

You are receiving this new Bald Range Wildfire recovery newsletter as part of the District of Summerland's efforts to support residents who were impacted by the wildfire this summer. This newsletter will provide resources and information about recovery activities and programs, now and into the future.

To request to receive this email newsletter, please email recoverymanager@summerland.ca.

Debris cleanup – help us understand your needs

Samaritans Purse Canada and Christian Aid Ministries have been assisting with ash sifting and metal recycling on impacted properties. Now, the District of Summerland and the Regional District of Okanagan-Similkameen (RDOS) are working together to plan continued debris cleanup support for properties impacted by the wildfire.

If your property has wildfire debris, we want to hear from you. Every property is different, and hearing from property owners will help us understand cleanup needs.

Debris from burned structures can pose environmental and health risks, including contamination of nearby properties and waterways. With winter approaching, it's important to understand cleanup needs as soon as possible.

With funding from the Province, the District and RDOS will use information gathered from property owners to create a disaster debris management plan, and explore cleanup assistance programs with funding partners, including charitable organizations.

Please contact debrismanager@summerland.ca or 236-915-2002 to have a conversation about the impact on your property. If you know someone whose property was impacted, please share this information with them.

EMAIL: debrismanager@summerland.ca | PHONE: 236-915-2002

Free one-on-one recovery support now available

The District of Summerland and RDOS are working with Samaritan's Purse Canada to offer free, personal support for households who lost their homes in the Bald Range wildfire.

Starting today, Monday, October 19, a dedicated, trained Recovery Specialist is now available to help you navigate your recovery. They will be able to assist you in building a personalized recovery plan, and navigate housing support, applications and paperwork, as well as connect you with services and available resources in the community. The Recovery Specialist will meet you in person or by phone, plan next steps, and stay in regular contact.

Access [this support](#) by emailing or calling a Samaritan's Purse Recovery Specialist:

Kelly Dixon: 403-614-8848 | Kandy White: 236-622-2000 | EMAIL: recovery@samaritan.ca

[MORE INFORMATION HERE](#) | [PROGRAM CONSENT FORM HERE](#)

Complete an information sharing form

To help connect you with recovery resources and support, the District of Summerland is asking residents who were impacted by the Bald Range Wildfire to complete an information release form. This gives the District permission to share your contact information and other relevant details with organizations providing recovery support, like financial assistance, and one-on-one support navigating the recovery process.

Completing the form is voluntary and will help organizations contact you directly about available assistance, programs and services. If you have not yet submitted this form, please return a completed form to recoverymanager@summerland.ca. You can also drop-off or fill out a form in-person at the Recovery Centre or Municipal Hall.

[INFORMATION RELEASE FORM HERE](#)

Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis – preliminary assessment

The Ministry of Forests has developed a preliminary Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis (PWNHRA) assessment report for the Bald Range wildfire. This report is a preliminary reconnaissance assessment and is intended to identify potential post-wildfire natural hazards and risks that may require further investigation.

It is not a detailed, site-specific risk assessment, and further work or additional information may alter the conclusions. Not all post-fire hazards, elements at risk, or fire-affected areas have been evaluated in detail.

The Reconnaissance (Level 2) Post-Wildfire Natural Hazard Risk Analysis Report is available on the Summerland recovery webpage, along with all available geotechnical assessments.

[PWNHRA RECONNAISSANCE REPORT HERE](#)

Additional measures to support rebuilding and recovery

During September Council meetings, the District approved temporary measures to help impacted property owners recover and rebuild, including reduced fees and temporary accommodation and storage bylaw changes.

For eligible properties with buildings or structures damaged or destroyed by the wildfire, the District is offering reduced permit fees and waivers, including:

- 50% reductions on development, development variance, building, demolition and plumbing permit fees.
- 100% waivers of property information request fees and demolition permit security deposits.
- Priority processing for permit applications related to Bald Range wildfire rebuilding.

The District has also approved temporary changes to bylaw enforcement to allow eligible property owners greater flexibility during recovery, including:

- Use of recreational vehicles (RVs) for temporary accommodation while rebuilding.
- Use of shipping containers for temporary storage.

More information including limitations can be found on Summerland's recovery webpage.

[RECOVERY WEBPAGE WITH MORE DETAILS HERE](#)

Community events & opportunities

- Free community dinner for families who lost their homes on November 28 – RSVP by November 19 to st.stephensummerland@shaw.ca or 250-494-3466.
- Free Mental Health First Aid Essentials course on November 7 hosted by the YMCA – email ymind@ymcasibc.ca or call 250-317-3279 for more information.

- Group support for managing stress, struggles, and anxieties for teens Nov 3–Dec 15 – info sessions on Oct 20 and 27 – email ymind@ymcasibc.ca or call 250-317-3279.
- The YMCA of Southern Interior BC has secured donations to provide no-cost YMCA Family Memberships to 200 families affected by wildfires. Contact YMCA for details.

Stay connected & access resources

Visit the [Bald Range Wildfire recovery page](#) on www.summerland.ca for recovery guidance, measures implemented by the District, and other community supports available.

Visit the in-person Recovery Centre from Tuesday–Friday 10:00 am–5:00 pm and Saturday from 10:00 am–1:00 pm at Giant's Head Elementary School, 10503 Prairie Valley Road. Days and hours of operation may vary – check the website before visiting or call 250-863-2946.

Questions or need support? Contact recoverymanager@summerland.ca.

If you are not interested in receiving more information from the District of Summerland about this wildfire recovery, you can [email us](#) to unsubscribe anytime.

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