

## **EVACUEE TIPS I WISH I HAD DURING THE FORT MCMURRAY EVACUATIONS:**

1. Go fuel your vehicles, all of them and keep them full until you are in the clear. This could potentially save you hours of waiting. Avoid traveling in more than one vehicle, keep everyone together! Drive safe, everyone on the highway is going through the same thing you are.
2. Keep a cell phone charger on you and continue to check in on family and friends whereabouts. Cell communication might be interrupted due to cell tower location, keep trying!
3. Set a location and time for a muster point and keep everyone up to date if this changes.
4. Have water (lots of water) and snacks ready to go - for pets too!
5. Have a change of clothes and anything you may need ready for an overnight evacuation.
6. Stay off of public social media pages. False information and rumors can spread quickly and may not be up to date. Get your information from a credited radio/news/government page and check time stamps on all posts. Government and radio Twitter accounts were the quickest to update the public with relevant information. **GIVE THEM TIME TO GET YOU OFFICIAL INFORMATION.**
7. Be prepared for things to change at a moment's notice (evacuation orders/highway closures).
8. Don't be afraid to take strangers up on offers of food, lodging, or whatever it may be. Hotels and campgrounds will fill up within minutes, let people help you during this time of need.
9. If (and only if) you have time, grab your important files/photos/keepsakes. Things can be replaced. Shut your gas off, companies will along the way but it's better to be safe! Help your neighbors!
10. **LISTEN TO EMERGENCY CREWS.** They are trying to help you and have most likely been awake for over 24 hours.
11. If you have the resources to self-evacuate, do it - do not wait till the last minute. Driving through the flames and chaos was the hardest part for myself. Give yourself time to safely evacuate your family.
12. Do what you can to help friends and neighbors get their pets to safety. If your pet is stuck at home alert the emergency crews and the regional district, they will do everything they can to help out.
13. Check in with the Red Cross online and evacuation centers as soon as you can.
14. Contact your insurance company immediately. If you are under evacuation order most insurance companies will email you money right away for an evacuation allowance. Keep all receipts and documents throughout the evacuation!

Stay safe 

(FACEBOOK POST)