



Information for Residents Returning Home

July 28, 2021

* This document will be updated as we receive new information. Please check back with the Resiliency Centre or online at lytton.ca for regular updates.

We can only imagine how devastating this time is for residents, in so many ways, and that returning to your residences will be challenging both emotionally and physically.

Below is a list of important considerations for residents within the rescinded evacuation order area who wish to return to their residence.

Monitor all safety alerts as the situation can change rapidly.

Things you can set up before you return so you can focus on your residence when you arrive:

1. What can I do ahead of time? **THINGS I CAN SET UP BEFORE I DEPART.**
2. What do I bring? **PACKING LIST.**
3. How can I stay safe? **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS.**
4. Where can I get assistance? **AVAILABLE RESOURCES.**

THINGS I CAN SET UP BEFORE I DEPART

REGISTER WITH THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

The Canadian Red Cross is encouraging all people under evacuation order due to wildfires to register with the Red Cross. You can register by calling 1-800-863-6582, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PST.

Registration with Red Cross ensures people can be contacted while away from home and can also be reached with information on further Red Cross services and assistance that may become available to them during this time of need. For more information, visit redcross.ca and the [2021 British Columbia fires page](#).

People who have already registered with British Columbia Emergency Support Services (ESS), or are staying with family and friends, are also encouraged to register with Red Cross. People who are under mandatory evacuation because of the wildfires and have unmet needs are also encouraged to register with authorities in their area. To register with British Columbia Emergency Support Services (ESS) and for more information on your nearest reception centre, visit EmergencyInfoBC.gov.bc.ca or call 1-800-585-9559.

ACCESS RESOURCES AT THE RESILIENCY CENTRES (Kamloops is open, Lytton opening soon)

Lytton evacuees can now access help for immediate needs at the Resiliency Centre in Kamloops at [#3 – 700 Tranquille Road](#) (Northhills Mall) from 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. Another Resiliency Centre will be opening in Lytton soon. The centre will provide support for people displaced by the fire. This includes:

1. Replacing documents and identification
2. Applying for Employment Insurance
3. Providing mental and emotional supports
4. Navigating the insurance process for your home and other assets
5. A second Resiliency Centre in the Village of Lytton will be opening in the coming days, information about this will be posted to the Village of Lytton website [lytton.ca]

ACCESS CANADA POST SERVICES

Canada Post has put emergency measures in place to help restore mail and parcel delivery to displaced residents of Lytton as soon as possible. Residents can go to any Canada Post location and request to have their mail forwarded to a location of their choice (ex. A friend, relative or setting up a new box).

Evacuees are asked to register for mail forwarding service, which is important not just for ongoing mail and parcels, but it also provides a vital link with government and relief agencies going forward.

By registering, Canada Post will be able to ship mail and parcels to a different address selected by the customer, as well as reprocess and ship existing mail and parcels. This can be done on a short-term basis or for longer periods, even if the address is temporary.

Local Canada Post Employee Sooyeon Zacharias will be posted at the [1350 Dalhousie Dr.](#) Canada Post Office in Kamloops daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to help residents receive mail.

WHAT TO PACK

Before you go home, please ensure you have water, gas, food, clothing, medication, and other materials to be self-sufficient until basic resources are restored. Arrive with supplies and a plan on how to replace those supplies for an undetermined length of time is highly recommended. Services are very limited in the community right now and being prepared is important. Items to consider when you pack:

- Drinking water
- Food, including special dietary needs

- Medications
- Gas, arrive with as full of a tank of gas as possible
- Proper clothing, a flashlight and clean-up materials
- Food and medications for pets

Please note that if you suffer from a respiratory illness, it may be desirable to delay your return until [air quality](#) improves (please check the Government of BC Air Quality Health Index page for more about this information).

SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

Continually monitor all safety alerts as the situation can change rapidly. You are returning to a community that was profoundly affected by a wildfire.

- Give way to all emergency and firefighting vehicles
- Be aware that fire protections services are limited within the Village of Lytton
- Ambulance services are being dispatched from surrounding areas

Some areas in the community may be fenced for safety and security purposes. Respect these restricted areas and any directions given to you by first responders and utility workers. Do not re-enter areas that were heavily damaged or destroyed by the wildfire.

At your home:

- Inspect your home before entering
- Walk carefully around the outside and check for loose power lines, gas leaks and structural damage
- If you have any doubts about safety, **DO NOT ENTER and contact the appropriate authority**

Be aware of hazards to your health and safety in the community, including:

- Slip, trip and fall hazards from unstable structures, open pits or wet and slippery surfaces
- Charred trees are unstable and may be a hazard
- Buildings damaged by fire may be a hazard
- Ash, soot and demolition dust
- Hazardous materials such as kitchen and bathroom cleaning products, paint, batteries and fuel containers which have been partially damaged or destroyed
- Pesticides or herbicide containers that have been potentially damaged or destroyed
- Propane cylinders for heating or from a BBQ

DO NOT CONSUME WATER

A Do Not Use Water Notice is in effect. Do not consume water running to houses or from any public water source. Only bottled water should be used for consumption and cooking. Water in taps can be used for showering and toilets.

DISPOSING OF FOOD FROM YOUR HOME

All perishable items should be disposed of immediately upon your return. Dispose of:

- Any unrefrigerated raw vegetables or fruits, or any food that was stored in porous containers (such as cardboard, foam containers, etc.).
- Food that was in bowls on counters or tables.
- Food that shows signs of damage from heat or fire, including ash or smoke.
- Any canned food that is bulging or rusted. Canned foods that look like they may be okay need to be cleaned with soap and water before being opened to make sure the contents don't become contaminated.
- Any food that has come in contact with liquid waste, sewage, chemicals or water.
- Any food displaying an off odour or signs of spoilage.

DISPOSING OF REFRIGERATORS AND FREEZERS (WHITE GOODS)

If you have insurance, please contact your insurance provider to begin the process of obtaining replacement appliances.

If you are told to clean your fridge and freezer, and they do not need to be disposed of:

- Double bag spoiled food and dispose of as regular garbage
- Keep and continue to use your appliance

If told to dispose of your fridge/freezer:

- Seal the doors shut with duct tape
- Label the appliance "contaminated" in large print
- Move appliance to curb/roadside for pick-up

AVAILABLE RESOURCES

[Emergency Info BC \[emergencyinfo.bc.ca\]](http://emergencyinfo.bc.ca) For wildfire and emergency information, including information from BC Wildfire Service.

[TNRD Emergency Services \[TNRD.ca\]](http://TNRD.ca) For emergency information and services throughout the TNRD.

[Canadian Red Cross \[redcross.ca\]](http://redcross.ca) For links and information about Red Cross services.

[Public Health Agency of Canada: \[phac-aspc.gc.ca\]](http://phac-aspc.gc.ca) For additional supportive resources and links to your provincial and territorial health ministry.

[Public Safety Canada: \[publicsafety.gc.ca\]](http://publicsafety.gc.ca) For more information and links to provincial and territorial emergency management.

[Canadian Mental Health Association: \[cmha.ca\]](http://cmha.ca) For links to support and resources in your area.

[Canadian Psychological Association: \[cap.ca\]](http://cap.ca) For links to important information and psychologists in your area.

[Canadian Association of Social Workers: \[casw-acts.ca\]](http://casw-acts.ca) To find a social worker in your area. 1-855-729-CASW (2279)

[Canadian Counselling and Psychotherapy Association: \[ccpa-accp.ca\]](http://ccpa-accp.ca) To find a certified (registered) counsellor in your area.

[2-1-1: \[211.ca\]](http://211.ca) Call 211 for community-based health and social services.

[Kids Help Phone: \[kidshelpphone.ca\]](http://kidshelpphone.ca) 1-800-668-6868

[Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention: \[suicideprevention.ca\]](http://suicideprevention.ca) For links to crisis centres in your province or territory.

[First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line: \[sac-isc.gc.ca\]](http://sac-isc.gc.ca) 1-855-242-3310

Other Red Cross Documents

The following documents can also be acquired in hard copy at the Resiliency Centre:

[Canadian Red Cross Guide to Wildfire Recovery](#) for information on what to expect and do after experiencing a wildfire.

[Canadian Red Cross Guidebook to Wellbeing in Recovery](#): for information to help people understand the reactions they – or someone they know – may be experiencing as a result of the wildfires. It contains practical advice, numbers to call and websites to visit if they need extra information or support. Following an emergency, it's important to remember that help is available.

[Canadian Red Cross Guide to Recovery for Parents and Caregivers](#) which includes more detailed information geared specifically to parents and caregivers.