

RE-ENTRY GUIDE

Summerland – Except the following properties:

- All addresses on Garnet Valley Road, North of Wildhorse Rd
- 11709 Mott St
- 13420 Mott St
- 13221 Durick Ave
- 13410 Durick Ave
- 12407 Blagborne Ave
- 12406 Blagborne Ave
- 13611 Cartwright Ave
- 14605 Cartwright Ave
- 14810 Garnet Ave
- 14612/14614 Garnet Ave
- 14806 Garnet Ave
- 14904 Denike St
- 18420 Garnet Valley Rd
- 19008 Garnet Valley Rd
- 19154 Garnet Valley Rd
- 20245 Garnet Valley Rd
- 21207 Garnet Valley Rd
- 21603 Garnet Valley Rd
- 22797 Garnet Valley Rd
- 23411 Garnet Valley Rd
- 25208/25210 Wildhorse Rd
- 25600 Garnet Valley Rd
- 26405 Garnet Valley Rd
- 27006 Garnet Valley Rd
- 27218 Garnet Valley Rd
- 27413 Garnet Valley Rd
- 28000 Garnet Valley Rd
- 28818 Garnet Valley Rd
- 25804/25808 Wildhorse Rd
- 18000 Bathville Rd (Landfill)
- 17202 Bathville Rd (Landfill)
- PID 012-634-336 (Landfill)



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Introduction

Please note that essential services such as water, electricity, telecommunications and natural gas may be unavailable, or only partially restored, when re-entering your property. You should carefully consider these conditions and decide whether returning home is the right choice for you and your family.

As you prepare to return to your property, please take a few moments to read this guide carefully. It provides important safety information to help you and your family navigate the return process and minimize potential risks.

Anticipate What the Area May Be Like

It helps to think ahead about what the environment will look, feel, and smell like when you return. There may be delays in returning home if the area is unsafe. The community may have dramatically changed, including:

- Blackened and burnt trees, shrubs and landscapes
- Smell of smoke and other burning materials
- Areas covered in ash
- Familiar landmarks missing
- Spoiled food in fridges and freezers

When it is safe to re-enter your home and property, check that you have enough fuel, food and water in case of unforeseen damage or issues. Be prepared with a radio, flashlight and emergency supplies.

Be prepared to leave if your area is under an Evacuation Alert and stay informed of wildfire information through the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) at 250-490-4225 or eocinfo@rdos.bc.ca and signing up for VoyentAlert! notifications (<https://voyent-alert.com/community/#registration>).

Your neighbourhood is currently **under Evacuation Alert**. What does this mean?

- Be prepared to leave your home immediately
- Make an evacuation plan
- Prepare your grab-and-go bag.

Preparing to Return

Leaving your home during an emergency can be stressful. Going back home can also be hard because you may not know what to expect. Even when an evacuation order is over, there may still be dangers. There could be fallen trees, damaged buildings or other hazards. Before moving back in, you should carefully check your home to make sure it is safe.

Important

- Emergency workers are still busy helping people and protecting communities.
- Some homes and properties still do not have power. In some areas, no one knows yet when the power will be back on.
- Access to other areas of Summerland are closed because of evacuation orders. Expect delays and plan other routes if needed.
- Please check directly with local businesses for current operating hours. Make alternative arrangements to gather essential foods and items you need.
- For up-to-date information on the status of the Bald Range Wildfire, visit the [BC Wildfire Service wildfire website](#) and select the "Response" tab for the latest information on suppression activities and response efforts.
- Some vents may have been taped or sealed to reduce smoke intrusion and should be reopened prior to use.

Protect yourself

- Keep a cell phone or radio on for weather and evacuation updates
- Review your evacuation plan and be prepared to leave again, quickly if needed
- Ensure you have a full tank of gas
- Wear a long-sleeve shirt, long pants and sturdy shoes when working in or around your home
- Bring personal protective equipment: gloves, masks or respirators, and safety glasses
- Bring plenty of bottled water and non-perishable food for you and any pets.

**There is
still an
active
wildfire in
the area.**

Preparing to Return

Build a basic re-entry kit

- When preparing to access and clean your home, you'll need basic supplies, including:
- Flashlight, gloves and heavy-duty garbage bags
- Cleaning supplies (broom, mop, sponges, bucket, bleach, cleaners)
- Garbage bags – Thick Contractor bags preferred
- Small tools (hammer, screwdriver, shovel, saw, etc.)
- First aid kit
- Camera to record property condition and damages for insurance purposes
- Animals may be excited, disoriented or frightened on returning home. Add items to help calm your pet. Make sure they aren't exposed to any new hazards arising during the evacuation return period.

Hazards

Areas exposed to wildfire and wildfire fighting measures including evacuations may appear normal. The following hazards are common after wildfire. If in doubt, ask a qualified professional rather than handling something yourself.

- Slip, trip and fall hazards from unstable structures, damaged trees, collapsing roofs, etc
- Sharp objects such as nails, broken glass, metal, concrete or wood debris
- Damaged or leaking household hazardous materials
- Residue from smoke, soot, ash and demolition dust
- Hot spots, ash pits
- Pressurized containers or combustible materials

Wildfire-damaged properties may contain fallen trees, hanging branches, or **fire-weakened trees that remain standing**. These trees can be unstable and may fall without warning, particularly during periods of wind or adverse weather. Use caution when moving around your property and avoid working near damaged trees.

Preparing to Return

Natural Gas Service

FortisBC has indicated that natural gas service at some properties may need to be restored and appliances re-lit before use. If this applies to your property, FortisBC will have left a notice with instructions.

Please follow those instructions and ensure service has been safely restored before using any natural gas appliances in your home.

Smell rotten eggs? It could be a gas leak.
Stop what you're doing. Go outside and call FortisBC emergency line at 1-800-663-9911 (24 hours) or dial 911

TELUS Services

Telecommunications services, including internet, telephone, and television, may not yet be available in some areas. TELUS is working to restore services as quickly as possible.

Service restoration timelines may vary depending on the extent of damage and network conditions. Please be prepared for potential service interruptions following your return.

Rainfall Events

A preliminary geotechnical assessment has been completed for hillside areas affected by the wildfire. If there are fire-affected slopes or debris uphill from your property, please be aware that intense rainfall can increase the risk of debris flows, landslides, and erosion.

In some situations, residents may be required to leave the area on short notice for safety reasons. These areas will continue to be monitored and assessed.

Preparing to Return

Ongoing Wildfire Operations

The Summerland Secondary School field is being used as a helicopter landing area for wildfire operations. The field and adjacent tennis courts are closed to support the safety of both the public and response personnel. While we understand there may be interest in viewing the helicopters, please do not enter the closed area or approach pilots and crews.

This will allow personnel to remain focused on wildfire operations and protecting the community. Residents should expect ongoing helicopter activity and associated noise as aircraft support suppression efforts.

Helicopters generate significant rotor wash during takeoff and landing, creating strong winds, dust and downdrafts in the immediate area. For your safety, please remain well clear of helicopter operations and respect all closures.

The Summerland Arena and Curling Club is serving as the Incident Command Post for wildfire operations.

The main parking lot will remain closed to ensure adequate space for wildfire personnel, vehicles and equipment. Alternative parking is available via the entrance off Peach Orchard Road, with limited parking behind the Harold Simpson Memorial building, on the West side of the arena.

Wildfire response vehicles and personnel will continue travelling throughout the community. For the safety of crews and returning residents, please obey all posted traffic signs, temporary traffic controls and directions from response personnel. Use caution when travelling through areas where wildfire operations are underway.

Preparing to Return

Air Quality

Wildfire smoke is a major contributor to poor air quality in the region. Interior Health recommends the following during smoky conditions:

- Stay indoors and limit outdoor activities.
- Use a well-fitted respirator (e.g., N95 or KN95) if you must go outside.
- Activate medical management plans for chronic conditions and ensure rescue medications are available.
- Create a home clean air shelter using a portable HEPA air cleaner or seek community locations with cleaner air.
- Monitor mental health, as smoke exposure can increase stress and anxiety; use stress-relief techniques and maintain social connections.

Resources

Current and forecasted [Air Quality Health Index \(AQHI\)](https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/data/aqhi.html?id=AQHI-SOUTH_OKANAGAN) data for the South Okanagan is available at:

https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/bcairquality/data/aqhi.html?id=AQHI-SOUTH_OKANAGAN.
For guidance on outdoor physical activity in smoky conditions, refer to:

<https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>.
Visit the [BCCDC wildfire smoke](https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke) webpage to learn more about the health effects of wildfire smoke, how to prepare for wildfire season and more (<https://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/prevention-public-health/wildfire-smoke>).

For other steps to create cleaner air space at home, check out Health Canada's online resource [Guidance for Cleaner Air Spaces during Wildfire Smoke Events](https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-cleaner-air-spaces-during-wildfire-smoke-events.html#a5) (<https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/publications/healthy-living/guidance-cleaner-air-spaces-during-wildfire-smoke-events.html#a5>).

Call [8-1-1](tel:1-877-313-1313) or your primary care provider if you're experiencing more severe symptoms, such as shortness of breath or chest pain, or [9-1-1](tel:911) if it's a health emergency.

Mental Health Supports

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.

Resources

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 – 2-1-1 (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).

Canadian Mental Health Association:
bc.cmha.ca/documents/coping-with-disaster-stress/

First Nations Health Authority:
fnha.ca/services-and-support/access-and-support/climate-emergencies/wildfire-response/

Canadian Red Cross
www.redcross.ca/how-we-help/emergencies-and-disasters-in-canada/get-help-disaster-relief-and-recovery/wildfire-information-and-support

District of Summerland Utilities

Boil Water Notice

Please note that you may or may not have water service at your location. If water service is available, the following notice applies:

The District of Summerland remains in a **BOIL WATER NOTICE**.

Interior Health and the District of Summerland recommend that **ALL USERS** use water that has been boiled or use a safe alternative. Water should be boiled for one minute and allowed to cool before use.

To learn how to safely use and manage your water during a Boil Water Notice, please visit: <https://www.summerland.ca/city-services/utilities/water/water-advisories>.

Residents will be notified when the Boil Water Notice is lifted.

Residential Water Restrictions

The District of Summerland remains in Stage 1 Water Restrictions, please be reminded:

Even Numbered – if your house number ends in a 0, 2, 4, 6, or 8 – a person may use their sprinkler to water lawns, trees, and shrubs on Sunday, Tuesday, and Friday only.

Odd Numbered – if your house number ends in a 1, 3, 5, 7, or 9 – a person may use their sprinkler to water lawns, trees, and shrubs on Saturday, Monday and Thursday only.

You may use micro-irrigation, drip irrigation or a hose with a shut-off nozzle to water trees, shrubs or vegetables on any day, at any time.

Pools & Hot Tubs

Homeowners will be requested not to drain any pools into the sanitary sewer system or overload any area storm drainage. Drain any pools slowly. Note that water containing any type of disinfection – salt water or chlorine – cannot be drained into a creek or the Okanagan Lake.

District of Summerland Utilities

Power Outage Duration

Some properties may not have electrical service following the wildfire. Residents may return home without power, choose to use a generator safely, or delay their return until service is restored.

If electrical service is unavailable, a notice should be posted at the property with instructions on how to restore service.

You can view the **Power Outage Timeline** and Outage History Map using our interactive online map: <https://tinyurl.com/2p9vs75y>.

Food Safety

Refrigerated food

- Refrigerators keep food at 4 degrees C (39 degrees F).
- If the temperature inside the fridge has gone above that level, discard all the food.
- If you are unsure about the temperature, throw the food out.
- If your fridge was exposed to fire suppression water, throw out the entire contents, including all meats, fresh fruit, and vegetables. Thoroughly clean your refrigerator and freezer.

Frozen food

- Frozen food is likely safe unless the freezer was exposed to heat from a fire, fire suppression water or has been without power for an extended period.
- If you are unsure about the exposure, throw the food out.
- It's considered safe to refreeze food that has partially thawed if it still contains visible ice crystals. However, partial thawing and refreezing will reduce the quality of the food.
- Discard any food that has completely thawed, has reached a temperature above 4 degrees C (39degrees F), or has questionable colour or odour.

Canned food

- Canned goods should be good for consumption unless the can has bulged, is badly dented or has rusted. Throw these ones out.
- All undamaged canned goods should be washed and disinfected if they have been exposed to floodwater or smoke.
- Food stored in glass jars that have been exposed to heat should be thrown out as seals may have been broken.

**More info, visit
Interior Health
website:**



Solid Waste

Check your refrigerator and freezer for damage before using them.

Refrigerator and Freezer Safety

If your refrigerator or freezer is still operating:

- Remove and discard any food you suspect may be unsafe. When in doubt, throw it out.
- Discard all perishable food, including opened bottles or jars and any food containers that show signs of heat, smoke, fire, or other damage.
- Double-bag food waste or use heavy-duty contractor bags, where possible, to help prevent leaks.
- Use paper towels or rags to clean up spills and leaks and dispose of them with food waste.
- Wash the interior of the appliance with warm, soapy water.
- Disinfect the interior using a solution of 1 teaspoon of household bleach mixed with 4 cups of water. Wear latex or rubber gloves if your skin is sensitive to bleach, and ensure the area is well ventilated.
- If your refrigerator or freezer has a water dispenser, water line, or built-in ice maker, do not use unless all water quality advisories are lifted. When it is clear to do so, ensure lines are thoroughly flushed and replace any filters.
- To help remove odors, wipe the interior with a mixture of water and baking soda, or place an open box of baking soda inside the appliance.
- If possible, allow the appliance to air out for several days before plugging it back in. Keep the doors secured in an open position to allow air circulation and keep children away from the appliance.
- Before restocking, ensure the refrigerator has returned to 4°C or colder and the freezer has returned to -18°C or colder.
- Even if your appliance continues to operate, take photographs and keep a record of any cleaning, disinfection, repairs, or other work completed. This documentation may be helpful if an issue develops later and an insurance claim is required.

Solid Waste

Disposal of Refrigerators and Freezers

If your refrigerator or freezer has been damaged by the wildfire and is no longer working, contact your insurance company to determine whether the appliance and any related costs are eligible for coverage. Take photographs of any damage and keep notes of your conversations with your insurance provider.

At this time, there is no District's collection program for wildfire-damaged refrigerators or freezers.

Residents are asked to remove all spoiled food and dispose of it as garbage. Once the Summerland Landfill reopens, damaged or broken refrigeration and freezer units can be taken to the landfill at no charge. All food waste must be completely removed from the appliance before it can be accepted.

The **Kiwanis Club** has offered to help people pick up damaged refrigerators if needed. They are also offering cleaning supplies to residents. For further information, please call: **250-710-3260**.

You may also visit marrbc.ca for other drop-off locations.

**The
Summerland
Landfill &
Recycling
Depot are
closed until
further notice.**

Curbside Collection

Temporary Curbside Collection Changes

Due to the number of properties re-entering waste collections will commence 1-2 days upon re-entry and may not be on your regular collection day.

Waste Connections will be collecting your curbside garbage cart (black) only plus up to two bags of garbage at no extra charge, bags should be no heavier than 25 kg/bag. Please have your garbage cart to the curb by 7:00 am.

Due to damage to the Summerland Compost Site, the District of Summerland is temporarily unable to collect food scraps for composting.

Until further notice:

- **Food scraps** must be placed in your **garbage cart**, not your green compost cart.
- Garbage collection will occur **weekly**.
- Yard waste and recycling will be collected **every two weeks on alternating weeks**.
- Please continue to use the carts provided to your household.

Temporary curbside collection calendar are now available online (www.summerland.ca) and at Municipal Hall and Public Works once access to these facilities is permitted.

Residents are encouraged to check the District's website (www.summerland.ca) regularly for updates to collection schedules and other post-wildfire services.

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Wildlife Activity

Increased Bear Activity

The loss and disposal of food following the wildfire may result in increased bear activity throughout the Summerland area.

Garbage containing food waste is highly attractive to bears. Residents are reminded to keep all food waste securely contained indoors or in a locked, bear-resistant area until it can be disposed.

Late summer is also a period when bears actively seek out and consume large amounts of food. Bears that become accustomed to finding food in garbage can become food-conditioned and may pose a risk to public safety. Garbage can also be harmful to bears if they consume plastic and other materials that can cause serious health problems.

Please help keep our community and local wildlife safe by securing all food waste.

BC Transit Info

Summerland On Request and route 30 are operating at full service as of Wednesday August 19.

For transit information, please:

- visit bctransit.com/south-okanagan-similkameen;
- or call 1-844-442-2212 (press 2 for Summerland).



 DISTRICT OF
SUMMERLAND