



PRCS

Predator Ridge Community Safety...is our number one priority

www.prcemc.ca

Spring 2023

Important information regarding installation of the Predator Ridge Wildfire Evacuation Siren Predator Ridge Residents & Neighbours of Predator Ridge **PLEASE READ ME!**

Dear Friends and Neighbours,

Over the past couple of years, the Predator Ridge Community Safety Committee have been hard at work to establish a case for an emergency siren to be installed in our community. Now, with the support of its residents, Predator Ridge Resort and Sparkling Hill Resort, an Evacuation Siren will be installed this Spring.


We live in a community that butts against dense forest areas. Our community is spread out to retain some of its natural beauty and land area, but that makes evacuation more complex and extremely time-consuming. Hence, the siren fulfils a strategy that provides for timely notification of an evacuation situation, which lessens this complexity and contributes to a more safe and efficient evacuation should this ever be necessary.

We are sending you this notice to inform you that the siren will be installed on a utility pole located at the Predator Ridge Fire Station. The installation will commence in the last week of April with testing and commissioning of the siren conducted on or about May 1, 2023. During installation, the siren will sound intermitantly. Upon completing the installation phase, a full test of the siren will be conducted that will involve a 3-minute cycle of the siren tone.

There is no need to be alarmed or take any action at this time during the siren test.

The siren at Predator Ridge represents one part of the City of Vernon's broader public emergency notification system and will only be used specifically for wildfires. Other components might include the City of Vernon Alertable App, police and fire officials, text notification networks, and the media. This siren will only be used to notify residents and resort guests about an imminent threat from wildfire, when the City of Vernon has issued an Evacuation Order in our area. Additional information and notifications (e.g., where to evacuate to) will be available to residents & guests via the city's public emergency notification systems as noted.

This siren will support the City's existing emergency notification efforts, in particular by audibly notifying those who are in a remote outdoor location or are indoors and not near other forms of notification or wireless alerts.

On the following pages, you will find more information on the Wildfire Evacuation Siren, its operation and how we can all be prepared for an emergency such as wildfire should that ever be the case here in our community. The siren is simply another tool in the safety toolbox. It might not ever be activated but in the event it is, you will know what to do - **EVACUATE!** 



PRCS

Predator Ridge Community Safety...is our number one priority

www.prcemc.ca

Spring 2023

WILDFIRE

EVACUATION SIREN

PREDATOR RIDGE, BC

THE SIREN

The Evacuation Siren was installed **BECAUSE** we live in a community that butts against dense forest areas. Our community is spread out to retain some of its natural beauty and land area, but that makes evacuation more complex and extremely time-consuming. Hence, the siren fulfils a strategy that provides for timely notification of an evacuation situation, which lessens this complexity and contributes to a more safe and efficient evacuation should this be necessary.

WHEN YOU HEAR THE EMERGENCY EVACUATION SIREN YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY **EVACUATE**

- If it is safe to do so, notify your neighbours, friends, and family members of the situation, and who may not have heard the siren.
- Look for notifications from the City of Vernon. Tune in to local radio and check vernon.ca for updates.
- Remain calm and follow the instructions and directions provided by First Responders and the RCMP.
- Register as an evacuee, online at ess.gov.bc.ca.

HOW AND WHEN

The Evacuation Siren will only be activated to notify residents and guests to **EVACUATE** the area when imminent threat from wildfire results in the City of Vernon issuing an Evacuation Order for the Predator Ridge area.

OVERVIEW

The siren will support the City's other emergency notification efforts, in particular by audibly notifying those who are in a remote outdoor location, or are indoors and not near other forms of notification or wireless alerts.

SIREN ACTIVATION

- In the event of an EVACUATION ORDER, the siren will be activated by the City of Vernon.
- The siren will sound a wailing tone of 16 seconds on high pitch and 8 seconds low pitch repeating for 8 cycles or a total time length of 3 minutes.
- The siren tone will be repeated at the discretion of the Incident Commander or until deemed unnecessary.
- The siren is a signal that you need to EVACUATE. There will not be an "All Clear" siren tone. Residents will be notified by the City of Vernon when it is safe to return to their homes via its website, news media & other information channels.
- A full audible test of the siren will be conducted once per year in May to coincide with Canada's nationwide Alert Ready system test. Citizens will be notified well in advance of the siren test.

BE PREPARED

ALERTABLE MOBILE APP

Download the Alertable App onto your mobile phone or device to receive emergency notifications in our region.

<https://vernon.ca/alertable>

GET PREPARED

Maintain a personal Evacuation Kit and Grab and Go Bag.

<https://www.getprepared.gc.ca>



HAVE A PLAN

Your family may not be together at home when an evacuation is declared. Pre-arrange how you will communicate and where you will meet. Also consider where you would stay (if not at the Reception Centre).



YOUR PET

Don't forget about your pet

- Food & water (for 3 days), feeding dish, medications.
- Disposable litter tray
- Pet carrier, extra leash
- Toys, blanket & treats
- Photo of your pet

IF YOU ARE OUT ON THE TRAILS OR GOLFING

If you are out hiking or biking on the trails or on the golf course when the siren is activated, return to your home, gather your family and immediately prepare to EVACUATE following the instructions issued in the evacuation order notice received from the City of Vernon.

Remember, the Siren will only be activated in the event that an EVACUATION ORDER has been issued by the City of Vernon. Remain Calm and return to your home.

- Shut off utilities if instructed to do so.
- Take your evacuation kit including some clothing, medications, personal hygiene items, electronics & chargers.
- Lock up your home and travel to a safe location.
- Register online as an evacuee at ess.gov.bc.ca.

EVACUATION NOTICES

Upon notification of an EVACUATION ALERT, you should be prepared for a possible Evacuation Order by:

- Locating family members & designate a meeting place outside of the evacuation area, in the event an evacuation is called while you are separated from one another.
- Gather essential items such as medications, eyeglasses, valuable papers (i.e. insurance), immediate care needs for dependants and, if you choose, keepsakes, photographs, etc. Have these items readily available for quick departure.
- Arranging accommodation for your family in the event of an evacuation, is your responsibility. Review your insurance policy.

EVACUATION STAGES

The City of Vernon may declare the following stages in an emergency situation. Additional information can be found at: <https://vernon.ca/evacuationstages>

It is important to note that a **Tactical Evacuation** may be necessary if the emergency does not allow time for an Evacuation Alert or Order. A Tactical Evacuation will be immediate, and your actions must be **IMMEDIATE**.

EVACUATION ALERT

Be prepared to evacuate the area. If not already prepared, use this undetermined period of time to begin an orderly preparation for possible evacuation orders. You may wish to self-evacuate as this is only an alert.

EVACUATION ORDER

People have been ordered to evacuate the area. **The Siren will be activated.** This is an order and there is no room for discretionary decision making on the part of the population at risk. You must **EVACUATE**. Once you are safely evacuated, register online as an evacuee at ess.gov.bc.ca.

TACTICAL EVACUATION

The emergency does not allow for any warnings to prepare to evacuate. This **EVACUATION** is immediate due to a threat to your life safety. **The Siren will be activated.**

EVACUATION RESCIND

The population that was ordered out of the area previously may now return as the danger has passed. People are requested to remain ready and alert in case the situation changes. Continue monitoring local news and vernon.ca for updates.

EVACUATION ROUTE

First Responders and the RCMP will determine the safest route for evacuation (based on the location of the wildfire), and will direct the public accordingly. **FOLLOW THEIR INSTRUCTIONS & DIRECTIONS.**

REGISTER ONLINE

The City of Vernon will set up a Reception and Information Centre at a safe location. Register online as an evacuee at ess.gov.bc.ca.

Only attend the Reception Centre if you do not have available resources for basic needs such as shelter.





PRCS

Predator Ridge Community Safety...is our number one priority

TESTING THE SIREN

The siren will be tested on the first Wednesday of each month as follows:

- AC Test w/Report (AC/DC Sirens) – at 10:00 am. This test will check the AC power to the siren and perform a 1 second siren growl.
- DC Test w/Report (AC/DC Sirens) – at 11:00 am. This test will check the DC power to the siren and perform a 1 second siren growl.

The siren growl test is for the most part not audible and only lasts for about one second. Following the test, A verification report is sent out to the siren administrators.

COVERAGE AREA

The Siren will be audible within the **large red circle** coverage area. Based on the terrain mapping, it will be the loudest (80 - >100 dB) within the area delineated by the yellow line.



CONTRIBUTE NOW - GOFUNDME

Predator Ridge Residents.... To date, only 30% of the homes in our community have made their contribution. If you haven't already done so, please make your siren contribution of \$75 - \$100 now by visiting the GoFundMe Campaign site:

<https://gofund.me/aff08973>

ALERT READY SYSTEM TEST

In addition to the automated monthly AC/DC Growl tests noted, there will be a **full audible test** of the siren, conducted once yearly in the month of May.

This will not be an automatic scheduled test, but rather, be initiated by the City of Vernon to coincide with Canada's nationwide Alert Ready system test.

In the event that a wildfire evacuation alert or warning, be in effect for the Predator Ridge Neighbourhood prior to the nationwide Alert Ready system test, the siren will not be tested on that day.

Residents will be notified prior to this particular test.