



RETURNING HOME AFTER EVACUATION

BEFORE YOU GO:

DO YOU HAVE:

- A full tank of gas
- Proper clothing, a flashlight and clean-up material
- Water for the next 7 days
- Food for 7 days, including special dietary needs
- Any medications you require
- Pet food/supplies

If you suffer from a respiratory illness, consider delaying your re-entry until air quality improves

WHEN YOU GET HOME:

- **Water** – The OKIB is currently on level 4 water restrictions. Please use water sparingly, and use bottled water if possible.
- **Hydro** – BC Hydro crews have restored power. If you have any questions, do not have service, see a damaged power line, or are experiencing fluctuations in electrical service quality contact BC Hydro at 1-888-769-3766 (1-888-POWER-ON) or *49376 on your cell phone
- **Propane/Natural Gas** – If you have concerns regarding your propane, natural gas, or oil equipment, please contact your suppliers
- **Traffic** – Give way to all emergency and fire fighting vehicles
- **Trees** – Charred trees are unstable and may be a hazard
- **Buildings** – Fire-damaged buildings may be a hazard, please be cautious and inspect your property for unstable structures including standing chimneys

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE AND CONSIDERATIONS

1. **Use caution and exercise good judgement** when re-entering a burned fire area. Hazards may still exist, including hot spots that can flare up without warning.
2. **Watch for ash pits and mark them for safety.** Ash pits are holes full of hot ashes, created by burned trees and stumps. You can be seriously burned by falling into ash pits or landing in them with your hands and feet. Warn your family and neighbours to keep clear of the pits.
3. **Inspect the roof and check for smoke and sparks** throughout the home, including the attic. The winds of wildfires can blow burning embers anywhere
4. **Take precautions while cleaning your property.** You may be exposed to potential health risks from hazardous materials. Debris should be wetted down to minimize health impacts from breathing dust particles. Wear gloves, long-sleeved shirts, long pants and avoid skin contact. If you do get ash on your skin, wash it off as soon as possible.
5. **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 First Nations Health Authority (FNHA)
6. **If you have a propane or natural gas system** and smell propane or natural gas when you enter your home, contact a qualified gas fitter, turn off the valve and leave your residence until your system has been inspected. Ventilate your home.
7. **If you have a heating oil tank system**, contact a heating oil supplier for an inspection of your system before using. The tank may have shifted or fallen from the stand and fuel lines may have kinked or weakened. Heat from the fire may have caused the tank to warp or bulge. Non-vented tanks are more likely to bulge or show signs of stress. The fire may have loosened or damaged fittings and filters.
8. **Visually check the stability of trees.** Any tree that has been exposed to wildfire may have been weakened and could pose a risk to people and infrastructure. These weakened trees may be more susceptible to being blown down and wind patterns in your area may have changed as a result of the loss of adjacent tree cover.

The assessment of trees in fire impacted areas was completed by BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), certified Danger Tree Assessors prior to re-entry. If you believe you have a tree(s) on your property that could be a risk to your safety, please contact the BCWS for assessment and removal.

HAZARDS IN AREAS IMPACTED BY FIRE

Obvious Hazards

Trip Hazards

- Wires
- Debris

Falling Hazards

- Uncovered wells
- Septic tanks

Sharps

- Nails
- Metal edges
- Sharp branches

Spoiled Food

- In refrigerators
- Damaged tin cans

Not-so-obvious Hazards

Fires may Return

- Winds are unpredictable
- Hot, dry weather
- Active fires still in area

Dangerous Trees

- Falling branches
- Damaged roots and falling trees
- Ash pits

Toxic Fumes in Debris

- Burning debris may include cyanide/Sulphur dioxide

Hazardous Materials/Wastes

- Septic tank material
- Contaminated soils
- PCBs in transformers on poles and ground, in remnants of fluorescent lights

Inhalation Hazards

- Fibreglass fibres
- Smoke particulates
- Contaminated dust

Rock fall

- Burning trees and roots on slopes above properties

Structure Collapse

- Flooring
- Septic tank

Pressurized Containers

- Potential for explosion