



Welcome Home

Wildwood & Area Evacuees

A State of Local Emergency is still in effect and active wildfires are still a concern nearby.

You are returning to an area that was affected or had the potential to be affected by wildfire. Returning home may be stressful and traumatic. This handout will help you know what to do and where to get help.

First Responders have worked very hard to protect our communities. We are grateful to them and everybody in the community who has played a part in keeping life and livestock safe.

We would also like to take a moment to thank you for your patience and cooperation during the evacuation. This was a crucial part in helping our crews fight this wildfire.

Please exercise extreme caution and respect any restricted areas and any directions given to you by First Responders.

NOTICE: WASTE COLLECTION WILL RESUME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

- Yellowhead County

If there is an active fire within 30 m (100 ft) to your home, call 911, and let them know you are in the fire zone. A fire crew will be sent to your location.

Questions or Concerns?

Please call Yellowhead County EMERGENCY Coordination Center at 1-833-334-4630 (active only while the event is in progress).

YOU MAY NOTICE:

DO NOT DRIVE OVER ANY EQUIPMENT INCLUDING HOSES FOLLOW THE DIRECTION OF THE FIREFIGHTERS

Fire Apparatus, water tanks, and equipment are still positioned in the area. Please avoid them. A wide dozer guard and fire break are being dug around edges of the fire to limit the spread. Please be aware of activity in your area.

If you notice the residue of fire retardants on your property (red stains) use water or biodegradable household cleaners. Never use bleach to clean areas where fire retardants have been used.

First steps when you return home:

- ▶ Wildlife may have taken shelter in/around your home, garage or outbuildings. Leaving a door open will allow the animals to return on their own to their natural surroundings. Call a Fish and Wildlife officer at 1-800-642-3800 (24 hours) for animals that appear injured or unwilling to leave.
- ▶ If you see stray livestock in your yard, please call the ECC line at 1-833-334-4630
- ▶ Do not allow anyone to enter or play in areas damaged by fire.
- ▶ There are many safety risks:
 - Pits filled with ash which can be deep and hot.
 - Burned trees and branches which can fall over at any time.
 - Burning roots can cause trees to fall.
- ▶ If you smell gas, exit your home **IMMEDIATELY** and call your utility provider or 911.
- ▶ Check for electrical hazards such as exposed wires. Avoid contact with damaged or fallen power lines and poles. If there are any hazards, contact FORTIS at 1-866-717-3113 (24-hours).

When you walk through your door:

- ☐ Check your gas, electricity and water to make sure they are working and contact your utility providers if you need to restore service.

*If you have had a utility disruption, contact the ECC line at 1-833-334-4630 or your utility company.
Do not attempt to restore any gas or electricity.*

Electricity

- ▶ If the electricity in your home is off, please check your main electric panel and breaker.
- ▶ Simply moving any tripped switches to the 'on' position may restore electricity.
- ▶ If this doesn't restore electricity to your home, call Fortis at 1-866-717-3113 (24-hours)

Natural gas

- ▶ The natural gas will be on unless you turned it off before you left.
- ▶ If off, relight your appliances according to manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ If you need help relighting your appliances, call your natural gas provider.

Water: drinking and household use

- ▶ You should run one of your taps for 1-3 minutes to refresh the taste of the water. You are able to drink, shower, do laundry and use your water as you normally would.
- ▶ Check your water and sewer systems including sump pumps and livestock watering devices.

Cleaning

IF you have SMOKE CONTAMINATION, do not throw anything away until you contact your insurance company.

To assist with smoke decontamination or deodorizing inside:

- ☐ Wash interior walls and hard surfaces with a steam cleaner or white vinegar.
- ☐ Wash or dry clean clothing, linens and bedding.
- ☐ Wash all movable items with a steam cleaner or microfibre cloth. This includes children's indoor toys.
- ☐ Disinfect and deodorize upholstery and fabric window treatments with spray deodorizing products available at most supermarkets. Do not use odour-masking sprays as they only cover up the problem and do not fix it.
- ☐ You can also steam clean items including carpets, window coverings, upholstered furniture and mattresses. Steam neutralizes the odour and carbon film left by forest fires.
- ☐ Consider having heating, ventilating and air conditioning units and all ductwork professionally cleaned to remove soot, ash and smoke residue. You can change filters when you first return home and then continue to replace them frequently.

Remember to keep all receipts for cleaning and other expenses to provide to your insurance company for possible reimbursement.

To assist with smoke contamination or damage outside:

- ☐ Pressure wash or scrub exterior surfaces including walls, walks, drives, decks, windows and screens.
- ☐ Wash all children's outside toys, play structures and recreational equipment to remove any residual smoke and ash. Replace the sand in sandboxes with clean sand.
- ☐ Cut down and remove any trees around your property that have been damaged by fire.
- ☐ Wash your hands if they come in contact with ash.

If you can't remember who your provider is, or can't reach your insurance provider, contact the Insurance Bureau of Canada to help understand fire insurance coverage.

Phone: 1-844-227-5422 (toll-free)

Email: askibcwest@ibc.ca

website www.ibc.ca/ab/

Insurance information

IF YOU ARE INSURED:

Take the following steps:

1. Assess and document the damage. Taking photos can be helpful.
 2. Call your insurance representative and/or company.
 3. List all damaged or destroyed items.
 4. If possible, assemble proofs of purchase, photos, receipts and warranties. Take photos of the damage and keep the damaged items unless they pose a health hazard.
 5. Keep all of the receipts related to cleanup, and if you've been ordered to leave your home, keep the receipts for your living expenses.
 6. Ask your insurance representative what living expenses you're entitled to be reimbursed for and for what period of time.
- ▶ For health advice or information on health services, *including mental [health](#) services*, call Health Link at 811 or **1-866-408-LINK** (5465).

If you are having a medical emergency, call 911 right away.

Air quality

People with breathing difficulties may want to delay returning home until the air quality improves.

For more information visit <https://www.albertahealthservices.ca/news/air.aspx>
https://ecalertme.weather.gc.ca/warning-latest_en.php?ualert_id=17718&alert_code=SAS

Mental health

- ▶ For those impacted by the Alberta wildfires, AHS has supports and resources in place to help you through these challenging times.
- ▶ Go to www.ahs.ca/wildfire or call the Mental Health Help Line 24/7 at **1-877-303-2642**.

Handy phone numbers: PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SERVICE PROVIDER

Yellowhead County Social Services – Evacuation Contact Number	1-833-334-4630 <i>(Active only while the event is in progress)</i>
Alberta Health Link	811
ATCO	1-800-511-3447 / 310-5678
AltaGas Utilities	1-866-222-2068
Fortis Alberta	310-WIRE (9473)
Trans Alta	403-267-7110
TELUS Mobility	*611 on your TELUS mobile phone or 1-866-558- 2273
TELUS Internet	Toll-free 1-888-811-2323

✓ Last-Minute Checklist for Protecting Your Home and Property from Wildfire



Evacuation Tips

Monitor conditions and follow the advice of local authorities. **If ordered to evacuate, do so immediately.**

Review your evacuation plan for your family and pets.

- Visit www.getprepared.gc.ca for helpful tips and evacuation plan templates.

Have your “**ready to go kit**” (emergency kit) ready and stocked with cash, portable radio, prescription medications, eye glasses, change of clothes, pet food, flashlights and batteries, etc. Make sure your phone numbers, insurance information and other important documents for your go bag are current.

- Visit www.getprepared.gc.ca for a more complete list of emergency supplies.

Before evacuating:

- Turn off air conditioning.
- Turn off your electricity and gas.
- Close all doors, garage doors and windows. If weather seal or doors have gaps, seal with duct tape.



Quickly address outside surroundings

Complete a scan around your home and property and take steps to remove combustibles.

Remove leaves, pine needles and other debris from your roof and gutters.

Mow grass and weeds within 10 metres of the house to 10 centimetres in length, or less.

Clear all dead plants, leaves, and weeds within 10 metres of your home. Maintain a 1.5 metre non-combustible zone around your home and deck by sweeping or raking down to mineral soil, rock or concrete.

Move combustible items, such as toys, patio furniture, cushions, decorative items, firewood, and potted plants, that are on and under your deck and within 10 metres of your home. Move all combustible items into your home or garage.

If you have a propane tank located on your property:

- Propane tanks should be moved to 10 metres away from structures.
- Remove weeds and other debris from area around large stationary propane tanks so there is no combustible material near tank.

If you have a combustible fence that attaches to your home:

- Secure gate in an open position.
- Clear vegetation and debris along both sides of combustible fence lines.



Check around the house

Check vents on roof, foundation and exterior walls to prevent embers from entering your home.

Check your attic and foundation (crawl space) vents to see if they are screened and in good repair. Use duct or metal tape to temporarily cover damaged vents and those with 3 millimetre mesh screening.

If you store cardboard boxes and other easily ignited materials near a vent in your attic or crawl space, move them as far away as possible from vent(s).

- Another option is to place tape over vent(s) at these locations. Be sure to remove tape when you return home.

Cover dryer vents and wall-mounted make-up air openings for furnaces with a plywood cover, metal tape or duct tape.



Non-combustible Zone



Visit www.firesmartcanada.ca for additional resources and information.