

Emergency Resources for Evacuees South Okanagan Similkameen

August 13, 2026

Local Authorities – Official Up-to-Date Information Sources

- **Regional District Okanagan Similkameen**
 - <https://www.rdos.bc.ca/newsandevents/rdos-news/information-releases/>
- **City of Penticton**
 - <https://www.penticton.ca/emergency-management/emergency-updates>
- **District of Summerland**
 - <https://www.summerland.ca/>

Food Security

- **Bethel Church** – 945 Main Street. Hours: 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.
 - Food donation centre and non-perishable food hampers. Mobile delivery is available to evacuees in RVs, vehicles, hotels, trailer parks, designated camping areas, and other informal locations. <https://www.betheltab.ca/>
- **Salvation Army Food Bank** – 2399 South Main. Hours: Monday to Friday, 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. 250-492-6494 or 250-492-4788
 - Food hampers and food bank - <https://www.pentictonsa.ca/pages/family-services>
- **Ooknakane Friendship Centre** – 146 Ellis Street. Dinner served at 5:00 PM on weekdays; take-out meals and grocery or retail cards available. Phone: 250-490-3504.
<https://www.friendshipcentre.ca/>

Material Donations

- **Donation Distribution Centre** – Okanagan College, 583 Duncan Ave West, Penticton.
 - Hours: Daily, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM. Low-barrier donation distribution centre with no ID required for material items (clothing, diapers, toiletries etc.). Not distributing food; food support is directed to Bethel Church and the Salvation Army.
<https://oneskycommunity.com/wildfire-response/>
- **Salvation Army Thrift Stores** – 2399 South Main St. and 318 Ellis Street, Penticton
 - Hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM. Clothing and household items; \$75 vouchers available to evacuees. Must provide ESS File number or ID.
<https://www.pentictonsa.ca/pages/thrift-stores>
- **Desert Sun** - 762 Fairview Road, Oliver and 8701 Main Street, Osoyoos
 - Hours: Monday to Thursday, 9:00 AM – 3:30 PM.
 - Check online for updates on accepted and needed items
<https://www.facebook.com/desertsuncounselling>

Senior Supports

- **Interior Health** – IH health team located at reception center to support medical needs and coordination with health system. Urgent Primary Care Centre on Martin St. opens at 5:00 PM with extended hours during this extraordinary event, until 10:00 PM. Link for Summerland residents/clinics where Summerland Physicians have been re-deployed:
https://www.pentictonherald.ca/news/article_71cc31ca-e05e-46f7-9106-5855e2e3ee66.html%23tncms-source=article-nav-next
- **OneSky**– drop-in supports for seniors and people with disabilities in Penticton and Oliver
<https://oneskycommunity.com/wildfire-response/>
- **Desert Sun** – Evacuees in Osoyoos and Oliver - Desert Sun's Community Navigator can assist with ESS vouchers and help connect evacuees with support.
 - Hours: 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM. Phone: 250-485-7928

Mental Health, Wellness, and Health Supports

- **Interior Health** – Clinical staff are connected to ESS and reception centre sites. Urgent Primary Care Centre on Martin Street opens at 5:00 PM with extended hours during the extraordinary event.
<https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies/wildfires>
- **Disaster Psychosocial Services** – Purple jacket teams on site at reception centre providing psychosocial support.
- **OneSky / Okanagan College** – Emotional support available on site at the Okanagan College donation centre for people experiencing distress.
- **Ooknakane Friendship Centre** – Mental health and addiction clinician available after hours. Phone: 250-499-0375.
- **Canadian Mental Health Association SOS** – Phone: 250-493-8999. Hours: Monday to Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM.
 - Disaster stress coping information and mental health resources.
<https://bcdisasterstress.ca/>
- **Direct lines for mental health and service support**
 - **Free, confidential support and crisis lines available 24/7:**
 - <https://www.crisislines.bc.ca/> 310-6789 (no area code required)
 - <https://www.kuu-uscrisisline.com/> 1-800-588-8717
 - 1-800-SUICIDE (1-800-784-2433)
 - <https://bc.211.ca/> – helpline in BC to connect with service providers
 - <https://helpstartshere.gov.bc.ca/blog/virtual-mental-health-and-substance-use-supports>
virtual mental health available in BC

Children, Youth, and Families

- **Princess Margaret Secondary School / Comfort Centre** – 120 Green Ave. W. Hours: 10:00 AM – 8:00 PM. Activities, movies, games, wellness supports, shower access, snacks, and respite from smoke.

- **City of Penticton Community Centre** – 325 Power St. Hours: 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM.
Child and family activity area operating across from the convention centre, providing space for families to connect and children to engage in activities.
- **YMCA - Parkway Elementary Gymnasium** – 225 Kinney Ave. Hours: Weekdays, 10:30 AM – 5:30 PM.
 - Youth ages 9–14 can play sports, enjoy a snack, and connect with others. Program times: Drop-in basketball, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM; drop-in volleyball, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM; drop-in hockey, 3:30 PM – 5:30 PM. *Parent sign-in is required for participants ages 9–11. Ages 15+ can join daily mat yoga from 9:30 AM – 10:30 AM and use the space for strength training throughout the day. No registration required.*
- **YMCA – Camp** - No-cost August kids camp limited spots at Uplands YMCA Child Care Centre for children going into Grade 1 to Grade 5, prioritizing first responders, essential workers, and evacuees impacted by the wildfire.
https://forms.cloud.microsoft/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=snyDnhYL3E2wNRMe5Joq_ejbJ7Qhdz9AhW4FwwDA9mJUQ1FYnJFNQU1IS0Y2TU85Qk8wT0k0Wk5KRi4u&route=shorturl
- **OneSky Pregnancy Support Program** – #101 – 208 Ellis St., Penticton. Pregnancy support program is open and supporting families with little ones, including extra supports and donations.
<https://oneskycommunity.com/youth-family/pregnancy-support-program/>
- **OneSky / Foundry** – Drop-in hangout space for displaced youth ages 12 to 24, including art supplies, pool table, daytime staffing, counselling, and caregiver supports.
- **OSNS Child & Youth Development Centre** – Hours: Tuesday to Friday, August 11–14, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Childcare services for children under age 5 and indoor children’s gym/play spaces for families with children under age 6 needing a safe, smoke-free indoor place to play.
<https://www.osns.org/>

Newcomers and Migrant Workers

- **Migrant Worker Centre** – Outreach support for migrant workers through response and recovery.
<https://mwcbc.ca/>

Navigation, Forms, IDs, and Advocacy

- **Access Centre** – 209-304 Martin Street Penticton
 - Hours: Monday to Thursday, 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM and 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. Phone: 250-493-6822.
 - Drop-in hours: 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Tuesday at Desert Sun in Osoyoos; Thursday at Alliance Church in Oliver.
 - Help with lost documents for benefits and IDs, support completing forms and funding applications for people without internet or devices, resource navigation, and longer-term tenancy advocacy if needed.
- **100 More Homes / United Way BC** – Coordinating around access gaps for people with no fixed address, including people evacuated from outdoor encampments, without ID, or without reliable phone/internet. AmandaP@uwbc.ca.



United Way
British Columbia

Volunteer Opportunities

- **Donation Distribution Centre**- shift sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F44A4A629A4FAC07-65074132-donation#/>
- **South Okanagan Similkameen Community Connections:** <https://www.volunteercentre.info/>

Monetary Donation Opportunities

- **United Way BC** Emergency Response & Recovery Fund <https://uwbc.ca/campaign/wildfires/>
- **Community Foundation of South Okanagan** <https://www.cfso.net/>

KEREMEOUS/PRINCETON

- **Princeton Family Services Society** – Princeton. Supporting evacuees with showers, clothing, and food; capacity for more if needs arise. <https://pfss.org/>
- **Lower Similkameen Community Services Society** – Keremeos and area. Providing toiletries, food cards, blankets, and supplies as requested. <https://lscss.com/>

Informal and Community-Led Resources

- Community forum for needs and offers <https://helpsummerland.ca/>
- Summerland locals helping locals group <https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1BMSscQHEL/>

Alerts & Government Resources:

- Emergency Support Services (ESS) - <https://ess.gov.bc.ca/>
- Voyent Alert - <https://voyent-alert.com/>
- Emergency Cooling Centres (and Warming Centres) <https://governmentofbc.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/>
- BC Services Card App: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/government-id/bcservicescardapp>
- Service Canada <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/benefits/> - 1- 877-631-2657 / <https://eservices.canada.ca/en/service/> - identify if you have been impacted by wildfires.
- Ministry of Social Development and Poverty Reduction services <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/family-social-supports/income-assistance/access-services>

Preparedness Resources:

- United Way BC <https://uwbc.ca/emergency-response-resources/>
- Prepared BC guides <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-management/preparedbc/guides-and-resources>
- Interior Health <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies/emergency-preparedness>

Health Resources

- BC Disaster Stress Mental Health Resources - <https://bcdisasterstress.ca>
- Health Emergency Management BC https://www.phsa.ca/health-emergency-management-bc-site/Documents/PHSA_HEMBC%20Wellness%20Resource%20List%20Apr.3.pdf
- Interior Health Wildfires: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies/wildfires> / Extreme Heat: <https://www.interiorhealth.ca/health-and-wellness/natural-disasters-and-emergencies/extreme-heat>



United Way

British Columbia

- BC Lung Foundation <https://bclung.ca/lung-health/air-quality/breathe/>
- BC Centre of Disease Control [BCCDC_WildFire_FactSheet_OutdoorExercise.pdf](#)
– [BCCDC_WildFire_FactSheet_FaceMasks.pdf](#)

Monitoring Wildfires, alerts and orders:

- BC Wildfire Service: <https://wildfiresituation.nrs.gov.bc.ca/map>
- Emergency Information BC: <https://www.emergencyinfobc.gov.bc.ca/>
- Smoke Forecast: <https://firesmoke.ca/forecasts/current/>
- Fire bans, restrictions: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention/fire-bans-and-restrictions>
- Air quality: <https://aqwarnings.gov.bc.ca/>