



# SIoux LOOKOUT

## Hub of the North

The Corporation of the  
Municipality of Sioux Lookout  
25 Fifth Avenue, P.O. Box 158  
Sioux Lookout, Ontario • P8T 1A4  
Telephone: (807) 737-2700  
Facsimile: (807) 737-3436  
[www.sioxlookout.ca](http://www.sioxlookout.ca)

## MEDIA RELEASE

July 14, 2021

~ FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE ~

### **Smoke Causing Concern for Local Residents**

*Sioux Lookout, ON* – Smoke in the air and multiple air quality advisories in recent days are causing concern for many local residents. While Northwestern Ontario has a number of active forest fires, none pose any immediate danger to the citizens of Sioux Lookout.

Smoke from fires across the Northwestern Ontario and eastern Manitoba continues to cause reduced visibility as well as physical symptoms such as coughing, eye and throat irritation, headaches, and shortness of breath. The poor air quality can be especially serious for seniors, children, and those with medical conditions such as asthma. Radar-style smoke forecasts are available online at [www.firesmoke.ca](http://www.firesmoke.ca).

With more high temperatures and no significant rainfall forecast, the forest fire hazard in the region remains high to extreme. Forest fires can start unexpectedly and grow out of control quickly. During times of high fire hazard, it's always best to be prepared. Here are a few things you can do to prepare for ANY emergency, including storms and evacuations:

- Create and keep an emergency kit containing
  - Two litres of drinking water for each person in your household
  - A 72 hour supply of non-perishable food that can be eaten uncooked – along with utensils to open and eat them like can openers and cutlery
  - Any special need items like diapers and formula
  - Toilet paper
  - A week's supply of prescription medications and over-the-counter medications
  - Sleeping bags
  - At least one change of clothing
  - Personal hygiene products
  - Flashlights and extra batteries
  - A battery operated radio to receive news updates if internet connections aren't available
  - At least \$100 cash, in small bills
  - A fully charged battery bank for recharging cell phones/mobile devices
- Keep important documents (passports, birth certificates, status cards, health cards, etc) somewhere they can be picked up and taken with you quickly
- Determine an out of town contact you can call for temporary shelter

- Make sure your vehicle's gas tank at least half full. In the event of an emergency mass evacuation, line-ups for gas may be long – or refuelling may not even be possible

While Sioux Lookout is not under any threat of evacuation from forest fires, the Municipality may become a hub for northern evacuees. This may include coordinating transportation, hosting evacuees overnight, and helping with food and services to those displaced by fires.

Please note that Sioux Lookout remains under a Ministry of Northern Development, Mines, Natural Resources, and Forestry-issued Restricted Fire Zone (RFZ) until further notice. That means no open burning is allowed and all Municipally-issued fire permits are suspended until the RFZ is lifted.

Sioux Lookout's official Emergency Plan can be found on our website by visiting <https://www.siouxlookout.ca/en/resources/Emergency-Plan-2020-Public.pdf>.

**More emergency preparedness tips can be found at <http://www.getprepared.qc.ca/>.**

-30-

**For more information, please contact:**

Brian P. MacKinnon, Manager of Corporate Services/Municipal Clerk  
807-738-2170 or [clerk@siouxlookout.ca](mailto:clerk@siouxlookout.ca)