



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

RE-ENTRY / RECOVERY after Wildfire Evacuation

This info sheet includes important information and resources on community re-entry and recovery services provided by FNHA, Emergency Management BC (EMBC), Red Cross, Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) and other agencies.

FNHA

Mental Wellness and Traditional Wellness Supports

- » For immediate/urgent support, FNHA can utilize crisis funds to support community gatherings and wellness events that help community members come together and move forward. Please reach out to Julie Morrison, FNHA Northern Regional Crisis Response Advisor, to discuss your needs at 778-349-4376 or at Julie.Morrison@fnha.ca.
- » For longer term planning as it relates to Mental Wellness and Traditional Wellness supports following wildfire, FNHA will work with your CEC and CEC Manager to plan a meeting in the upcoming weeks. FNHA can debrief on health supports during the wildfire and will also follow your guidance on additional services and follow-up supports that FNHA can assist with. CECs can draw on other members of the FNHA Northern Regional team and FNHA family to support planning in your community that is informed by lessons learned by our neighbours in the Interior last year, while honouring regional practices and direction.

Returning to your Home

Your home may be impacted by smoke, soot and ash, chemicals, structural damage and water damage. FNHA has developed a collection of health and safety information for you to consider during the initial work to restore your home.

RESOURCES:

“Returning to Your Home After Wildfires”

www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Returning-to-Your-Home-After-Wildfires.pdf

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- » Find your local FNHA Environmental Health Officer at:
www.fnha.ca/what-we-do/environmental-health/contact-environmental-health
- » EPHS After-hours line: 1-844-666-0711
- » Health Link: Call 811

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT BC (EMBC)

When your First Nations government has declared it safe for you to return home, there are steps you can take to make this transition easier and safer.

Resources:

- » “Comprehensive Re-entry Information”
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/emergency-response-and-recovery/returning-home>
- » “Local Authorities and First Nations Recovery Toolkit”
https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/local-government/local_authorities_and_first_nations_recovery-toolkit_march_2018.pdf

CONTACT INFORMATION:

You can receive guidelines for organizing re-entry activities in your community by contacting Emergency Management BC's Emergency Coordination Centre Office at 1-800-663-3456

RED CROSS

If an evacuation order has been lifted in your community, you may be eligible for financial assistance to support basic and medical needs. Red Cross Community Outreach Teams will be visiting impacted communities to meet with individuals and families for confidential one-on-one assessments. Financial assistance will be provided on a case-by-case basis, along with referrals to external supports as needed.

RESOURCES:

- » “Guide to Wildfire Recovery”
www.redcross.ca/crc/documents/Fire-Recovery-Guide_2017_v3_1.pdf
- » Information about Fires:
www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/current-emergency-responses/2018-british-columbia-fires

INDIGENOUS SERVICES CANADA (ISC)

ISC will reimburse eligible costs for damage and re-entry assessments, generally through EMBC. Note that EMBC leads re-entry on reserve and are the primary contact for re-entry and recovery.

Tools and Documentation

The Advanced Planning Unit in the Provincial Emergency Coordination Centre (PECC) is currently creating and circulating Community Re-entry Reference Guides and other tools/documentation.

Disaster Financial Assistance

When disaster financial assistance (DFA) is declared for an event, as it has been for the recent 2018 wildfires, ISC would advise communities to apply through the DFA platform for recovery costs. As DFA covers 80%, ISC will top up the remaining 20%, in addition to directly considering recovery needs which fall outside of the DFA eligible scope, for example:

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Personal Losses

ISC has some ability to support with compensation for personal losses. Personal losses refer to an individual's basic and essential property from their primary residence that sustained damage due to an Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP) eligible emergency event. Through EMAP, ISC may reimburse costs incurred by the First Nation residents in the clean-up, restoration, repair and replacement of basic and essential property (this is not intended to be a substitute for private personal insurance).

Additional Supports

Some of these additional supports ISC is now able to offer are through the new 'Building Back Better' Strategy Guide, which is enabled through EMAP programming, and supports additional needs during response and recovery: www.sac-isc.gc.ca/eng/1534954506773/1535121720820

Processes to Receive Support

We recommend communities work through the Province with ISC's support for questions and needs that fall outside of provincial services – including supports through 'Building Back Better'. Once the province (including DFA) have processed eligible costs, the community recovery plans come to ISC for works that can be further supported through the Department's federal EMAP program. This can also be done concurrently.

ADDITIONAL RE-ENTRY RESOURCES

PreparedBC

- » "Re-entering Your Home After a Wildfire"
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/public-safety-and-emergency-services/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/embc/preparedbc/wildfire-reenter-home-guide.pdf>

Emergency Social Services

- » "Returning Home After an Evacuation (Re-Entry)"
www.chilliwack.com/main/attachments/files/2736/ESS_Returning_Home_After_Evacuation.pdf
- » For specific questions about community recovery, contact the Emergency Services call centre at: 1-800-585-9559

Water & Food Quality

"Water & Food Quality Information for Evacuees Returning After a Fire"
www.interiorhealth.ca/YourEnvironment/EmergencyPreparedness/Documents/Food%20and%20Water%20Information%20for%20Evacuees%20Returning%20after%20a%20Fire.pdf