

JULY 2025 / CITY OF CASTLEGAR

# What to Know This Quarter

## Be Prepared for Wildfire Season

All of us can take steps to reduce the risk and impact of wildfire. The goal of the [FireSmart BC program](#) is to support wildfire preparedness, prevention and mitigation. FireSmart assessments are scheduled between May and September. Please contact [firesmart@castlegar.ca](mailto:firesmart@castlegar.ca) to arrange an assessment. Reducing our risk is a shared responsibility involving all homeowners, neighbourhood leaders, government and participation from the private sector.

## Property Tax Pre-Payment Plan

### Helping you prepare for the 2026 property tax bill

The City can automatically withdraw ten equal pre-payments from August 15 to May 15 to apply towards next year's property tax bill. Prepaid amounts, and any remaining balance will be displayed on your annual property tax bill next year. Here's how you sign up:

- + Complete the application (all account holders must sign the application).
- + Attach a void cheque where you would like payments withdrawn.
- + Apply before August 6 to start the plan by August 15.

Please mail, drop off or email your application to [finance@castlegar.ca](mailto:finance@castlegar.ca)  
Learn more or download the application at [castlegar.ca/propertytaxes](https://castlegar.ca/propertytaxes)

## Stay Informed with Updates that Matter

### Voyent Alert!

Get real-time emergency notifications, personalized by location and delivery method.

### City News & Notices

Receive timely updates on Council decisions and City updates—customized to your interests.

Sign up at today at [castlegar.ca/subscribe](https://castlegar.ca/subscribe)

## PAYMENT METHODS

**Pre-authorized Debit Program:** The City will debit your account for the full amount of your quarterly bill on the due date. Download and complete the agreement at [castlegar.ca/utility](https://castlegar.ca/utility).



**Online Banking:** Log in to online banking, add a payee, choose the City of Castlegar Utilities and enter your 13 digit utility number. Make an online bill payment.

**Your Financial Institution:** Take your utility bill to the bank and pay through a teller.

**City Hall:** Take your bill to the front desk Monday – Friday, from 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM and pay by cash, cheque or debit.

**Credit Card:** [castlegar.ca/pay-online](https://castlegar.ca/pay-online)  
Please note there is a user fee for transactions charged by OptionPay.

**Mail Cheque to City Hall:** Please include the top portion of your utility bill.

# Evacuation Preparedness

## Grab-and-go Kit

Do you know the difference between an emergency kit and a grab-and-go kit? An emergency kit is designed to keep you safe when you shelter at home. A grab-and-go kit provides the essentials and keeps you comfortable when you leave your home. In the event of a natural disaster, you may need to leave home quickly. Take time now to build a grab-and-go kit with each member of your household in mind. Start with our basic list, then consider additional needs for your household.



### The Basics

- ❑ Bottled water and ready-to-eat food, like high-calorie power bars
- ❑ Phone charger/battery bank
- ❑ Small battery-powered or handcrank radio
- ❑ Battery-powered or handcrank flashlight
- ❑ Extra batteries
- ❑ Pen and notepad
- ❑ Whistle
- ❑ Toiletries
- ❑ Emergency blanket
- ❑ Small first aid kit
- ❑ Personal medications, and an extra pair of glasses or contact lenses & solution
- ❑ Copy of your emergency plan and important documents, such as insurance papers, birth certificates, mortgage, passport, etc.

### Kids

- ❑ Toys, books, etc.
- ❑ Comfort or sleep aides, such as a blanket or stuffed toy
- ❑ Snacks and drinks
- ❑ Bottles, diapers and wipes

### The Extras

Try to keep these items to the size of a backpack

- ❑ Book
- ❑ Toilet paper
- ❑ Cash (around \$100)
- ❑ Close-toed shoes
- ❑ Long pants, sweater or light jacket

[castlegar.ca/grabandgo](http://castlegar.ca/grabandgo)

Instructional videos on building grab-and-go kits, available at: [gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC/emergencykit](http://gov.bc.ca/PreparedBC/emergencykit)

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