



Post-wildfire Re-entry Process

To begin transitioning from Response to Recovery, the OKIB Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) plans to acquire a Recovery Manager to guide the Re-entry and Recovery process. To achieve this, the OKIB EOC is working with the EMBC and FNESS to obtain an appropriate contractor to fulfill this role. In the interim, the Red Cross may be able to provide a Recovery Specialist to assist with the transition from Response and Short-term Recovery Planning. Our team will also engage with EMBC Community Recovery and Disaster Financial Assistance (DFA) teams for guidance during this process.

The EOC Operations Team is co-ordinating with the BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) to access areas impacted by the White Rock Lake wildfire and document damages and losses. Our team will continue to review and document damages and losses as the fire progresses and impacted areas become safe and accessible.

As information comes in, the EOC will work with Council to contact those residents whose homes and properties are confirmed to have sustained damage.

The following high-level steps will need to be completed prior to rescinding the Evacuation Order and allowing residents to return home.

Site Safety:

Once it is confirmed that the wildfire is no longer in the area, and BCWS confirms it is safe for crews to enter, the following health and safety assessments need to be completed prior to allowing residents to re-enter the areas impacted by the wildfire.

- Danger Tree Assessments (DTA) – BCWS
- Air Quality Assessment – Ministry of Environment (MoE)/FNHA
- Drinking Water Quality – FNHA/IHA
- Hazardous Material Assessment – OKIB (with support from FNHA)

Critical Infrastructure:

Once the appropriate assessments are completed, and safety concerns are addressed, critical infrastructure impacts will be reviewed to ensure essential services are restored, including:

- Electricity/Hydro – BC Hydro
- Public access to potable water – OKIB (with support from FNHA/ISC)
- Access to water for firefighting – OKIB (with support from BCWS)
- Sanitation/septic systems restored or temporary toilet access established – OKIB (with support from EMBC/ISC)
- Communication systems – OKIB in coordination with providers
- Natural gas/propane heating systems secured – OKIB (with support from Fortis)
- Public access to fuel – OKIB (with support from local providers and EMBC)

Rapid Damage Assessments:

Following assessments of the area, OKIB in partnership with FNESS, will complete Rapid Damage Assessments (RDA) to all homes within the impacted areas. This will identify and structural integrity and safety concerns that need to be addressed prior to allowing residents back into the home.

Re-entry Planning:

Once all necessary assessments have been completed, and safety concerns have been addressed, the EOC will determine a re-entry schedule and inform residents. Re-entry packages will be distributed to residents as they enter back into the area. Packages will include information on actions and considerations to take when returning to their property and home; how to manage waste; steps for claiming damages through insurance; how to access any available funding; and, if available, residents will be provided with fire clean-up kits.

Phases of Recovery:

Recovery is a complex and dynamic process that requires careful planning and coordination with supporting agencies and organizations. Recovery consists of three stages: short-term, medium-term, and long-term.

Figure 1: Timeline of Recovery Operations

