



THOMPSON-NICOLA REGIONAL DISTRICT

Returning After a Wildfire: A Guide for Residents

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CONTACT

Thompson-Nicola Regional District- Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) <https://eoc.tnrd.ca/>
Tel.: 1-866-377-7188 | emergency@tnrd.ca
<https://www.tnrd.ca/services/emergency-services/emergency-resources/>

For those with respiratory conditions, it could be wise to postpone your return until the air quality is better.

This guide provides general health, safety and recovery information for people returning to wildfire-affected areas in the Thompson-Nicola Regional District. Always follow current evacuation, re-entry, utility, public health, and waste disposal directions issued for your area. Conditions and services may differ by community and incident. Please follow the advice of officials.

Returning After a Wildfire

BEFORE YOU RETURN

- Confirm your area has been reopened and follow all current evacuation, road access, and traffic control directions.
- Tell someone where you are going and when you expect to return.
- Fill your vehicle with fuel; road and service availability may be limited.

Bring with you:

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Weather-appropriate clothing and sturdy closed-toe footwear | ☐ Medications, prescriptions and essential medical equipment |
| ☐ PPE: N95 mask, safety glasses, durable gloves, long sleeves and pants | ☐ Pet food, water, leash/carrier and medications, if applicable |
| ☐ Flashlight, charged phone, power bank and spare batteries | ☐ Important documents, insurance details and a notebook/phone for records |
| ☐ First-aid kit, basic clean-up supplies and disposable bags | ☐ Remain ready to leave again if your area is still under Evacuation Alert |
| ☐ At least three days of bottled water and food, including dietary needs | |

IMMEDIATELY UPON ENTERING

- Pause before entering. Look for hazards from a safe distance.
- Stay away from fallen power lines, damaged poles, propane tanks, gas equipment and damaged structures.
- Watch for unstable trees, falling branches, ash pits, damaged fences, open wells/septic areas, sharp debris and hot spots.
- Do not enter a building if it appears structurally unsafe, smells of gas or propane, has visible fire damage, or contains heavy ash or debris.
- Call 9-1-1 for immediate life-safety concerns.
- Take photos and video of your property before moving, cleaning or disposing of anything.
- Contact your insurance provider or broker as soon as possible.
- Check infrastructure and utilities carefully:
 - Use bottled water until drinking water is confirmed safe.
 - Treat private wells, pumps, tanks and water lines as needing inspection and possible testing.
 - Contact BC Hydro or your provider for electrical concerns.
 - If you smell propane or gas, leave the area and contact the supplier or a qualified professional.
- Keep children and pets away from hazards, debris, ash and standing water.

FIRST STEPS TOWARDS RECOVERY

- Make a simple inventory of damage and losses, inside and outside.
- Keep a record of calls, advice received, dates, expenses and receipts.
- Do not discard damaged belongings until they have been documented and you have followed your insurer's directions.
- Arrange professional assessment where needed for: structural damage, danger trees, electrical, gas/propane and heating systems, private wells and drinking water, septic systems, asbestos, hazardous materials or significant debris
- Use appropriate PPE for any clean-up. Avoid dry sweeping, leaf blowers and non-HEPA vacuums, which can spread ash.
- Dispose of food exposed to smoke, heat, ash, fire retardant or unsafe temperatures. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Do not use bleach on fire-retardant residue.
- Refer to this guide or call the TNRD before transporting wildfire debris; note that disposal requirements, sites and temporary programs may change.
- Develop a short recovery plan: immediate safety needs, insurance, clean-up, temporary living arrangements, repairs/rebuilding, and ongoing supports
- Reach out for support. Recovery is not something people need to carry alone.

SAFETY

Following a wildfire or evacuation, significant dangers may be present on your property. Take the time to protect yourself, children, and those with health challenges from injury or illness. Always wear a mask, safety glasses, proper clothing, and footwear. Clearly mark dangerous areas so everyone can safely avoid them. Also, use caution when travelling in/out of an area and follow designated routes.

Hazards can be apparent, such as burned trees and damaged structures, but others, such as underground electrical lines and fragile tree roots, may not be. Additionally, ash and demolition dust can irritate skin and lungs, and structural debris may contain hazardous materials. Always consult professionals before disturbing debris from a damaged site. This guide is an overview, but if you're ever unsure, ask for help.

MENTAL, EMOTIONAL & CULTURAL WELL-BEING

Returning home after an evacuation can bring a wide range of emotions.

You may feel relief to be home, while also experiencing anxiety, sadness, anger, or uncertainty about what you will find. You may also find yourself worrying about the possibility of having to evacuate again. Seeing damage to your property or treasured possessions can be especially upsetting, particularly if they have sentimental value or cannot be replaced.

These reactions are a normal response to a stressful event and, for most people, become less intense as you regain a sense of safety, routine, and control. One of the best things you can do is create a support network. This may include family, friends, neighbours, or professionals. If these feelings become overwhelming or do not improve over time, consider reaching out to available support.

Mental and Emotional Wellness Support

- Interior Crisis Line Network - 1-888-353-2273
- Suicide Crisis Helpline - 988
- KUU-US (Indigenous) Crisis Line - 1-800-588-8717
- Métis Crisis Line - 1-833-638-4722
- Call 310-MHSU (6478) to reach your local Mental Health and Substance Use (MHSU) Centre

United Way's 2-1-1 is a free and confidential phone line service that connects people to resources, including food and shelter, mental health and addictions support, legal & financial support, support for seniors, and more.

Websites For Additional Wellness Support

1. **Canadian Mental Health Association:**
bc.cmha.ca/documents/coping-with-disaster-stress/
2. **First Nations Health Authority: Air Quality and Smoke, Mental Health and Cultural Supports:**
fnha.ca/services-and-support/access-and-support/climate-emergencies/wildfire-response/
3. **Canadian Red Cross: After the fire recovery and wellness supports:**
www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/emergencies-and-disasters-in-canada/get-help-disaster-relief-and-recovery/wildfire-information-and-support

EMERGENCY NEEDS AND SUPPORTS

In case of an emergency, don't hesitate to dial 9-1-1. The TNRD Wildfire Recovery team will also be in place for the months following re-entry to help connect you with support, call them at 1-866-377-7188 or email tnrdrecovery@tnrd.ca. If you've been under an evacuation order and haven't reached out to Emergency Support Services yet, make sure to register online at ess.gov.bc.ca or get in touch with the TNRD EOC. Need help with self-registration? Call the Province of BC's Emergency Support Services Info Line at 1-800-387-4258 for assistance.

Extra Resources:

1. **Check out Food Banks in BC:** <https://foodbanksbc.com/>
2. **For Migrant Worker/Newcomer help:** migrantworkers@mosaicbc.org | 1-604-324-7979
3. **Business support info:** <https://www.communityfutures.ca/emergencies/help-for-businesses>
4. **Tourism operator assistance:**
<https://www.destinationbc.ca/what-we-do/destination-management/emergency-preparedness/>

INSURANCE AND DOCUMENTATION

If you are insured:

- Contact your insurance company or broker as soon as possible.
- Work with your insurance company and their accredited fire restoration companies to restore or rebuild your home.

- If you have questions about insurance, call your insurance company directly, or call the Insurance Bureau of Canada toll-free at 1-844-227-5422.
- Documentation will be important to access insurance & other support.
- Stay in regular contact with your insurance provider about your needs and how they can help.

Documentation:

- Use a journal or electronic document to keep track of information.
- Create an inventory of items, both interior and exterior, which have been damaged or destroyed by fire.
- Do not throw away any damaged goods until after the insurance assessor completes an inventory.
- Take as many photos and videos of the damage as possible.
- Take note of decisions, dates, times, and names of people and organizations you speak with. Keep a list of tasks that need to be completed.
- Make a list of key contacts and their contact details.
- Keep all receipts. Write a description on the back and store them away from heat and sun.

If you are not insured:

Consider contacting the Canadian Red Cross, the Salvation Army, local faith-based organizations, provincial or municipal Emergency Support Services (ESS), and non-profit crisis centres that may have resources available to you.

ONCE YOU GET TO YOUR PROPERTY

Water

- Bottled water is recommended.
- Have your water tested thoroughly if you live in an area that was impacted by fire, even if your property was not directly affected.

Electricity

- Stay away from BC Hydro infrastructure (lines, poles, towers, hydro boxes, etc). Assume that any fallen or damaged infrastructure is live and dangerous.

If you have questions, no service, or fluctuations in service quality, contact BC Hydro at 1-888-769-3766 (1-888-POWERON) or *49376 on your cell phone.

Propane, Natural Gas, Oil

- If you have concerns regarding your propane, natural gas, or oil equipment, please contact your suppliers.
- If you have a propane system and you smell propane upon entering your property, contact a qualified gas fitter, turn off the valve, and leave your residence until your system has been inspected.

- Ventilate your home and do not turn on any electrical or gas items, including lights or fans, until the propane is gone.
- Propane tanks are a common post-wildfire risk, as many households have at least one small tank for BBQ use. Inspect the tank for visible damage, such as warping, dents, discoloration, or melted fittings. Propane tanks can explode or rupture when the relief valve releases pressure. If a tank has been partially punctured, there is a risk of a flammable gas release. If a damaged or compromised propane tank is discovered, maintain a safe distance and have someone from the fire department or trained professional dispose of it.

Traffic

- Give way to all emergency and firefighting vehicles. Adhere to all traffic control efforts. Drive slowly and watch for hazards.

Trees

- Burned and fire damaged trees are unstable and can fall without warning. Inquire with your insurance company about getting a danger tree assessment done on your property.

Structure Damage

- Fire-damaged buildings and other structures may be hazardous. Standing chimneys are hazardous.

HAZARDS

Obvious Hazards:

- Tripping hazards (wires, debris, etc).
- Falling hazards (uncovered wells, septic tanks).
- Sharp objects (nails, metal edges, branches). Smoke or haze.
- Pressurized tanks that might have been damaged (propane, acetylene, etc). Spoiled food, damaged cans, smoke-damaged dry goods, and garden produce.

Hazards that may not be obvious:

- Wildfires may return to the area.
- Unpredictable winds.
- Danger trees (falling branches, ash pits, damaged roots, weakened trunks).
- Toxic fumes in debris (burning debris may contain cyanide, sulphur dioxide, asbestos).
- Hazardous materials/waste (septic tank material, contaminated soils)
- Asbestos-contaminated waste.
- Inhalation hazards (fiberglass, smoke particulates, mould).
- Other household hazards (batteries, solvents, paints, garden chemicals, etc).
- Using proper safety techniques and equipment, inspect your roof and check for smoke and sparks throughout the home, including the attic. The winds of wildfires can blow burning embers anywhere.

RESTORING AND CLEANING

After you have spoken to your insurance company and taken photos and an inventory of items, discard any items impacted by smoke, heat, ash and chemicals.

- Medication, cleaning products, cosmetics, and other toiletries can be damaged by heat, smoke and lingering chemical residues.
- Follow local waste disposal requirements for disposal of hazardous materials. Refer to the **Wildfire Waste Disposal** (p.15) section for more information.

FOOD SAFETY

Please read this guide from Interior Health for more details:

<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/sites/default/files/PDFS/returning-to-your-home-after-wildfires.pdf>

- A full chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 48 hours.
- A half-size chest freezer will keep food frozen for up to 24 hours. A cooler or fridge will keep food cold for up to four hours.

When to dispose of food:

- If the temperature of the cooler or fridge was greater than 4°C at any time, or if the power outage lasted for 4 hours or more.
- Any food that has spoiled, even if the cooler or fridge remained at 4°C at all times. Frozen foods that have thawed. Once thawed, food should not be refrozen.
- Fire or smoke-damaged foods, including dry goods such as flour, sugar, spices, etc., even if the package isn't open.
- Unrefrigerated raw vegetables or fruits that have been smoke-damaged or may have spoiled
- Foods that were stored in porous containers, such as cardboard, or foam. Canned foods that are bulging, rusted or dented.
- Jarred foods, including home-canned items. The heat from the fire likely compromised the safety seal.

****Note:** The temperature of your fridge may have gone above 4°C (-18°C for freezers) when the power was disrupted, then returned to 4°C (-18°C for freezers) when power was restored. In this case, the food must be disposed of.*

ASSESSING YOUR FRIDGE AND FREEZER

- Check if your refrigerator or freezer is damaged.
- If the fire damaged your refrigerator or freezer, contact your insurance company about coverage as an eligible expense.

If the fire did not damage your refrigerator or freezer and continues to work, take the following steps to clean refrigerators and freezers:

- Use latex or rubber gloves, eye protection, and an N95 mask while removing spoiled food and cleaning the fridge.

- Remove everything from the refrigerator or freezer.
- Use paper towels or rags to wipe up spills and leaks, and dispose of them with the food waste. Wash the interior and exterior of the appliance with warm, soapy water.
- Disinfect the refrigerator or freezer with a mild bleach solution (1 tsp household bleach per 4 cups water).
- If the refrigerator has a water distributor, replace the filter and clean the water line according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Secure doors in the open position to provide airflow. Keep children and pets away.

REMOVING ODOURS:

- To remove odours, wipe out the appliance with a mixture of water and baking soda, or keep a box of baking soda in the appliance.
- You can also air out the appliance for a few days before plugging it in and using it again.
- Wait until the refrigerator has returned to 4°C or the freezer has returned to -18 °C before restocking with food.

CLEANING SOOT AND SMOKE DAMAGE

There may be smoke damage and soot in your home after the fire. If you don't hire a professional fire restoration company and choose to clean your home yourself, here are few considerations:

- Asbestos is an airborne, soil and water contamination risk. If there was asbestos present in the wildfire-affected structure, the asbestos fibers have likely settled into the soil and have potentially penetrated deeper into groundwater.
- It is recommended to have ongoing monitoring of air, soil, and water quality to minimize risks to the environment and public health.
- Before you get started, make sure you are wearing personal protective equipment, including gloves, an N95 mask, and safety glasses.

EXTERIOR:

- Use a garden hose, sprayer or pressure washer on the exterior of your home, driveways, walkways, vehicles, patios, decks and outdoor furniture. Rinse off air intakes and air conditioners.
- **DO NOT USE** an air hose or leaf blower to clean the exterior of your home as you do not want to drive more contaminants into your home.

Safety Warning

- Be careful when using pumps, pressure washers or generators in enclosed spaces. Carbon monoxide may be present and can build to dangerous levels in confined or poorly ventilated areas.
- Never use bleach! The reaction between bleach and the fire retardants will produce harmful and explosive gases.

AIR CIRCULATION

- Get the air circulating in your house by using fans and opening windows (provided there is no smoke or an air quality advisory in your neighbourhood).
- Replace your furnace filter and air conditioner filter. Use a humidifier to reduce airborne ash.
- You may consider a professional to clean your ducts and air conditioning system.

INTERIOR SURFACES

- Wash all interior surfaces with a mild detergent or an appropriate cleaning solution, then rinse thoroughly with warm water.
- Don't forget to clean the interiors of closets, cupboards, drawers and other locations to remove any ash, dust, or odour.
- Wiping surfaces with white vinegar can help remove smoke odour and residue. Baking soda can also help to remove odours.
- Wiping surfaces with a damp cloth and mopping floors with a wet mop are safer and more effective than sweeping or dusting. Be sure to change the water when it gets dirty, and dispose of it outside your home.
- Only vacuum with a unit equipped with a HEPA filter to capture ash particles. Using unfiltered vacuums will just move the ash around the house. Change your HEPA filter frequently.
- Ash that is left in place will break down into smaller particles and become harder to remove from carpets and surfaces.
- Wash and clean all ash-contaminated household items with mild detergent, changing the water frequently.

FABRIC, CARPETS AND CLOTHING

- Soot is oily and can stain carpets, curtains, clothing, and soft furnishings. It must be removed before you try to clean or deodorize those items.
- Attic insulation can retain smoke odours. You may want to steam-clean carpets, drapes, curtains, and furniture, and change the water frequently.
- Launder or dry-clean all affected clothing and other materials. You may need to run multiple rinse cycles to remove all soot residue and smoke odours. Consider doing this laundering off-site using a machine tagged for heavy contaminants at a laundromat.
- Washable textiles may benefit from adding 1 to 2 cups of vinegar to each wash load.

ELECTRONICS

- Take electronic equipment outside and "blow out" the components with an air hose before using them. Ash can cause static charges. Before blowing out electronics, close all the windows in your home and work well away from it. Ensure you are wearing a mask and eye protection when doing this work.
- If electronic equipment is damaged, see reference disposal guidelines in this document or contact the TNRD.

REPAIR WATER DAMAGE

Before starting any work, ensure everyone entering your home is wearing proper personal protective equipment, such as an N95 mask, gloves, and proper footwear.

Let your insurance company and restoration contractor know as soon as possible if you find any visible water damage, mould growth, or if you smell mould inside your home. If your home was damaged by water, you will need to remove all excess water to prevent mould growth. Additional considerations:

- To help prevent mould growth, check any appliances, items, and surfaces, including carpet, drywall and structural wood that may have been in contact with water.
- Assess items that might be safe for salvage and repair, including:
 - Surfaces that do not absorb water
 - Fabrics that can be laundered and bleached
 - Surfaces not affected by the water
- Clean the affected areas using warm water and soap. Then, sanitize all surfaces with a mild bleach solution (1 tablespoon of bleach to 4 litres of water).
- Thoroughly dry all wet items and surfaces as soon as possible.
- Dry any wet or waterlogged carpeting as quickly as possible. Any underlay should be removed and disposed of.
- Steam clean carpets with a disinfectant.
- Remove excess moisture from the air inside your home using a dehumidifier and fans.
- If you discover a small amount of mould (typically under 10 square feet), and you wish to complete the remediation work yourself, more information is available at www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/airquality-mould

CLEAN YOUR YARD AND OUTDOOR PLAY AREAS

Your yard and surrounding areas may be affected by fire, ash, and soot. These materials may contain polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAH) as well as heavy metals. A fire restoration contractor can provide cleanup services.

If you decide to manage the restoration work yourself:

- Use appropriate personal protective equipment, such as an N95 mask, rubber gloves, rubber boots, long-sleeved shirt and pants or disposable coveralls.
- Using clean water, mist down remaining fire debris. Do not wash the fire debris into the road.
- Scrape up fire ash and soot remaining on your property as much as possible. Place the ash and soot in plastic bags or other containers to prevent disturbance.
- Use mild detergent and clean water to wash outdoor toys, play equipment, and recreational equipment.
- Sand, gravel, or other loose materials placed beneath playground equipment should be removed and replaced whenever there is visible ash, soot, silt, or small debris.
- If you suspect or know that a sandbox was impacted by fire or firefighting materials, the sand should be replaced.

RESIDENTIAL POOLS, HOT TUBS AND WHIRLPOOLS

Wildfires may have affected residential pools, making them unsafe to use.

- There may be structural damage to the pool basin or equipment.
- Ash, soot, and chemicals used to fight the fire may have affected the water's quality.
- If the pool water was not circulating or was not treated, harmful bacteria may have grown in the stagnant water.

Work with a pool service company to restore your swimming pool and ensure it is safe to use.

- Small whirlpools (hot tubs) should be drained, scrubbed clean, and refilled.
- Balance the water before using the whirlpool.

CLEAN UP FIRE-RETARDANT AND RESIDUE

The health and safety of retardants used in BC has been reviewed. In the long term, environmental toxicity is low because products degrade over time and turn into fertilizer.

THE FOLLOWING PRECAUTIONS ARE RECOMMENDED:

If your home was sprayed with fire retardants or was impacted by windblown fire retardant, these products need to be removed from the outside siding and roof of your house, your vehicles, and any outside toys, furniture, tools, etc. before you move back home. A fire restoration contractor can help you with this.

If you decide to manage this yourself:

- Use personal protective equipment, such as an N95 mask, safety glasses, rubber gloves, rubber boots, long-sleeved shirt and pants or disposable coveralls.
- Keep pets and children away from any retardant.
- Consult your family physician as soon as possible if you experience a reaction.
- Wash your home's roof and siding, vehicles, and outdoor patio furniture with clean water.
- To clean windows and glass, use clean water and a razor blade tool to help remove the sticky residue.
- Rinse retardant off vegetation (shrubs, grass, etc).
- You should not consume fruits, vegetables, or other consumables that have come into contact with fire retardant.
- Use mild detergent and clean water to wash outdoor toys, play equipment, and recreational equipment to remove any residual fire retardant.



Never use bleach!

The reaction between bleach and fire retardants produces harmful, explosive gases.

DRINKING WATER SUPPLIES

You may consider testing your well after a wildfire even if the property wasn't directly affected.

Open sources, such as ponds or dugouts, may receive small amounts of retardant overspray during wildfire fighting operations. This will have no appreciable effect on the quality or toxicity of the water supply. Water containing small amounts of retardant may taste slightly salty and consequently be unpalatable.

Immediate medical attention would not be considered necessary except in rare cases involving adverse reactions due to individual intolerances or allergies.

FRUIT AND VEGETABLE GARDENS

It may not be safe to eat fruits or vegetables that were growing above ground during the fire, especially if they came into contact with fire retardants.

- Discard fruits and vegetables if visible fire-suppressant residues are present.
- Rinse fire retardant off vegetation such as trees, shrubs and plants, if possible.
- Regularly water down your garden and lawn until the smoke and ash have been diluted.
- Ash and soot on vegetation will continue to emit smoke odours for some time.

SEPTIC SYSTEMS

If a wildfire directly impacts a property, some parts of the sewage disposal system may be damaged. There is also the possibility that wildfire response activities (e.g., heavy equipment or trucks driving over the dispersal field) may have damaged the sewage system.

- After a visual assessment, if there are concerns about the functionality or safety of the sewage disposal system, a Registered On-site Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) should be retained to assess the system and recommend repairs. These individuals can be found by searching <https://asttbc.org/registrants/registant-directory/#>
- There may be some damage to a sewage system that is not visible. Take a safety-minded approach when determining whether to retain the services of a ROWP. Systems with additional electrical components, such as dosing pumps or secondary treatment, should also be assessed to ensure safety.
- If you return to your property and find that the on-site sewage systems are not operating as intended (e.g., drains are flowing slowly or there are signs of wastewater breaking out onto the soil), a ROWP should be contacted immediately for assessment and repair.



Wear rubber gloves when working with plumbing fixtures and sewer piping.

They can contain high levels of bacteria. If you suspect a problem with your septic field, contact the Interior Health Authority.

DANGER TREES

- Watch for ash pits and mark them for safety. Ash pits are holes filled with hot ash, formed when trees burn to the roots and stumps. People and pets can be seriously burned by falling or tripping into ash pits.
- Visually check the stability of all trees. Any tree that has been weakened by fire may be hazardous. These hazards may increase in windy conditions.
- Where fire has burned deep into the trunk, the tree should be considered unstable.
- If the bark on the trunk of a tree has been burned off or scorched by very high temperatures around the circumference of the tree, the tree will not survive.
- Look for burned roots by probing the ground with a rod around the base of the tree and several feet away from the tree base. Roots are generally six to eight inches below the surface. If the roots have been burned, you should consider the tree very unstable. Unstable trees may easily be toppled. This risk increases in windy conditions.
- A scorched tree has lost part or all of its leaves or needles. Healthy deciduous (leafy) trees are resilient and may produce new branches and leaves as well as sprouts at the base of the tree within a year. Coniferous (needled) trees may survive when partially scorched. A coniferous tree damaged by fire is susceptible to bark beetle attack.
- The wind patterns in your area may have changed as a result of the loss of adjacent tree cover.



Use caution and exercise good judgment when re-entering a fire-affected area. Hazards may still exist, including hot spots that can flare up without warning.

WASTE MANAGEMENT IN THE TNRD

IMPORTANT: When handling dangerous or potentially dangerous waste, use appropriate personal protective equipment such as an N95 mask, safety glasses, rubber gloves, proper clothing and footwear. Follow WorkSafeBC (www.worksafebc.com/en) protocols to protect yourself properly.

For a complete list of TNRD solid waste and recycling disposal sites, including accepted materials and hours of operation, go to tnrd.ca/depothours.

If you have a unique disposal challenge resulting from being evacuated, please contact the TNRD solid waste and recycling department directly at 250-377-2596 or at recycleright@tnrd.ca.

Wildfire recovery often generates large quantities of damaged building materials, ash, metal, vegetation, appliances, and other debris. Disposal options may vary depending on the capabilities of TNRD solid waste facilities.

Residents and property owners should contact the TNRD before transporting wildfire-related debris. Temporary disposal arrangements may be available during wildfire recovery events, and most materials may require pre-approval for acceptance. These procedures help ensure materials are managed safely while protecting facility workers, the public, and the environment.

Always check with your insurance provider first regarding the disposal of wildfire-related solid waste. Insurance may cover the cost of removal and disposal. Remember to take pictures and keep an inventory of items that are being disposed of.

Disposal Fees

Standard disposal fees may apply to wildfire debris and recovered materials. Fee schedules vary by material type. Contact the TNRD for current rates, accepted materials, and payment options.

WASTE DISPOSAL DURING WILDFIRE RECOVERY

Burned Structures and Building Materials

- Burned structures may contain hazardous materials such as asbestos, lead, treated wood products, and other contaminants.
- Disposal requirements vary by facility and material type.
- Large quantities of demolition debris often require disposal at designated landfills or approved solid waste facilities.
- Facilities will require advance notice or pre-approval before accepting wildfire-damaged building materials.
- Property owners should contact the TNRD to discuss disposal options specific to their needs and location.

Ash

- Ash should be cooled completely before handling.
- Place ash in double bags and securely seal all bags before transport.
- Loose ash will not be accepted due to health and safety concerns.

Wood Waste

- Small quantities (typically a pick-up truck or small trailer) of burned lumber, plywood, fencing, and other wood products may be accepted at select solid waste facilities.

Brush and Vegetation

- Brush and branches under 8 inches in diameter, and vegetative debris are accepted at select solid waste facilities free of charge for residential quantities. Disposal fees apply to commercial loads.
- Removal of larger logs, stumps, or land-clearing debris may require special arrangements, and disposal fees apply.

Scrap and Burned Metal

- Burned metal materials may be accepted at select solid waste facilities.

Concrete and Masonry

- Small quantities of concrete, brick, and masonry debris may be accepted at some waste facilities.
- Large volumes, such as foundation materials, require special approval or disposal arrangements.

Animal Carcasses

- Disposal requirements vary based on the size and type of animal.

- Contact the TNRD to discuss specific losses and disposal options.

WILDFIRE DEBRIS DISPOSAL GUIDELINES

Burned Vehicles

- Contact the TNRD for guidance.

Appliances and Food Waste

If power outages or wildfire damage have affected refrigerators or freezers:

- Remove the spoiled food, double-bag it, and dispose of it as regular garbage.

For information on wildfire debris disposal, approved facilities, fees, and recovery programs, contact: **Thompson-Nicola Regional District**

- Website: tnrd.ca
- Phone: 1-877-377-8673
- Email: recycleright@tnrd.ca

If your community is operating under emergency recovery measures, additional disposal options may be available during the recovery period.

For more information, visit: <https://www.tnrd.ca/services/garbage-recycling>

AGRICULTURE SECTOR SUPPORTS

Wildfires can affect agricultural operations in many ways, including livestock relocation, loss of pasture or feed, damaged fencing and infrastructure, water concerns, smoke and ash contamination, disrupted markets, and significant stress on farm families and workers. Producers are encouraged to document impacts and costs as soon as it is safe to do so, and to seek support early.

Financial and Business Recovery Supports

AgriStability may help eligible producers experiencing a significant whole-farm income decline due to increased costs, reduced production, or market disruption. Producers should contact the program to confirm their enrollment, discuss options, and next steps.

AgriStability Toll Free: 1-877-343-2767 | **Email:** AgriStability@gov.bc.ca.

AgriService BC provides one-on-one support to help producers identify relevant funding programs, access technical expertise, and navigate agricultural questions.

Phone: 1-888-221-7141 | **Email:** AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca

Livestock, Feed and Farm Operations

Commercial agricultural producers requiring support with livestock relocation, feed, water, transportation, temporary boarding, fencing, or other animal-care needs should contact the TNRD EOC and AgriService BC. Keep records of livestock numbers, movements, feed purchases, veterinary care, transportation, boarding and other related expenses.

B.C. livestock relocation information

For livestock relocation, call the TNRD EOC for assistance. All livestock owners are encouraged to ensure their Premises Identification information is current. This helps emergency responders identify and contact livestock owners during future emergencies.

Food, Water and Farm-Gate Sales

Before reopening or resuming food production or sales, producers should assess food, water, equipment and facilities for wildfire impacts. Food exposed to smoke, ash, soot, firefighting water, fire retardant chemicals, unsafe temperatures, or other contamination should not be sold or consumed. Food businesses and farm-gate operations can call AgriServiceBC with questions. Inspect private water systems and arrange water testing or repairs where contamination or damage is suspected.

Land, Pasture and Infrastructure Recovery

When it is safe to return, producers should photograph and document impacts on pasture, crops, fencing, irrigation, water systems, buildings, equipment, access roads, drainage, and soil. Burned or disturbed areas may be vulnerable to erosion and invasive plants. Before undertaking reclamation or reseeding, seek site-specific advice on soil conditions, seed mixes, timing and erosion control.

TNRD producers can contact the TNRD Invasive Plant Program for information on disturbed-land reclamation and seeding resources.

Phone: 1-877-377-8673 Email: invasiveplants@tnrd.ca

Mental Health and Wellbeing

Wildfire recovery can place significant stress on producers, farm families and workers. AgSafe BC's Mental Wellness Initiative offers confidential, third-party counselling at no cost to members of B.C. agriculture. Counsellors can be contacted directly; no referral is required.

For more information, visit: <https://agsafebc.ca/mental-wellness/>

Important contacts

Service BC	(250) 828-4540
Agri Stability	1-877-343-2767
Interior Health	(250) 851-7300 or 1-866-847-4372
Health Protection Office	(250) 851-7340 or 1-855-744-6328
Homeowner Protection Office (Kamloops)	1-800-407-7757
Technical Safety BC (Gas/Electrical Inspections)	1-866-566-7233
Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure	(250) 828-4220
Telus	1-888-811-2323
BC Hydro	1-888-769-3766
TNRD	(250) 377-8673 OR 1-877-377-8673
TNRD Emergency Operation Centre	1 (866) 377-7188

Re-entry contacts: resources and supports

Organizations and contact details referenced in the TNRD wildfire re-entry materials.

Call 9-1-1 for immediate life-safety concerns. For crisis support, call or text 9-8-8.

1. IMMEDIATE EMERGENCY, EOC AND EVACUEE SUPPORT

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Emergency	—	—	9-1-1
Emergency Operations Centre – Village of Clinton	—	—	(250) 377-6313
TNRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC)	emergency@tnrd.ca	TNRD EOC	1-866-377-7188
TNRD Emergency Resources	emergency@tnrd.ca	TNRD Emergency Resources	1-866-377-7188
Emergency Support Services (ESS)	—	Emergency Support Services	1-800-585-9559 (guide) 1-800-387-4258 (FAQ)

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Emergency Operations Centre – High Bar First Nation	services@hbfnc.ca;	High Bar First Nation	250-459-2117

2. LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Village of Clinton	admin@village.clinton.bc.ca	Village of Clinton	(250) 459-2261
Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD) – general enquiries	—	TNRD	250-377-8673 / 1-877-377-8673
TNRD Solid Waste & Recycling	recycleright@tnrd.ca	TNRD Depot Services and Waste Drop-off	250-377-2596
TNRD Invasive Plant Program	invasiveplants@tnrd.ca	TNRD	1-877-377-8673
Service BC	—	Service BC	250-828-4540
High Bar First Nation	services@hbfnc.ca;	High Bar First Nation	250-459-2117

3. UTILITIES, ROADS AND TECHNICAL SAFETY

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
BC Hydro	—	BC Hydro	1-888-769-3766 / *49376 mobile
Telus	—	Telus	1-888-811-2323
Technical Safety BC	—	Technical Safety BC	1-866-566-7233
Ministry of Transportation & Transit	—	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure	250-828-4220

4. HEALTH, WATER, SEPTIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Interior Health	—	Interior Health	(250) 851-7300 / 1-866-847-4372
Interior Health Protection Office	—	Interior Health	(250) 851-7340 / 1-855-744-6328
Interior Health Food – Returning Home After a Wildfire	—	Returning Home After Wildfires (PDF)	—
Registered On-site Wastewater Practitioner (ROWP) Directory	—	ROWP Directory	—

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
ASTTBC – Septic Systems Support	—	ASTTBC Registrant Directory	—
HealthLink BC (mould information)	—	HealthLink BC Mould Information	—

5. MENTAL HEALTH, CRISIS AND COMMUNITY SUPPORTS

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Suicide Crisis Helpline	—	—	9-8-8
Interior Crisis Line Network	—	—	1-888-353-2273
KUU-US Indigenous Crisis Line	—	—	1-800-588-8717
Métis Crisis Line	—	—	1-833-638-4722
Mental Health & Substance Use (MHSU) Services	—	—	310-MHSU-6478
United Way BC (211)	—	United Way BC 211	2-1-1
Canadian Mental Health Association (BC)	—	CMHA BC Coping with Disaster Stress	—
First Nations Health Authority	—	FNHA Wildfire Response Supports	—
Canadian Red Cross	—	Wildfire Information and Support	—

6. INSURANCE, HOUSING AND DOCUMENTATION

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Insurance Bureau of Canada	—	Insurance Bureau of Canada	1-844-227-5422
Homeowner Protection Office (Kamloops)	—	BC Housing Homeowner Protection Office	1-800-407-7757

7. AGRICULTURE, LIVESTOCK AND RURAL RECOVERY

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
AgriService BC	AgriServiceBC@gov.bc.ca	AgriService BC	1-888-221-7141
AgriStability	AgriStability@gov.bc.ca	AgriStability Program	1-877-343-2767

8. FOOD, BASIC NEEDS, NEWCOMER, BUSINESS AND TOURISM SUPPORTS

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
Food Banks BC	—	Food Banks BC	—
MOSAIC (migrant worker/newcomer support)	migrantworkers@mosaicbc.org	MOSAIC	1-604-324-7979
Community Futures (business support)	—	Emergency Business Support	—
Destination BC (tourism emergency preparedness)	—	Destination BC Emergency Preparedness	—

9. WORKER SAFETY, CLEANUP AND TECHNICAL REFERENCE

Organization / Service	Email	Website	Telephone
WorkSafeBC	—	WorkSafeBC	—