

Wildfire Safety Information

Wildfires can start easily and spread quickly. Please carefully review the information below and prepare your community to deal with the threat of wildfires.

Wildfire Preparedness Activities:

- Before a wildfire impacts your community, locate and ensure your Emergency Plan is up to date and contact information for your Emergency Team and response partners are updated.
- Provide updated emergency contact information to your Regional District and to your regional Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC) office.
- Take note of resources your community has available for response activities or evacuation such as buses, generators, heavy mechanical equipment, firefighting equipment, food, and water.
- Make a list of community members who may require advance notice, assistance with transportation or medical support in the event of an evacuation. This includes: pregnant women, children, elders, chronically ill, and vulnerable community members.
- Encourage community members to individually prepare grab-and-go kits with medications, important papers, identification, and contact information. Visit Public Safety's website for more information on personal preparedness: <http://www.getprepared.gc.ca>
- Ensure your Emergency Coordinator or other designated emergency personnel is monitoring wildfire activities and reports for your area, and that this information is shared with Band members.
- Participate on EMBC conference calls held for your area for important and situation reports. Be sure to provide your contact information to EMBC to receive conference call invitations.

Evacuations:

- Know what to do in an evacuation situation. Review your Evacuation Plan and confirm your primary, secondary, and tertiary evacuation routes. Evacuation routes should lead away from advancing wildfire to a safety zone and/or a reception centre.
- Identify a pre-staging area in the community (Band Office, School, Administration Building, Community Hall) as a location to hold town hall meetings and post vital information such as evacuation alerts/orders, evacuation routes, and reception centre locations.
- Stay informed of wildfires in your area by listening to the radio, checking the websites provided, and connecting with your Regional District/EMBC. If there is a wildfire threatening populated areas, an evacuation alert/order may be issued.

- An **Evacuation Alert** means people are warned of a possible threat to life and property, and may be asked to leave on short notice.
 - If an evacuation alert is issued for your area, Chief and Council and/or your designated Emergency Coordinator should contact EMBC immediately to discuss the risk to your community and identify Emergency Social Services Receptions Centre locations for evacuation.
 - Request a Task Number from EMBC and track all costs associated with the evacuation once an Evacuation Order has been issued.
 - At this stage, Chief and Council should issue a BCR advising Band members of the evacuation alert, ensure community members are preparing to evacuate, and ensure everyone is aware of the Reception Centre locations if evacuated.

- An **Evacuation Order** will be issued if the threat increases and there is a need to immediately protect life and property.
 - At this time, Band members will be required to leave the area immediately as discussed and arranged with your EMBC Regional Office and/or Regional District.
 - All costs associated to the evacuation must be tracked through the Task Number.
 - Ensure all community members who are evacuated register at the Reception Centre. This will ensure they receive support for 72 hours under the assigned Task Number. Members will not be covered unless they register.

If an evacuation alert/order has not been issued and your community is concerned about an approaching wildfire, contact EMBC immediately at 1-800-663-3456 to request emergency support.

Recovery:

- If a wildfire has caused damage to your community and personal property, you will first need to contact your home insurance company to identify your coverage.
- Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation should be contacted for any Band owned housing or structures to discuss details of insurance and coverage (if applicable).

Task Numbers:

- Task Numbers are used to track emergency incidents by jurisdiction. A Task Number will be assigned to your First Nation by EMBC to track costs associated with evacuations. Eligible costs will be reimbursed post-event through EMBC.
- Please refer to the Financial Assistance Guide for Local Authorities and First Nations. More information on eligible costs for reimbursement is available at the following link: <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery> .

Regional Emergency Management BC Offices



VANCOUVER ISLAND	Capital Cowichan Valley Nanaimo Alberni - Clayoquot	Powell River Comox Valley Strathcona Mount Waddington
SOUTH WEST	Sunshine Coast Squamish - Lillooet	Greater Vancouver Fraser Valley
CENTRAL	Thompson - Nicola Okanagan - Similkameen Central Okanagan North Okanagan District of Lillooet	Columbia - Shuswap <i>(only the area including the communities of: Anglemont, Falkland, Salmon Arm, Sicamous, Canoe, Malakwa, Sorrento, Tappen)</i>

SOUTH EAST	Kootenay Boundary Central Kootenay East Kootenay	Columbia - Shuswap <i>(less the area including the communities of: Anglemont, Falkland, Salmon Arm District, Sicamous, Canoe, Malakwa, Sorrento, Tappen)</i>
NORTH EAST	Northern Rockies Peace River Fraser - Fort George	Cariboo Central Coast
NORTH WEST	Stikine Kitimat - Stikine	Bulkley - Nechako Skeena - Queen Charlotte

Regional Emergency Management BC Offices

<p>South West Region 14275 - 96th Avenue Surrey, B.C. V3V 7Z2 Tel: (604) 586-4390 Fax: (604) 586-4334</p>	<p>Central Region 1255-D Dalhousie Drive Kamloops, B.C. V2C 5Z5 Tel: (250) 371-5240 Fax: (250) 371-5246</p>
<p>South East Region 403 Vernon Street Nelson, B.C. V1L 4E6 Tel: (250) 354-5904 Fax: (250) 354-6561</p>	<p>North East Region 3235 Westwood Drive Prince George, B.C. V2N 1S4 Tel: (250) 612-4172 Fax: (250) 612-4171</p>
<p>North West Region Suite 1B - 3215 Eby Street Terrace, B.C. V8G 2X8 Tel: (250) 615-4800 Fax: (250) 615-4817</p>	<p>Vancouver Island Region Block A - Suite 200 2261 Keating Cross Road Saanichton B.C. V8M 2A5 Tel: (250) 952-5848 Fax: (250) 952-4304</p>