



Is your home and property climate ready?

How to prepare for **wildfire and smoke**



Wildfires are happening more often because of climate change. Calgary has experienced a significant increase in smoky conditions over the last 30 years, and will continue to experience more smoky conditions as climate change makes summers hotter, drier, and longer, and with more potential for storm events that cause lightning.

While Calgary is not as exposed to wildfire as northern and mountain towns, some communities in Calgary are situated beside forested areas, grasslands and parks that have potential for fire control problems. Regardless of where you live in Calgary, you have potential to be impacted by wildfire smoke.

Check out calgary.ca/climatereddyhome to learn more about reducing climate change risk at home.

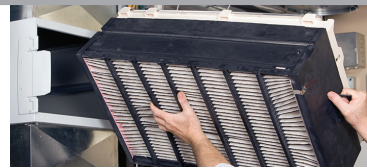
Ways to prepare for smoky conditions:



Download the WeatherCan app for the Air Quality Health Index and current and forecasted smoke conditions in Calgary. Visit Canada.ca/wildfire-smoke for info about smoke and your health.



Purchase a portable air purifier with a HEPA (High Efficiency Particulate Air) filter that traps microscopic particles. Air purifiers can be plugged in and used in most rooms in your home.



Consider incorporating an air purifier into your central air system when building a new home or replacing your HVAC system.



Repair damaged windows and replace worn or missing weather stripping.

Ways to protect yourself during smoky conditions:



Keep all windows and doors closed, and turn off bathroom or kitchen fans to keep smoke from entering your home.



Some people, such as seniors, are at higher risk of health problems from smoke. Check on family and community members during smoke events, and help those that may be more susceptible to health issues.



Reduce sources of indoor air pollution such as air fresheners, candles, gas stoves, vacuums, and cleaning products. If possible, prepare meals that don't involve cooking (especially frying and broiling) as it can affect indoor air quality.



Make sure A/C filters and furnace filters are clean, and replace them when necessary. For your furnace, choose a filter with a MERV 13 rating, or as high a rating as your system fan and filter slot can accommodate.

When you live in a community at risk of wildfire:



Remove needles, leaves and other combustible materials from your roof, vents and gutters. Keep combustibles (firewood, lumber, etc.) at least 10m away from your home.



Review your home insurance policy and ask your insurance provider what your policy covers in the case of fire damage.



If renovating, consider your choice of materials based on their fire resistance. Choose class A fire-resistant roofing materials. For siding, cement fibre, brick, or metal are better options than vinyl for protection against fire.



Be aware of local fire bans, ensure your smoke and CO alarms are working, and practice a home escape plan. Visit calgary.ca/fire or firesmartalberta.ca for more information about protecting yourself from fire risk.