

Emergency Preparedness Plan



Emergency contacts

City of Vaughan

Service Vaughan

- Telephone: 905-832-2281
- TTY: 1-866-543-0545
- North American toll free: 1-844-832-2112
- Email: service@vaughan.ca
- Website: vaughan.ca

Social media channels

- X (formerly Twitter): [@City_of_Vaughan](https://twitter.com/City_of_Vaughan)
- Facebook: [/thecityofvaughan](https://www.facebook.com/thecityofvaughan)
- Instagram: [@cityofvaughan](https://www.instagram.com/cityofvaughan)

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service general inquires

- 905-832-8506

Animal Services

- Telephone: 905-832-8505
- Email: animal.services@vaughan.ca

Building Standards (inspectors)

- 905-832-8511

Other emergency contacts

York Region Public Health

- 905-895-4511

Alectra Outage Centre

- 1-833-253-2872

Environment Canada

Weather Alerts

- weather.gc.ca

Enbridge Gas Emergency Line

- 1-866-763-5427

My emergency contacts

Insurance company and phone number

Family's emergency contact and phone number

Children's schools/daycare and phone number

IN THE EVENT OF AN EMERGENCY, CALL 9-1-1.

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Emergency public alerting

In case of an emergency or disaster, the City of Vaughan and other reliable sources will communicate through these various methods:

- City website
- eNewsletter
- Social media (X, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn)
- Recorded messages on City phone lines
- Automated calling
- Mobile signs
- Radio
- TV
- Newspaper
- Door to door
- Loudspeaker
- Weather agencies/groups (Environment Canada, Weather Network, etc.)
- Alert Ready
- Provincial or Federal updates



Emergency preparedness tip

Your cellphone may not work during an emergency. Have a plan for how your family will stay in contact.

You may not have access to electricity and some of these methods. Make sure you have a plan to stay informed.

Be prepared for an emergency

Every resident of Vaughan has a responsibility to be prepared for an emergency. A disaster or emergency can happen with little to no warning, and some emergencies may leave you confined to your home for several days. **It is essential your family is prepared to be self-sufficient for at least three days or 72 hours.**

Our family emergency plan contains:

- emergency contact numbers
- home escape plan
- emergency meeting places
- emergency kit checklists
- arrangements for pets
- shelter-in-place procedures
- evacuation procedures
- possible types of emergencies



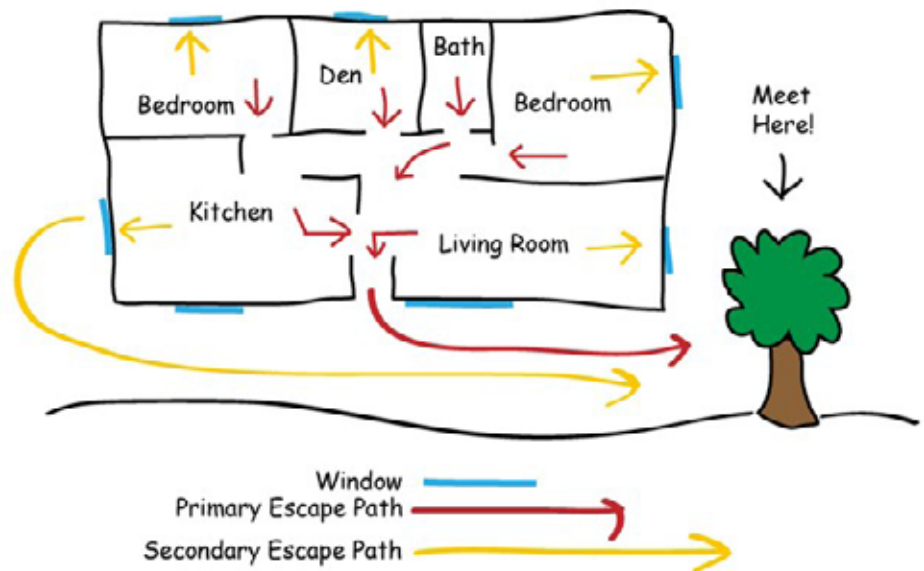


Home escape plan

Making and practising your home escape plan can prepare your family for an emergency.

- Draw your home's floor plan, including all doors, windows and stairs for each level, and note any features that could help you escape, such as a garage or a balcony.
- Mark at least two escape routes from each room so if the door is blocked, you know another way out.

Here is an example – from the Ontario Association of Fire Chiefs – of a home escape plan for the first floor.



Your escape plan

Draw your floor plan below showing a primary and secondary exit for each room. If your house has multiple levels, use the next box.





Emergency meeting places

Decide on a meeting place outside your home to call 9-1-1 and wait for the fire department to arrive. It could be a street sign, mailbox or bus stop. At the meeting place, count your family members and tell firefighters if anybody is still inside. Never go back into a burning building.

Primary local meeting place (e.g. stop sign at the end of your street)

Secondary local meeting place (e.g. community mailbox)

Out-of-town meeting place (e.g. aunt, uncle, grandparent, friend)

Name:

Address:

Phone number:



Emergency preparedness tip

If your family is in different locations when an emergency happens and you cannot reach your local meeting places, contact your out-of-town meeting place. That will be the central communication point for everyone.

Emergency preparedness kits

Prepare for the unexpected by creating emergency survival kits. The kits should be assembled with 72 hours in mind, allowing you and your family to survive at least three days without utilities.

You should have a kit for your:

- home
- vehicle
- pet

Create kits that best meet the specific needs of your family. Store the items in an easy-to-carry container, such as a backpack, duffle bag or plastic bin, in an easily accessible location near the main living area of your home.



Emergency preparedness tip

Scan and save important documents and photos to a flash drive. Store the drive at an offsite location or safety deposit box.





Home emergency kit

The following are recommended emergency kit items for your home. Use this list to help you create your kit or identify where the items are located in your home.

ITEMS	LOCATION
Backpack, duffle bag plastic bin to store kit	
Water (four litres per person, per day)	
Canned/non-perishable foods	
Flashlight and radio (crank or battery powered)	
Spare batteries	
First aid kit	
Candles (in safety container), matches and lighter	
Manual can opener	
Important documents (e.g. insurance, identification)	
Extra car keys and cash	
Duct or packing tape	
Clothing and footwear (at least one complete change of clothes per person)	
Blankets or sleeping bag	
Personal grooming items and toilet paper	
Games, toys, puzzles	

ITEMS	LOCATION
Non-prescription medications	
Personal care items	
Fire extinguisher	
Plastic sheeting	

The location of our emergency kit is:



Emergency preparedness tip

Every person and family has unique needs, when making your emergency kit make sure you include any items you or your family will need within 72 hours.

When you change the batteries in your smoke alarms (every six months), you should also change the batteries, food and water in your emergency kit.



Vehicle emergency kit

The following are recommended emergency kit items for your vehicle:

- Backpack, duffle bag or plastic bin to store kit
- Cellphone charger
- Booster cables
- Vehicle fluids
- Emergency flares or warning triangles
- Emergency food pack
- Bottled water
- Shovel
- Tire gauge and air compressor
- Flashlight and batteries
- Assorted tools
- First aid kit
- Blanket
- Emergency candles and matches
- Maps
- Ice scraper/brush
- Fire extinguisher (type BC)



Pet emergency kit

The following are recommended emergency kit items for your pet:

- Backpack, duffle bag or plastic bin to store kit
- Minimum three-day supply of food and water
- Small bowls for food and water
- Manual can opener for canned food
- Leash, harness or muzzle
- Name tag and photos
- Medical records or medicine (if needed)
- Name and phone number of veterinarian
- Blanket and favourite toy
- Plastic bags, litter and litter scooper
- Carrier or cage

The location of our pet emergency kit is:

Take your pet with you if you have to leave your home because of a disaster. If your pet is left behind:

- fill out the form on the next page and give it to Animal Services staff at an emergency shelter.
- flip to the Resources section of this document, cut off the “Pet inside” sign and post it on a door or window.



Pet Record

If your pet is left behind during an emergency, complete this form and give it to Animal Services staff at the emergency shelter or call 905-832-8505.

Fill in the information about your pet and provide a photo or description.

Type of pet: _____

Pet's name: _____

Temperament of animal:

Friendly Timid Aggressive Vicious

Contact name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Location of animal in home: _____

Feeding/special instructions: _____

TO BE COMPLETED BY AN EMERGENCY WORKER ONLY.

Dates animal checked:

--	--	--	--	--

Animal remains in home. Owner notified by: _____

Animal removed to shelter. Name/address of shelter:

Date: _____

Photo/Description



Shelter in place

Sheltering in place means staying indoors because an emergency is about to occur or is occurring, and it's too dangerous to go outside. The duration of sheltering in place will depend on the specific situation; however, it can range from a few hours while waiting for a tornado to pass through or several days when an ice storm leaves you without electricity and other utilities.

Our family's shelter-in-place room is:

(It should be an interior room without windows and above ground level; however, in case of a tornado, the basement is preferred.)

Steps for sheltering in place

- Bring family and pets inside the home.
- Lock all doors and close windows.
- Close air vents.
- Turn off fans, air conditioners or anything that brings air into the home.
- Seal all windows, doors and air vents with plastic sheeting and duct or packaging tape.
- Stay away from windows and doors.
- Get your emergency kit and pet kit.
- Go to your shelter-in-place room.
- Watch TV, listen to the radio and look online for updates from authorities on the current situation.
- Be ready to evacuate.



Emergency preparedness tip

Bring a phone or have a phone in your shelter-in-place room.





Evacuation

Evacuation can occur with little warning. It is important to be prepared with a plan ahead of time. Follow instructions by City officials immediately.

If you are required to evacuate your home, you can:

- seek shelter with family or friends that are outside the affected area.
- go to the City's emergency shelters. Tune into the City's channels to find out which community centres are designated as emergency shelters.
- post an "Evacuated" sign (see the Resources section of this document) on your home's front door or window.

If you need help evacuating, contact Service Vaughan:

- Phone: 905-832-2281
- TTY: 1-866-543-5045
- Email: service@vaughan.ca
- Website: vaughan.ca/ServiceVaughan



Emergency preparedness tip

Know how to turn off the water, gas and electricity in your home. Only turn off these utilities when instructed to do so by emergency officials. If you turn off the gas, **only the gas company can reconnect it.**

Emergency shelters

All City community centres are designated as emergency shelters.

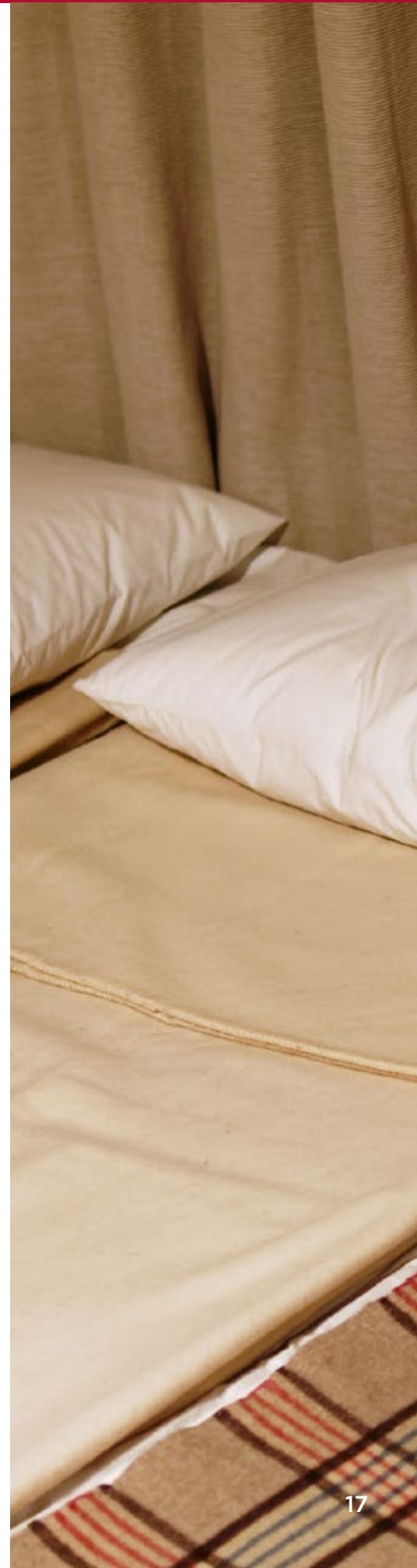
If our family needs to evacuate, the closest community centre to our house is:

The address for this community centre is:

The roads we can take to get there are:

Remember to:

- take your pet with you to the emergency shelter.
If your pet is left behind:
 - contact Animal Services at the emergency shelter or Service Vaughan.
 - post a “Pet inside” sign (see the Resources section of this document) on a door or window.
- register with the Canadian Red Cross when you arrive at the emergency shelter so family members can find you.



Types of emergencies

Extreme heat

Extreme heat can be dangerous for everyone, especially outdoor workers, older adults, some people with disabilities and children, particularly infants. Check on older family members, and never leave pets or children in hot cars.

Make sure you:

- stay indoors to limit sun exposure.
- avoid or limit physical and strenuous activity.
- drink plenty of water even when you are not thirsty.
- limit caffeine and alcohol use.
- stay on lower floors if there is no air conditioning.
- eat light, regular meals – avoid consuming salt.
- avoid using large appliances, such as stoves, ovens, washers and dryers.

If you are outdoors:

- avoid or limit physical and strenuous activity.
- drink water every 15 to 20 minutes, even if you don't feel thirsty.
- dress in light-coloured, loose-fitting clothing that covers as much skin as possible.
- wear a wide-brimmed hat to protect your face.
- wear UV-blocking sunglasses.
- apply sunscreen with SPF 15 or higher 20 minutes before going outside.
- reapply sunscreen every two hours.
- apply lip balm with SPF 15 or higher.

If you feel dizzy, weak or overheated, seek medical help immediately.

City community centres and libraries can be used as cooling centres. The closest community centre or library to our home is:

Floods

Flooding is one of the most frequent hazards in Canada and causes millions of dollars in damage annually.

Flash flooding of roads, catch basins, stormwater systems and rivers can occur with heavy rainfall over a short time. Floodwater can carry diseases, hazardous materials and debris that can cause harm to people and properties.

During a flood:

- Move valuable belongings to the highest areas of your home.
- Plug basement sewer drains and toilet connections with a wooden stopper.
- Turn off electricity and natural gas if directed to do so by authorities.
Do not shut off electricity if any water is present.
- Have sandbags ready to use.
- Stay away from fast-flowing streams, rivers and areas known to flood.
- Do not wait until water enters the home to evacuate. If you leave, post an "Evacuated" sign (see the Resource section of this document) on your home's front door or window.
- Do not drive through flooded streets and intersections.
Turn around and find a safer route.

After a flood:

- Restore the home to good order as soon as possible to prevent further damage to the home and its contents.
- While cleaning, minimize contact with floodwater or anything that may have been in contact with it.





Hazardous material incidents

Hazardous materials are chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive agents that pose a risk to life, health and the environment if released.

Hazardous material incidents can happen during transportation, production, storage or disposal. A release can be large in scale from tankers and storage tanks to a small spill of chemicals for a backyard pool.

If you see or smell hazardous materials:

- call 9-1-1.
- move away from the site.
- stay uphill and upwind as the air can carry hazardous material.
- go indoors and follow shelter-in-place procedures.
- turn on the radio or TV for further instructions from emergency responders.
- only evacuate if told to do so by authorities.



Health emergencies

Always follow guidelines and directions from York Region Public Health.

During a health emergency, always:

- seek medical attention if you think you were exposed to an infectious disease or contaminant.
- stay home if you are not feeling well.
- wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- cover nose and mouth to sneeze and cough.
- wear a mask.





Power outages

Freezing rain, ice storms and high winds can damage powerlines and equipment, and cause power outages. Cold snaps or heat waves can also overload the electric power system.

If the power goes out, check with Vaughan's local power provider, Alectra Utilities, for more information:

- 1-833-ALECTRA (1-833-253-2872)
- alectrautilities.com

During a power outage:

- Check with neighbours to see if they have power. If they do, it could be a problem with your home.
- If the power is out at homes in the surrounding area, notify Alectra Utilities.
- Turn off all non-essential appliances and unplug electronic equipment like TVs, computers, etc.
- Turn off all lights except for one. This lets you know when power is restored.
- Keep your refrigerator and freezer closed. A full freezer will keep food frozen for 24 to 36 hours if the door remains closed.
- Listen to a battery-powered or crank radio for information on the outage and advice from authorities.
- Use a flashlight. If you use candles, never leave them unattended.

If the power does not come back on and your house is too cold to stay in, go to a warming centre or emergency shelter. City community centres and libraries can be used as warming centres. The closest community centre or library to our home is:



Emergency preparedness tip

When in doubt, throw it out! In a power outage of 24 hours longer, throw out food in the fridge. In a power outage of 48 hours or longer, throw out food in the freezer.

Tornadoes

Vaughan has experienced tornadoes, which can strike anywhere between May and September.

Environment Canada issues a:

- **tornado watch** when a tornado is possible in the area.
- **tornado warning** where there is a high likelihood a tornado could form or a funnel cloud has been spotted in the area. In this instance, **take shelter immediately**.

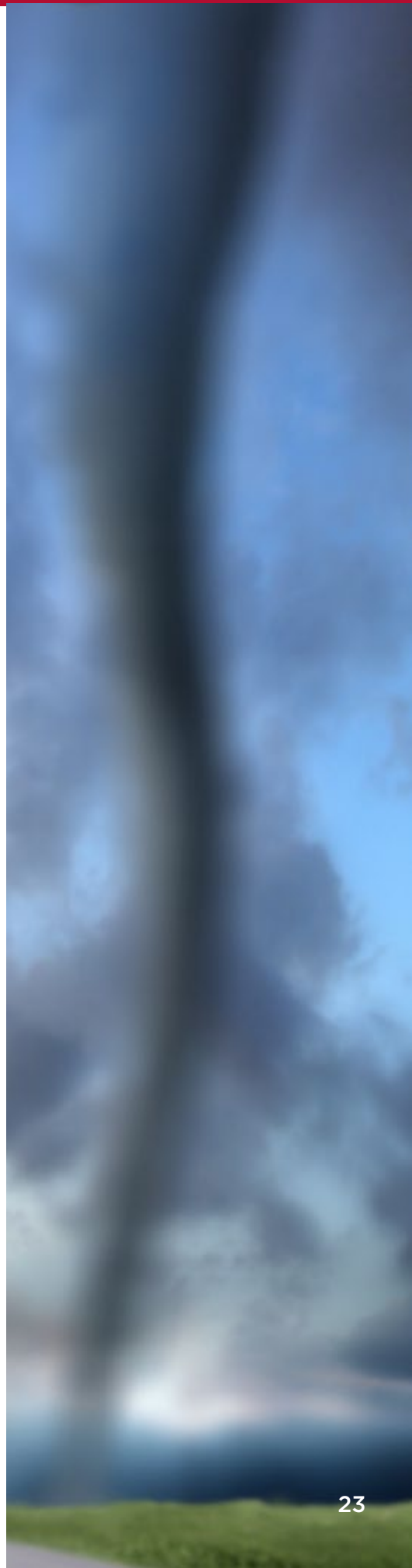
Alert Ready issues an alert if there is a high probability that a tornado may occur or is occurring in a specific area

Tornado safety when indoors

- Shelter in an interior area in a basement, small interior ground floor room or inner hallway.
- Stay away from windows, outside walls and doors.
- Get down on the floor and cover your head with your arms.
- Do not use elevators.

Tornado safety when outdoors

- Do not wait until the tornado is visible to get inside.
- If stuck outdoors, lay flat in a ditch and cover your head and neck with your arms.
- Do not shelter under bridges, as the winds are amplified and debris builds up, putting you at greater risk.





Winter storms

Winter storms typically involve heavy snowfall, cold temperatures and high winds. This can result in whiteouts and large amounts of drifting and blowing snow.

Stay safe at home

- Stay indoors. If you have to go outside, dress warmly.
- Bring pets inside.
- Ensure fireplaces are in working condition and you have enough fuel on hand.
- Remove snow and ice from the dryer, furnace, stove, fireplace exterior vents and exhaust pipes. If a vent is blocked, carbon monoxide (CO) can build up inside the home. CO is an invisible, tasteless and odourless gas that can cause serious illnesses and even be deadly.
- Remove snow from in front of all doors and ensure windows aren't frozen shut so you can easily escape in case of a fire.

Stay safe on the road

- Keep an emergency kit in your vehicle.
- Keep your gas tank at least half full in the winter and have extra washer fluid.
- If you get trapped in your vehicle, stay calm. Run the engine for 10 minutes every half hour to keep warm. Make sure the exhaust is not blocked by snow. Open the window slightly when running the engine. Remain with the vehicle.

Climate Change

Climate change continues to impact cities and countries around the world. We are seeing more heat waves, abnormal weather and powerful storms. One way to mitigate the impacts is to adapt through innovative and risk reducing measures.

Mitigating the risks

- Check to see what hazards are around your home (i.e. home on the flood plain).
- See what natural options you can implement around you to help reduce hazards.
- Ensure you have insurance to reduce financial risks.
- Make sure you are tuned into weather and emergency alerts.
- Ensure your home has plenty of green space to prevent flooding from heavy rain.

Ideas for mitigation

- Plant trees in your yard if you have one.
- Support the ecosystem by planting gardens.
- Consider using solar energy to power your home.
- Reduce the heat in your home with lighter coloured surfaces.
- Get a rain barrel to collect water to be used in the dry periods.
- Reduce your energy usage by turning off lights and unused appliances.





Generator safety tips

- Always read and follow the owner's manual before operating.
- Do not add fuel to the generator while it is running.
- Never feed power from a generator directly into wall outlets. Connect according to the manufacturer's directions.
- Keep the generator dry and on a level surface.
- Never operate a generator inside your home, garage or any enclosed area. Generators need an unlimited supply of fresh air. They also produce CO.
- Ensure a person who is knowledgeable with the generator is operating it.

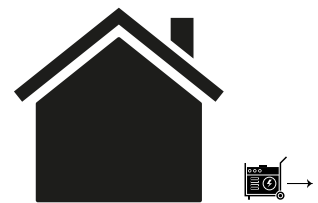
DANGER

Using a generator indoors **CAN KILL YOU IN MINUTES.**

Generator exhaust contains carbon monoxide.
This is a poison you cannot see or smell.



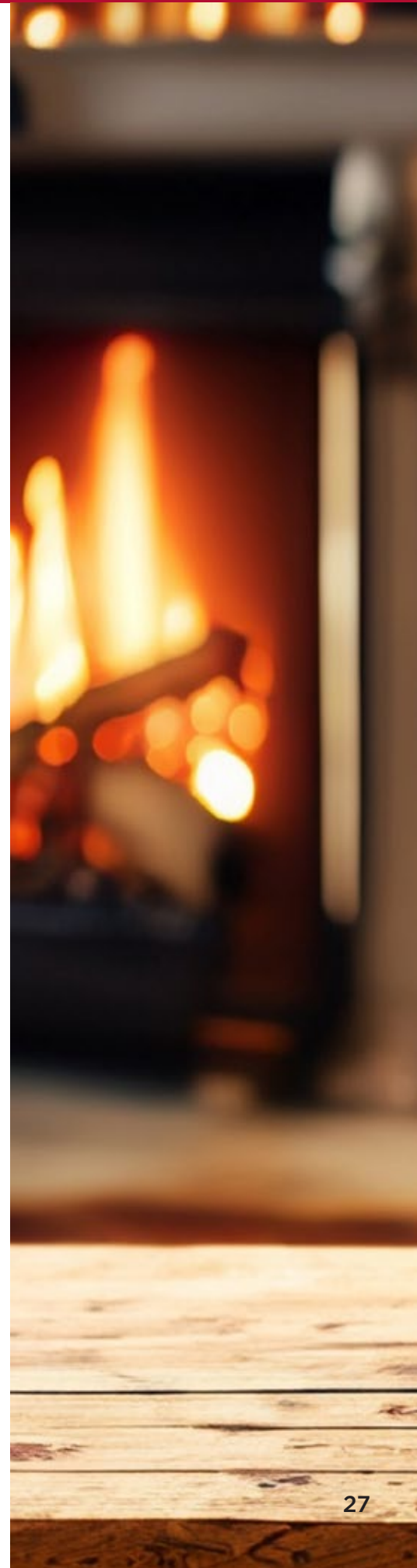
NEVER use inside a home or garage, **EVEN IF** doors and windows are open.



Only use **OUTSIDE** and far away from windows, doors and vents.

Fireplace safety tips

- Have a professional inspect and clean the chimney regularly.
- Make sure all pipes and connections are intact.
- Check for creosote and soot buildup.
- Always use a fire screen around the fireplace.
- Keep all combustibles – especially clothing, paper or wood products – at least three feet (one metre) away from a fireplace. These items ignite easily and should be kept well away from heating sources.
- Build your fire with a small amount of dry, seasoned wood to keep the flames under control. Never burn paper, boxes, cartons or other packaging material in the fireplace. They burn rapidly and generate a lot of heat.
- Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for fireplace inserts.
- Ensure someone who is knowledgeable with fireplace handling is overseeing.
- Check for birds nests in the chimney cup.





Notes

Add any special instructions or information for your family.

Resources

Alectra

- 1-833-253-2872
- alectrautilities.com

Alert Ready

- alertready.ca

Emergency Management Ontario

- [ontario.ca/
EmergencyManagement](http://ontario.ca/EmergencyManagement)

Vaughan Emergency Planning department

- 905-832-2281
- PrepE@vaughan.ca
- [vaughan.ca/
EmergencyPlanning](http://vaughan.ca/EmergencyPlanning)

Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service

- 905-832-8506
- firerescue@vaughan.ca
- vaughan.ca/fire

York Region

- 1-877-464-9675
- accessyork@york.ca
- york.ca/emergencies

Evacuated sign

In case of disaster, cut off this page and post this sign on a door or window if you need to evacuate your home.



Help sign

In case of disaster, cut off this page and post this sign on a door or window if help is needed.



Pet inside sign

In case of disaster, cut off this page and post this sign on a door or window if you have to leave your pet(s) inside your home.





Vaughan Fire and Rescue Service,
Emergency Planning department
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr.
Vaughan, ON, Canada L6A 1T1

905-832-2281
PrepE@vaughan.ca
vaughan.ca/EmergencyPreparedness

