

COMMUNITY
EMERGENCY
PREPAREDNESS
GUIDE



NOLALU EMERGENCY SERVICES TEAM

807-475-4441

info@nolalunest.com

2024

Welcome Message

On behalf of the Nolalu Emergency Services Team (NEST), it is my pleasure to provide this community emergency preparedness guide for our residents. As a community, we have over the years experienced frequent flooding, extended power outages, and are at risk of wildfires annually in the spring/summer, which always have the potential to result in evacuations. Our small but mighty team has chosen to take on the task of enhancing our emergency preparedness activities and were fortunate this year to receive a grant through Emergency Management Ontario.

Our emergency response plan is being updated and NEST, along with our system partners, will be conducting training and an exercise in order to ensure we are ready to provide services, such as emergency shelters and warming centres, should that be required.

As a rural and remote community, developing our capacity to respond, providing public education on risk and preparedness, and ensuring we increase and strengthen our relationships with internal and external system partners, is of utmost importance. We hope that this guide will provide residents with many tools and tips to support personal preparedness activities within your homes, workplaces, and organizations.

John O'Malley
Chair
Nolalu Emergency Services Team Board



This guide is made possible through a Community Emergency Preparedness Grant distributed by Emergency Management Ontario (Treasury Board Secretariat)

About Nolalu

Nolalu is an unincorporated community comprising the Townships of Marks, Lybster, Strange, Hardwick, and Lismore.

The five townships have a population of approximately 1200 full time residents, as well as an additional 2000 on a seasonal basis, it is overseen by a Local Services Board, with fire services contracted to the Nolalu Emergency Services Team (NEST).

What Are the Hazards?

Although there are many hazards that can affect a community, we will focus in this guide on the top three for Nolalu, based on historical data and other research:

- Wildfire
- Flooding
- Severe Weather Event
 - Tornado
 - Thunderstorm
 - Winter Storm
 - Extreme Heat



Potential outcomes of these hazards can include, but are not limited to, prolonged power outages, loss of access to/from a residence, and, in the most severe of circumstances, a threat to health and human life.

The ASSIST Program

This unique program was designed by NEST for the purpose of providing assistance to anyone who requires help with the maintenance, installation, or purchasing of their smoke and CO alarms.

It can also be utilized to do a “check in” in the event of a disaster or significant event (i.e. severe weather, power outage). Registration information can be found on the [Nolalu website](#) or by emailing info@nolalunest.com

The primary form of mitigation in a disaster is insurance! Be sure to check your insurance policies and read the fine print to know what you are and are not covered for!

Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians

The Disaster Recovery Assistance for Ontarians (DRAO) is a program designed to assist individuals to recover costs for **basic** needs after a natural disaster. The Province may activate DRAO for damages to private property if there is a sudden, unexpected natural event, such as a flood or wildfire that causes costly and widespread damage in a geographic area.

The Minister responsible for this program can activate it at any time, however individuals are then responsible for applying and being deemed eligible.

72 Hour Emergency Preparedness Kit



The Red Cross recommends that you keep a disaster preparedness kit in your home with enough supplies to meet your family's needs for at least 72 hours. By taking the time now to store food, water and other supplies, you can provide for your entire family in the event of an emergency.

Water
(at least one litre per person per day)



Copies of important documents
such as health card, phone numbers, insurance...



Non perishable food



Cash (in small bills)



Change of clothes
several sets per person



Medication at least
72 hours worth



Keys for
house, car



Basic first aid
kit (one per
family)

Additional Items:

- Crank or battery-operated flashlight with extra batteries
- Manual can opener
- Special needs items like formula, walkers
- Personal hygiene items
- Change of clothes and footwear
- Scissors and a pocket knife
- Hand sanitizer
- Garbage bags and twist ties
- Multi-tools or basic tools
- Duct tape
- Sleeping bag or warm blankets
- Pet food and medication
- Whistle
- Plastic sheeting

7-10 DAY EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS KIT

CHECKLIST

Not every emergency requires evacuation. Some require prolonged periods of stay in the home – possibly with limited resources. In a remote northern community, it is very important to ensure that you are prepared to take care of yourself for a minimum of 7-10 days in the event of an emergency.



More information – including some exercises you can do with your family - can be found at www.redcross.ca/ready.

Individual & Family Preparedness

It Starts With You! (brochure)

Additional Considerations:

- Important documents or copies of them (i.e. identification, insurance records)
- Emergency Plan and contact information
- Infant/Child Items (diapers, wipes, toys)

Ensure you include additional items that are specific to you and/or your family's needs!

Links:

- [Emergency preparedness guide for people with disabilities](#)
- [Be prepared for an emergency.](#)
- [Make an emergency plan](#) (downloadable template available)
- [Build your own emergency preparedness action plan](#)
- [Abbotsford, British Columbia: Emergency Guides and Checklists](#)

We aren't always at home when an emergency happens, so consider an emergency car kit as well!

EMERGENCY CAR KIT LIST

If you are ever told to evacuate by emergency officials

Evacuate Immediately!

Hazard Specific Info



Wildfire



Flood



Power Outages and Blackouts



Winter Storms



Thunderstorms



Tornados



Extreme Heat

**For this information and more, please visit
www.ontario.ca/emergencypreparedness**



Evacuations



Evacuating Your Home

It is important to think about how you would quickly leave your home in the event of an emergency such as a house fire.

- Plan several escape routes and make sure everyone in your family knows these routes.
- As a family, regularly practice leaving your home using the planned escape routes.
- Decide on a meeting place outside of your home where family members can gather if they have to quickly evacuate the home.

Evacuating Your Community

Some disasters, such as floods, forest fires, and major power outages, can create very unsafe conditions. If your safety is at risk, community officials may ask you to evacuate or leave your home.

- Evacuation orders are usually broadcast through the media on local radio and television stations.
- An evacuation order may also be delivered by emergency service personnel from an emergency vehicle using a loudspeaker.
- Always follow the directions of community officials when they ask you to evacuate. It is for your safety.
- When you are asked to evacuate, you will be told where to go.
- You may be sent to a local evacuation centre or to an evacuation point.



Evacuations



IF TIME PERMITS AND IT IS SAFE TO DO SO, BEFORE YOU LEAVE YOUR HOME:

- Eat a meal – it could be a while until the next chance.
- Turn off all fans, vents and heating systems and close the fireplace damper.
- If evacuating your home for a prolonged period during cold weather, drain water from the plumbing system. Turn off the main water supply and then, starting at the top of the house open all taps, flush toilets several times and open the drain valve in the basement (if you have one). Drain your hot water tank by attaching a hose to the tank drain valve and running the hose to the basement floor drain.
- If you are evacuating due to a flood, move any valuable items from the floor/basement to limit potential water damage.

ONCE TOLD TO EVACUATE, DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Ensure everyone in your family has their “grab and go” bag.
2. Shut off your water at the main valve.
3. Unplug everything but leave your electricity on (unless your community has instructed you otherwise).
4. Turn off all lights and lock all doors and windows prior to leaving.
5. Proceed to your evacuation point.

Tips:

- *Make sure to wear shoes and clothing appropriate for the conditions.*
- *Offer to help any neighbours who may need assistance evacuating.*
- *Use only the travel routes provided by community officials as you leave. Using a shortcut could take you to a dangerous area or a road that is blocked.*
- *If you have family members or friends who are camping or hunting in the area when you are ordered to evacuate, make sure to advise emergency personnel/community officials. Tell them where the camp is located and who is at the camp. If you can, communicate with the camp via satellite phone, advise family members or friends of the evacuation order.*

Project Scope

This emergency preparedness project, funded by the Community Emergency Preparedness Grant, has not only allowed NEST to create this guide, it has also focused on updating our emergency plan, providing training, and the purchase of essential equipment.

Website Links for more information

- www.getprepared.gc.ca
- www.ontario.ca/page/emergency-management
- www.redcross.ca
- www.facebook.com/NolaluEmergencyServicesTeam
- www.nolalu.ca
- www.firesmoke.ca - current/upcoming smoke forecast
- www.connexontario.ca - mental health services
- www.ontario.ca/page/forest-fires
- www.weather.gc.ca

References

Government of Canada
Emergency Management Ontario
Government of Ontario
Canadian Red Cross
Abbotsford, BC, Emergency Program
Nolalu Emergency Services Team

Created by



EMERGENCY NUMBERS

In the event of an emergency dial 911

Rural Dispatch Fire/EMS/OPP
807-473-5200 Emergency Only

Ontario Provincial Police: 1-888-310-1122

For Nolalu specific information during an
emergency event: 807-475-4441 or 211 or our
[NEST Facebook Page](#)

Services or supports that are available in
your community (available 24/7): 211

Highway conditions: 511

NEST non-emergency
Phone: 807-475-4441
Email: info@nolalunest.com

