

Edmonton Disaster Timetable* (updated November 2010)

Year	Incident
1892	Smallpox: Health inspectors inspected incoming trains and placed restrictions on travel from infected areas. Infected households quarantined. Led to creation of first Board of Health on July 23, 1892. During 1908-1911 there was obligatory smallpox vaccination for all school-aged children.
1901	Thunderstorm: Hail the size of pigeon eggs
1903	The Great Prairie Blizzard: Thousands stranded. Bright sunlight reflected off snow causing snow blindness* for human and animals
1911-1913	Scarlet Fever: Vigorous campaign to educate housewives on disease transmission and how to “swat flies.”
1912	Typhoid Fever Outbreak: Filtration and chlorination of the north side water plant and completion of the south side water treatment plant helped to prevent future outbreaks. 264 cases.
1912-1913	Measles epidemic
1915	Flood: North Saskatchewan River overflowed its banks leaving 2,000 people without a home
1918	Pandemic Influenza: The Spanish Flu killed 262 and thousands ill (Edmonton population at the time was 53,846)
1918-1920	Scarlet Fever. 623 cases.
1919-1921	Smallpox
1925-1927	Polio: 23 dead and numerous cases of paralysis
1927	Smallpox: 54 cases (all but three had not been vaccinated). Twelve thousand residents immunized in a few weeks
1929	Plane crash: A Tiger Moth crashed into the Calder yards, narrowly missing several rail cars.
1932	Measles

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1942	Blizzard: Left 49.53 cm of snow and derailed seven streetcars and delayed milk and bread delivery. Snow drifts of 91.44 cm. Snowplow equipment available in southern Alberta was sent to Edmonton
1944	Winter Storm: Closed trails in outlying areas preventing coal delivery.
1944	Flood
1949	Tornado: A "baby" tornado touched down on the outskirts of Edmonton but did little damage.
1952	Flood
1952-1953	Polio: 322 cases and 33 dead. Salk vaccine introduced in 1954. All grade one children vaccinated in 1955.
1953	Flood
1954	Plane Crash: Plane crashed into Calder Yards knocking several railcars off the tracks
1955	Snowstorm: 41.9 cm snow fell in April
1957	Asian Flu
1957	Blizzard
1962	Measles: 2.817 cases. Immunization against measles began in 1966 and the number of cases dropped dramatically.
1962	Thunderstorm: Storm with tornadoes and hail. Flooded exhibition grounds and cut electrical service to many areas. 2 injured.
1963	Thunderstorm: Three violent thunderstorms with 80 km/hr winds in close succession between 0100 hrs and 0600 hrs dumping seven inches of rain. Two thousand homes left without power.
1964	Blizzard. 4 dead.
1965	Bomb: Edmonton AB, Jan 2 1965. Two U.S. jets (F-84s) being overhauled by Northwest Industries in Edmonton were destroyed and a third damaged when a left-wing group protesting the Vietnam War dynamited the planes; a security guard was killed during the incident. One dead.
1968	Natural Gas Explosion: Dunston Apartments. 2 dead. 9 injured.
1968	Hong Kong Flu

Year	Incident
1969	Hailstorm: Edmonton AB, Aug 4 1969. Some of the largest hailstones to that date. Estimated Cost: \$106,372,000
1972	Flood
1972	Snowstorm: 15.24 cm of wet, sticky snow downed power lines leaving parts of the City without power for up to 12 hours
July 10-11,1978	A highly localized rainstorm and subsequent runoff exceeded the capacity of Edmonton's sewer system, causing a severe urban flood. Approximately 90 mm of rain was dumped in 16-18 hours although most of the rain fell within a 4-hour period. Roads and bridges were damaged, soil was eroded, basements were flooded and sewers were backed up. Brief telephone and power failures were also reported. Estimated Cost: \$7,977,000
1978	Hazardous Materials Incident: Gasoline tanker spilled 39,550 litres of gas into the sewer system at 98 Street and 85 th Avenue. Forty homes were evacuated, natural gas was shut off and crews extinguished two flash fires in the sewer.
1979	Measles. 2,012 cases.
1979	Blizzard: Storm downed power lines leaving many residents without power for 40 minutes
1979	Oil and Gas: heavy equipment cuts through a 50 cm diameter pipeline spilling crude oil into the River Valley. Oil flowed for six hours until containment efforts were successful
1979	Major liquid propane pipeline ruptures. Another major pipeline ruptured spewing crude oil into the river. Millwoods. 17,000 evacuated. Estimated Cost: \$798,000
1980	Explosion: at the Boardwalk sent 10 firefighters to hospital
1980	Hazardous Materials Incident: 270 litres of 2-4D spilled at 125 Avenue and 82 nd Street
1980	A twin engine plane crashed in to the Royal Alexandra Hospital leaking 100 gallons of fuel into the hospital. 2 dead.
1981	34,000 litres of gasoline and diesel spilled and caught fire at 92 nd Avenue and 39 Street when a truck and train collided
1981	A thunderstorm dropped 56 mm of rain in less than 3 hours causing severe and widespread flooding; the flooding resulted in washouts, mudslides and 4 deaths. Estimated Cost: \$2,057,000
1982	Blizzard: -30 C weather resulted in 11 car pile-up. 45.3 cm of snow fell in the first 19 days of January. Broken water mains flooded the streets. Two people died from hypothermia. Schools closed. Periods of ice fog made driving difficult. Estimated Cost: \$1,700,000

Year	Incident
1982	Explosion: explosion at CIL Plant was heard and felt 30 kms away
1982	Hazardous Materials Incident: 38 railcars carrying sulphur residue caught fire at the Calder Yards creating a potentially hazardous toxic gas
1982	Giardiasis Outbreak: North Saskatchewan River water. 895 cases.
1982-1983	Respiratory problems from a hydrogen sulphide gas leak at Lodgepole
1983	Storm: Regina SK and Edmonton AB, Jun 24 1983. Estimated Cost: \$66,908,000
1983	Windstorm. Estimated Cost: \$34,462,000.
1984	Civil Disorder: Stanley Cup celebrations on Jasper Ave led to windows being broken, litter strewn, large crowds
1985	Plane Crash: Two Canadian Forces planes collide in mid-air just north of the City. The plane crashes into a building and flames shot up over 300 metres. 10 people dead.
1986	Flood: Worst flood in 71 years. Flood affected 300 homes in Rossdale, Riverdale and Cloverdale. City required 500 extra employees to cope. 900 people evacuated. Estimated Cost: Over \$4,000,000
1987	Tornado: widespread heavy rainfall from a powerful tornado hit Edmonton on July 31, 1987; 300 mm of rain fell in 3 days; the Smoky, Wapiti, Simonette, and Kakwa Rivers rose up to 7-8 metres in some areas; the tornado touched down in Edmonton and moved northeast; hailstorms were reported during the tornado; much of the damage was caused by hailstorms accompanying the tornado. 27 dead, 600 injured, 1700 homeless. Estimated Cost: \$665,483,000
1989	Tornado: Edmonton had a small tornado touch down in the west. 2 injured. Estimated Cost: \$500,000
1989	Gas explosion at Holyrood damaged 35 homes. 1 dead.
1989	Snowstorm: 15 cm of wet, heavy snow snapped trees and caused 100 power outages
1989	A 22 litre pail of dimethylaniline spilled near a school at Wagner Rd and 86 Street. Seven people admitted to University of Alberta Hospital complaining of headaches and nausea. 7 injured.
1990	Pertussis (whooping cough): 615 cases compared to 66 in previous year

Year	Incident
1992	Plane Crash: A suicidal man circled Edmonton for several hours trying to gain the attention of his former girlfriend before deliberately crashing his plane into the side of a house.
1992	Hailstorm: Two hailstorms in August and September. Estimated Cost: \$20,170,000 (August)
1992	Hailstorm. Estimated Cost: : \$22,522,000
1993	Hailstorm. Cost: \$21,095,000
1995	Hailstorm. Estimated Cost: 34,511,000
1996	Hazardous Materials Incident: Aqua ammonia release in the Millwoods Recreation Centre sent a number of patrons and staff to hospital.
1997	Snowstorm: Storm left 25,000 people without power, broke 16,000 trees, damaged buildings and caused problems on highways
1997	Oil and Gas: Evacuation caused by a backhoe rupturing a natural gas line at 101 Avenue and 101 Street
1998	Oil and Gas: Trencher hit an 8 cm diameter natural gas line at 73 Ave and 180 Street resulting in a second alarm response.
1999	Landslide: Riverview home slides down the bank of the North Saskatchewan River. Seven other homes threatened.
1999-2001	Meningococcal Disease. 60 cases.
2001	Civil Disorder: Canada Day celebrations led to crowds on Whyte Ave. 37 arrests, 93 charges laid, 7 people transported to hospital and unknown number of injured made their own way to hospital. Estimated Cost: Over \$1,000,000
2001	Hazardous Materials Incident: A cloud of unknown substance at the Waste Recycling Centre at Clover Bar. The Dangerous Goods Team could find no trace of the substance but several staff members required medical attention.
Oct 2001 to April 2002	City of Edmonton responded to nearly 100 false anthrax scares
2004	Fire: Lilydale Chicken Processing Plant The main concern was a large ammonia tank used in building's refrigeration unit. If it were to catch fire, toxic smoke could spread throughout the neighbourhood. The tank was secured mid-morning. There was an evacuation of 30 blocks around the south end of the building – mostly in an industrial area.

Year	Incident
2004	Hailstorm: Severe hail and rain battered parts of Edmonton, causing extensive flooding of basements and streets and forcing the evacuation of 30,000 people from the world's largest shopping mall – the West Edmonton Mall. Estimated Cost: \$74,000,000
2004	Oil and Gas: Acclaim Well blowout west of City. 700 people evacuated. Though the well is not in Edmonton, noxious fumes could be smelled in the City. 2 injured. Estimated Cost: \$45,000,000
2005	Hazardous Materials Incident: an uncontrolled fire began during waste handling activities at Custom Environmental Services Limited (CES); measured ammonia, carbon monoxide, total polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, oxides of nitrogen, ozone, particulate matter, reduced sulphur compounds, temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and wind direction. All of the contaminants measured by the MAML were detected below applicable Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives (AAAQO)
2006	Norovirus Outbreak: University of Alberta The virus causes vomiting and diarrhea for a few hours before a person begins to recover. 123 cases.
2007	Hazardous Materials Incident: an ammonia solution spill (20672) at the CN Rail Yards at 111800 Yellowhead Trail. About a quarter of an 87,000 kg tank spilled. There were no injuries and no evacuation. CN Hazmat Team contained the spill.
July 2, 2008	Hazardous materials spill into North Saskatchewan River: chemical solvent, identified as naphtha spewed into the river from a sewer pipe.
August 12, 2008	Gas leak and evacuation of west end neighbourhood: Several hundred residents were evacuated due to a water main break and gas leak. A four block area was evacuated. A Reception Centre was established and 50 people were registered.
May 31, 2009	Fire in a senior's residential complex. 150 people evacuated. Support provided by Fire, Police, EMS, Transit, Office of Emergency Preparedness, Disaster Social Services and Corporate Communications.
July 18, 2009	Severe wind storm for Edmonton. Plow winds up to 100 km/hr recorded. Front overhang of CN Building damaged. Power outages and numerous trees damaged.
August 1, 2009	Severe wind storm hit Big Valley Jamboree Concert in Camrose. One death. City of Edmonton provided support through Edmonton Police Service and Edmonton Fire Rescue Service. In Edmonton wind storm caused evacuation of Heritage Days at Hawrelak Park.

Year	Incident
Oct 21, 2009	WCB Hostage Taking in downtown Edmonton. WCB and several near by provincial buildings were locked down. One suspect held eight people hostage for 10 hours. Incident ended peacefully.
Spring/Fall 2009	H1N1 Pandemic Influenza. First and second waves of pandemic. 43 deaths and 974 hospitalized cases in Alberta as of November 21, 2009 (<i>Public Health Agency of Canada</i>).
April 13, 2010	Student suicide at University of Alberta. Student committed suicide by releasing a chemical. Hub Mall area was evacuated.
June 20, 2010	House explosion in Northeast Edmonton. Four people died and several people injured. Over 70 people evacuated. Many houses had extensive damage and some were totally destroyed.

**Information collected from the Canadian Hazards Database
<http://www.publicsafety.gc.ca/prg/em/cdd/srch-eng.aspx> and City of Edmonton Office of Emergency Preparedness.*