

VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE

EVACUATION PLAN



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INDEX

Cover
Index
Purpose
Objectives
Emergency Definition
Potential Community Hazards
Shelter in Place Order
Recommended/Precautionary Evacuation Order
Mandatory Evacuation Order
Action Steps of Evacuation Plan
Evacuation Incident Command Structure
Public Notification
Authority to Enter Buildings & Premises
Evacuation Instructions
Special Needs Population
Primary Evacuation Routes
Residential Evacuation Advice Checklist
Traffic Control Points
Stewart Nicks School & Day Care Centres
Security
Human & Animal Evacuation Flagging System
Return of Evacuees



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

PURPOSE

The purpose of the Village of Grand Coulee Public Safety Plan is to serve as a guide for Grand Coulee emergency responders and to educate the citizens and guests of Grand Coulee on how to respond to an emergency affecting public safety. This Evacuation Plan includes plans for sheltering in place as well as for the partial and full evacuation of the Village. Any large scale incident could result in severe effects to our citizens, infrastructure and economy.

Sheltering in place or evacuation may be made necessary for a number of reasons. Some occurrences will be short term (less than 24 hours) while others may be for a longer term (more than 24 hours). Some occurrences may allow residents time to prepare (1 or 2 hours) while other orders may only provide a few minute's notice. Therefore, shelter in place or evacuation orders will vary depending on each situation. This plan is general in nature.

OBJECTIVES

1. Protection of life and property.
2. Timely and efficient notifications to the public.
3. Orderly shelter in place or evacuation of portions or the entirety of the Village of Grand Coulee.
4. Manage the evacuation egress so as not to interfere with the ingress of emergency responders.
5. Maintain security during the shelter in place and evacuation period.
6. Safe and orderly return of evacuees.

EMERGENCY DEFINITION

An emergency is defined as a situation, or the threat of an impending situation, having the potential to abnormally affect lives, property, the environment, or to threaten grave public disorder and by its nature and magnitude requires controlled and coordinated response by a number of agencies, as distinct from routine operations.

POTENTIAL COMMUNITY HAZARDS

1. Severe Weather
2. Fire – Interface & Wildfire
3. Critical Facility Failure



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

4. Explosions or Emissions
5. Transport Accident – Rail
6. Dangerous Goods Spill
7. Transport Accident – Road

If any emergency or disaster makes it necessary to shelter in place or evacuate all or any portion of the Village of Grand Coulee, the following procedures will be followed.

SHELTER IN PLACE ORDER

Some emergencies may involve the release of some form of chemical, biological radiological or nuclear materials. In such a circumstance, you may be required to stay right where you are. It may be that the particular circumstances make that safer for you and emergency personnel than evacuating you immediately to a different location.

During an emergency, you will receive information regarding the incident, and should you hear of the Order to Shelter in Place, that means that you should:

- ✚ Go inside your home or closest building to you as quickly as possible.
- ✚ Close all the doors, windows, fireplaces, vents or other openings. Use duct tape, foil or plastic wrap to seal leaks.
- ✚ Turn off all heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems. Close vents.
- ✚ Close drapes, curtains and shades.
- ✚ Stay away from external windows.
- ✚ Use telephones only if you require immediate emergency service.
- ✚ Turn on your radio or television for information updates
- ✚ You will be advised of the nature of any toxic substance that may have created exposure to the public, and the accompanying symptoms. You will be advised to seek medical attention at an identified location.

If you are sheltering in place, DO NOT:

- ✚ Call your children's school or try to pick up your children. They will be safer sheltering in place at school than they would be riding in your vehicle through a potentially hazardous area.
- ✚ Risk your safety for your pets. If they cannot be found immediately, shelter in place without them.
- ✚ Leave your building or home until you receive notification that the danger has passed.



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

RECOMMENDED/PRECAUTIONARY EVACUATION ORDER

This evacuation order is issued when it is believed that a hazard has a high probability of posing significant threat to people living in the areas at risk. Citizens are encouraged to leave the danger area; however, the decision to evacuate will be theirs. It will be issued when the probability of impact by the hazard is high and the vulnerability of the residents is great.

MANDATORY EVACUATION ORDER

This evacuation order is issued when it is believed that a hazard is almost certain to adversely impact the area. After a Mandatory Evacuation Order has been issued, all persons are required to evacuate the danger zone. If persons refuse to leave, they will be given lawful orders to leave and will be advised that no emergency resources will be endangered to rescue them at a later time.

ACTION STEPS OF EVACUATION PLAN

1. Incident Occurs
2. Emergency Services Respond
3. Situation Assessed
4. EOC Activated
5. Declaration of Emergency
6. Emergency Plan Activated
7. Precautionary/Mandatory Evacuation Ordered by Incident Commander
8. Evacuation Initiated
9. Security of Evacuated Areas Maintained by Law Enforcement
10. Return of Evacuees

SHELTER IN PLACE & EVACUATION INCIDENT COMMAND STRUCTURE

In critical incidents of the magnitude requiring shelter in place or evacuation, the Grand Coulee Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) will be activated.

Incident Commander and EOC staff will determine the following:

1. Boundaries of area for shelter in place or to be evacuated
2. Identify primary evacuation routes
3. Identify primary emergency vehicle ingress routes
4. Identify necessary traffic control points
5. Identify reception locations



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

Incident Commander through the EOC shall:

1. Order the appropriate shelter in place or evacuation
2. Initiate public notification of shelter in place or evacuation

PUBLIC NOTIFICATION

When implementing the Public Safety Plan, the EOC will utilize Phone Notification, Emergency Alert via AM/FM radio stations, text messages to enrolled cell phones, and homes in the affected area(s). All messages will contain emergency and shelter in place or evacuation instructions. First responders will go door-to-door and/or drive through neighborhoods making public notifications on emergency loud speakers.

The Public Information Officer will keep the public and the media updated on the nature of the emergency and shelter in place or evacuation procedures. As evacuations become probable, the PIO will disseminate information to the public regarding evacuation preparation along with information on how to sustain themselves and members of their family for up to 72 hours. The PIO will conduct regular media briefings at an established location. Public Information Officers for the Village of Grand Coulee will initiate periodic updates of the Village's website www.grandcoulee.ca containing emergency evacuation instructions. Email and fax notifications will be sent to local lodging companies, and local media updating emergency information and evacuation procedures. Additionally, the PIO will disseminate information and a phone number for persons with disabilities needing public transportation to the reception centre.

AUTHORITY TO ENTER BUILDINGS & PREMISES

"Whenever an emergency exists, upon declaration of a state of local emergency the local authority may "authorize the entry into any building or on any land, without warrant, by any person when necessary for the implementation of an emergency plan" (*The Emergency Planning Act 1989*)

EVACUATION INSTRUCTIONS

A. Self-Evacuation by Vehicle:

- ✚ Exit the area/neighborhood utilizing designated evacuation routes.

B. Unable to Self-Evacuate



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

- ✚ Persons who are unable to self evacuate should call the village office 352-8694 for pick-up by appropriate transportation. The Emergency Operations Center will disseminate information for persons needing transportation to a sheltering location.

You are expected to self-evacuate is able to do so.

Citizens who self-evacuate will be asked to indicate that they have already evacuated their residence by displaying a large, white object, such as a sheet, inside the residence, in a visible, conspicuous location, in the front, street-side of their home and to turn on their porch light.

SPECIAL NEEDS POPULATION

There are citizens and guests that will require assistance leaving their residence or those who have medical needs that require electricity in the case of a power outage. Persons with disabilities requiring assistance should call 911 advising their location and their need to evacuate. This is only for those who do not have transportation and cannot self evacuate.

PRIMARY EVACUATION ROUTES

The Village of Grand Coulee Public Works Department will assign heavy equipment to patrol the primary evacuation routes within the Village limits to keep them free from debris and open for egress and ingress.

Eastbound on Railway Avenue to the North/South Grand Coulee access is designated as the primary evacuation route out of Grand Coulee. Westbound on Railway Avenue or Saskatchewan Avenue to the North bound grid road is designated as the secondary evacuation route out of Grand Coulee. All evacuation routes identified in this plan direct motor vehicle traffic to the Dewdney Avenue extension or Highway 1 for either a eastbound or westbound egress.

The following evacuation routes are highlighted on the attached map (Appendix 1).

TRAFFIC CONTROL POINTS

Traffic control may be required to facilitate egress of evacuees and ingress of emergency responders.

Primary access for responding emergency services will be from the east (Railway Ave). Secondary access shall be from the west (Railway Ave or Saskatchewan Ave). If



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

required non-emergency access may be curtailed to allow for the unhindered access of emergency response units to the incident along one or both routes.

The RCMP shall, when requested by the EOC or Incident Commander control the flow of traffic along the designated route.

RESIDENTIAL EVACUATION ADVICE CHECKLIST

Preparation:

In the event of an evacuation, it is important for each evacuee to prepare in advance for their own needs during the initial hours of the evacuation. It is recommended that each household prepare 72 Hour Emergency Kits to sustain all family members and pets until a full support response can be mustered.

See <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca/knw/kt/kt-eng.aspx> for more details regarding 72 hour preparation.

If time is available or notice of intent to evacuate the area is given, the following preparations should be immediately undertaken by residents:

- ✚ Gather required medications.
- ✚ Ensure all local family members are aware of the impending situation and your evacuation intentions.
- ✚ Private motor vehicles should be prepared.
- ✚ Emergency supplies should be readied.
- ✚ Secure your home on departure.
- ✚ Alert family members/friends outside of the Grand Coulee area of the impending situation and your evacuation intentions.

STEWART NICKS SCHOOL & DAY CARE CENTRES

School children will be evacuated in accordance with the school/day care center Emergency Policies and Procedures.

SECURITY

To ensure the evacuation is complete:

Security of vacated areas will be maintained by the RCMP.

During an evacuation, roadblocks into the area will be maintained by the Police, supplemented by designated emergency responder/volunteer assistance, as required.



VILLAGE OF GRAND COULEE EVACUATION PLAN

Access to an evacuated area will be restricted to authorized emergency personnel.

Only when the area is determined to be safe shall residents with proper identification be allowed to return to the area. Depending on the circumstances, residents will initially be allowed in the area to remove personal items from residences, however, occupancy will not be allowed until utility services have been restored and structures have been deemed to be safe. Every effort will be made to verify the identity of persons claiming to be residents but without identification, however, if identity cannot be determined persons will not be allowed into secure areas. Members of the media will be allowed into secure areas during organized media tours and/or when accompanied by authorized persons.

HUMAN & ANIMAL EVACUATION FLAGGING SYSTEM

As part of the evacuation procedure, emergency personnel will go door to door in an attempt to ensure that all residents of the area have been notified of the evacuation order and to assist any persons who wish to leave but are unable to do so. Emergency responders shall utilize a designated flagging system to classify the status of the structure, occupants and animals. Emergency responders will place a colored tape on the front door of the structure or at the end of the driveway to indicate the occupancy status. Emergency responders will record occupancy status on map

Green – Occupant was contacted and understands evacuation condition.

Yellow – Contact attempted. No contact made.

Blue – Pets or livestock unattended at residence. Can be combined with Green or Yellow.

Red – Occupant refuses to leave the property.

RETURN OF EVACUEES

1. The Incident Commander and EOC Command Staff will monitor the area in order to determine when the area(s) is safe for return.
2. The Incident Commander will approve the order to allow residents to return.
3. Designated return routes and appropriate public information will be provided to evacuees through the village notification system.

