, they are responsible for their own accommodations, transportation, and other arrangements. Evacuation support is not provided at this stage.

Evacuation Order

Residents are required to leave under an evacuation order. Basic support will be provided at this stage through RMWB Emergency Social Services.

Residents who choose not to follow an evacuation order, do so at their own risk.

Evacuation Routes and Transportation

PRIMARY: Airplane-assisted

- Direction of travel will be determined based on safety considerations
- Responders will be in the community to support a safe evacuation
- Follow directions of emergency personnel
- Muster Point for busing is at Archie Simpson Arena, 132 Cardinal Ave



EMERGENCY SOCIAL SERVICES

Emergency Social Services (ESS) provides immediate short-term support to residents displaced under an **Evacuation Order**.

Residents are encouraged to be prepared during emergencies. Residents should have an [emergency plan](#) and are strongly encouraged to have an [emergency kit](#) ready with essential items.

Preferred solutions for short-term accommodation are outlined below:

- A destination of your own choice (relatives, friends, etc.)
- A destination approved by your insurance company
 - Review current homeowner or tenant insurance policy for displacement clause
 - Residents should contact insurance companies directly for policy specific information
- An accommodation site assigned by the Municipality (hotel, motel, or group lodging facility)

The Municipality does not provide direct monetary support to evacuees. These may be available through a third party, depending on the incident.

Registration Process

If you require municipal ESS support, residents must register in-person at an official registration centre. The Registration process confirms resident eligibility, ensures distribution of basic needs, such as lodging and meals.

- *If evacuees check themselves in to a hotel outside of the Emergency Social Services process, the costs will not be reimbursed*

Individuals who do not require municipal ESS support should not attend a Registration Centre.

Registration Centers

Refer to RMWB News Releases, social media and trusted sources of information for the location of the designated Registration Center.

Follow **[RMWB.ca/evacuation](https://rmwb.ca/evacuation)** for more information and how you can access ESS support.



VULNERABLE PERSONS REGISTRY

The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo (RMWB) maintains a Vulnerable Persons Registry (VPR) to support residents who may require additional assistance during an emergency or evacuation. During an evacuation, impacted registrants on the VPR will be contacted directly to determine their need to evacuate. For more information on the Vulnerable Persons Registry, visit the [Vulnerable Persons Registry](#).

SHELTER IN PLACE

In some situations, sheltering in place may be safer than evacuating. Residents may be instructed to remain indoors, close windows and doors, and stay inside until notified otherwise. This may occur during incidents such as wildfire smoke, dangerous goods releases, severe weather, or active threat situations. For more information visit [Evacuations and Shelter in Place](#).

PANDEMIC RESPONSE

In the event of a pandemic, or health emergency, the lead agency would be Alberta Health. The municipality will amend response plans to align with recommendations and requirements to mitigate spread and/or exposure, based on determinations from health officials. Measures may include gathering restrictions, controlled access to reception centres, reduced transportation capacity, or the use of personal protective equipment (PPE).



FORT CHIPEWYAN MAP



MORE RESOURCES

[Resource Offers and Procurement](#)

Only resources requested by an RMWB representative through the emergency process, with written documentation, will be eligible for compensation.

If you have a resource that may assist during an emergency, contact Pulse at 780-743-7000 or submit an online inquiry through [Pulse](#).

Outside of an emergency, standard RMWB procurement processes apply.

[Alberta Wildfire](#)

[RMWB Emergency Social Services](#)

[Alberta Emergency Social Services Framework](#)

[Regional Emergency Management Plan](#)

[Emergency Preparedness](#)

[Maps and Tools](#)





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